

**Minutes  
Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting  
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership  
March 16, 2022  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m. by Chair Marianne Radcliff, who noted that a quorum was present.

Members present: Chair Marianne Radcliff, Carrie Chenery, Deborah Flippo, Ned Masee, Vince Mastracco, and Dan Pleasant, *ex officio*

Members absent: Nancy Agee and Dan Clemente

Other Board Members: Secretary Stephen Cummings and Rick Harrell

VEDP staff present: Lindsay Barker, Star Cranston, Nicole David, David Devan, Michael Dreiling, Jason El Koubi, Stephanie Florie, Sandi McNinch, and Christy Morton

Guests present: Kim McKay

**Public Comment Period**

Chair Radcliff solicited public comments. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for June 16, 2021, and October 20, 2021 Meetings**

Chair Radcliff asked for approval of the minutes from the June 16, 2021, and October 20, 2021 meetings. A motion was made by Mr. Mastracco and seconded by Ms. Flippo, and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**General Assembly Outcomes**

Ms. Morton reviewed a presentation on the outcomes of the recent General Assembly session.

Ms. Morton explained that the 2022 General Assembly Regular Session started on January 12 and lasted 60 days, with the House and Senate meeting in person and that public participation was hybrid. Ms. Morton explained that the General Assembly adjourned Sine Die on March 12. She noted that there would be a special session to finalize the budget and any outstanding legislation. She added that the reconvened session for the regular session is scheduled for April 27.

Ms. Morton said that over 3,000 bills were introduced during the session and that VEDP tracked 185 bills and completed 11 legislative action summaries. She noted that VEDP had eight agency bills this year.

Ms. Morton reviewed VEDP's legislative proposals for the 2022 General Assembly Session in detail in addition to other legislative proposals of interest related to economic development. She provided a summary of each bill and the status. Ms. Morton said that all of VEDP's bills had passed the General Assembly.

Ms. Morton mentioned several bills where VEDP had been named as a supporting entity within the legislation. Ms. Morton specifically highlighted HB191 (Hodges) and HB217 (Simonds), noting that the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE) has been asked to provide support for these initiatives with no additional funding. Ms. Morton stated that VEDP and the leadership in the House and Senate would need to consider the capacity of the VOEE team and prioritize these initiatives based on the availability of resources.

Ms. Morton mentioned that the data center coalition was pleased that HB791 (McNamara)/SB513 (McPike) passed, which provides that if data center fixtures are taxed as part of the real property where they are located, they shall be valued based on depreciated reproduction or replacement cost rather than based on the amount of income they generate.

Ms. Morton reviewed HB894 (Kilgore), which touches on various components of energy development in Southern and Southwest Virginia. She explained that VEDP had been tasked with reviewing whether barriers currently exist for developing infrastructure and supply chain investments in the Tobacco Region and reviewing incentives localities should utilize or develop to retain economic development and promote new infrastructure and supply chain investments.

Ms. Morton spoke about SB28 (Marsden), which codifies the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program and Fund. She stated that VEDP had worked closely with Senator Marsden on the bill that will help VEDP continue to operate the program and ensure that the program continues to account for the characterization development of project-ready sites. The Committee engaged in a robust discussion on the details of this legislation.

The Committee had a broader discussion on the development of sites and the challenges for some areas, predominantly rural areas, with securing matching funds for site development. They also discussed how many of these areas do not have the expertise needed among their economic development staffs to navigate the complexities of site development.

Ms. Morton provided details on SB667 (Hashmi), which directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to collect and utilize data that includes the gaps that are most significant in hindering the Commonwealth from achieving its goals that its funds are intended to accomplish under the Innovative Internship Program and provides other directives to SCHEV and VOEE to collaborate on an accomplish for the Innovative Internship Program. Ms. Morton

pointed out that this initiative would require ongoing work without recurring funds to support the project, which she emphasized is something that will need to be addressed.

Ms. Morton reviewed the status of VEDP operational and incentive budget proposals as approved by the House and Senate compared to the introduced budget.

Ms. Morton discussed additional items for Economic Development Incentive Programs (EDIP) and VEDP Operations included in the House and Senate proposed versions of the budgets, highlighting areas where additional funds have been included to support new initiatives.

Chair Radcliff said that the Committee could expect a full briefing on the final outcome of the budget negotiations at the June meeting.

Ms. Morton provided the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program handout to the Committee.

Ms. Morton introduced a new member of her team, Star Cranston, Associate Manager of External Affairs. Ms. Morton described Ms. Cranston's policy and economic development background and expressed her gratitude for Ms. Cranston hitting the ground running.

Mr. El Koubi applauded the External Affairs team for their extraordinary efforts during this year's General Assembly Session. Chair Radcliff echoed Mr. El Koubi's comments.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole David".

Nicole David  
Acting Recording Secretary