



## MINUTES

Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) Board on April 23, 2020, and 2021 Virginia General Assembly legislation SB1271 passed February 27, 2021, the May meeting of the RVARC was held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Under the current State of Emergency, and until further notice, it has been deemed unsafe to assemble a quorum of a public body in one place.

### VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jon Lanford	Alleghany County
Joan Vannorsdall	Alleghany County
Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Chris Whitlow	Franklin County
Lorie Smith	Franklin County
Dan O'Donnell	Roanoke County
Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Dean Martin	Roanoke County
Lee Osborne	Roanoke County
Krystal Onaitis	City of Covington
Allan Tucker	City of Covington
Bill Bestpitch	City of Roanoke
Stephanie Moon Reynolds	City of Roanoke
Dr. Elda Stanco Downey	City of Roanoke
Robert Jeffrey	City of Roanoke
Frederick Gusler	City of Roanoke
James W. Wallace III	City of Salem
John Saunders	City of Salem
Denise King	City of Salem
Chuck Unroe	Town of Clifton Forge
Pam Marshall	Town of Clifton Forge
Mayor Bradley Grose, <i>Chair</i>	Town of Vinton
Richard "Pete" Peters	Town of Vinton

### VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Shannon Cox	Alleghany County
Erin Henderson	Botetourt County
Gary Larrowe	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, Sr.	Botetourt County
Dan Collins	Craig County
Jesse Spence	Craig County
Ronald Mitchell	Franklin County
Mike Carter	Franklin County

**Member Governments:** Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke, Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont'd)**

Roy Enslow	Franklin County
Kevin Hutchins	Roanoke County
Peter Volosin	City of Roanoke
Mark Newbill	Town of Rocky Mount

**NON-VOTING LIAISON MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Joyce Waugh	Roanoke Regional Chamber
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**Others:** Terry Durkin, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, Peter Stephenson, Virginia Risk Sharing Association, and Morgan Romeo, Western Virginia Workforce Development Board.

**Staff:** Sherry Dean, Jeremy Holmes, Tim Pohlada-Thomas; Cristina Finch, Amanda McGee, Matt Miller, Virginia Mullen, Gabriel Irigaray and Wayne Strickland.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, OPENING STATEMENT**

Chairman Grose called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and asked Vice Chairman North to read the following opening statement... *"Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the RVARC on April 23, 2020, and the 2021 Virginia General Assembly legislation SB1271 passed February 27, 2021, the May meeting of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is being held virtually on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. Under the current State of Emergency, and until further notice, it has been deemed unsafe to assemble a quorum of a public body in one place. Any members of the public may view and participate in the meeting through electronic means. Meeting details are listed on the second page of the agenda. All materials made available to the members will be made available to the public at the same time by posting on the RVARC website.*

Chairman Grose asked Wayne Strickland to call the roll. Mr. Strickland stated that a quorum was in attendance.

**2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The Consent Agenda items were as follows:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. April 22, 2021 Minutes
- C. Financial Reports Ending April 30, 2021

**MOTION:** by Phil North to approve items (A), (B), and (C) under the consent agenda, as presented. The motion was seconded by Allan Tucker.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 21 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Clinton, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Wallace, Saunders, King, Unroe, Marshall, Grose, Peters); Nays – 0; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

- All eleven member governments have approved the Commission's Charter change resolution, which will allow the Commission to reduce the number of board members on the Commission from 38 to 30. The change in the board size of the RVARC will become effective on July 1, 2022.
- Every year in the Commonwealth of Virginia we celebrate transportation day on the Thursday before Memorial Day -- which is today May 27, 2021. A short video recognizing "Celebrate Transportation Day", prepared by the RVARC staff was presented at the meeting and also available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGRSIOjtQog>.
- Staff is working on going back to in-person meetings once the State of Emergency restrictions are lifted. The June 24 meeting will be a virtual meeting. The Governor's state of emergency order is set to expire June 30, 2021. Typically, there is no July meeting, and the August meeting will take place at the Red Sox stadium in Salem. We very much appreciate Salem's willingness to provide tickets for this annual event of the Commission.

**4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Governor Northam will serve as 2021 Appalachian Regional Commission State's Co-Chair. The states' co-chair is annually elected by Governor's throughout Appalachia and works directly with the federal co-chair to invest in economic growth and development across the 13-state Appalachian region. In addition, Gayle Conelly Manchin was sworn in as the Appalachian Regional Commission's thirteenth federal co-chair on May 6, 2021, becoming the first ARC federal co-chair from West Virginia.
- The president will be releasing the Administration's FY2022 budget on May 28, 2021. It will be important to see what kinds of allocations he will be making to all the federal agencies we work with.

**5. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Morgan Romeo presented an update on the activities of the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board (The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes.)

**6. APPROVAL OF THE RVARC FY2022 WORK PROGRAM**

Jeremy Holmes reported that the proposed RVARC FY2022 work program was distributed with the agenda packet. The work program process started this past December. Staff solicited project ideas from the member governments to be included in the upcoming year. Under the leadership of the Work Program Committee, the RVARC planning staff and the RVARC finance director projects were selected. The work program covers over 30 regional and local projects in addition to the many

ongoing federally required projects. Mr. Holmes recognized and thanked the members of the Work Program Committee: Mr. Dan Collins, Mr. James Ervin; Mayor Pam Marshall; Mr. Billy Martin; Mr. Phil North; Mr. Richard "Pete" Peters; Mr. Allan Tucker; Ms. Joan Vannorsdall and Mr. Christopher Whitlow.

**MOTION:** by Phil North to approve the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission's FY2022 Work Program, as presented. The motion was seconded by Allan Tucker.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 21 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Clinton, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Wallace, Saunders, King, Unroe, Marshall, Grose, Peters); Nays – 0; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. CONSIDERATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chairman Grose reported that after Mr. Strickland's announcement of his retirement at the April RVARC meeting, a Search Committee was formed and tasked to select the new Executive Director. The Search Committee had five meetings, advertised, and interviewed candidates. The Search Committee sent their recommendation to the Executive Committee for their review and action. Chairman Grose recognized and thanked the members of the Search Committee: Mr. Phil North, Mr. Dean Martin, Mr. Billy Martin, Mr. Bill Bestpitch, Mr. Lee Osborne, Mr. Allan Tucker and Ms. Joan Vannorsdall. Chairman Grose added that he was the Chair of the Search Committee and Ms. Sherry Dean was the staff member who supported the Committee.

The Executive Committee met in closed session on May 13, 2021 to discuss the Search Committee's recommendation. After ending the closed session, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Regional Commission that Jeremy Holmes be appointed as the Commission's new Executive Director to begin on July 1, 2021.

**MOTION:** by Robert Jeffrey to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to promote Mr. Jeremy Holmes to the position of Executive Director of the Roanoke Valley- Alleghany Regional Commission on July 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Allan Tucker.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 21 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Clinton, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Wallace, Saunders, King, Unroe, Marshall, Grose, Peters); Nays – 0; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jeremy Holmes thanked the Board and the Executive Committee for their recommendation. Mr. Holmes is honored to take this position.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

9. **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND/OR THE PUBLIC**

Adjournment at 4:54 p.m.

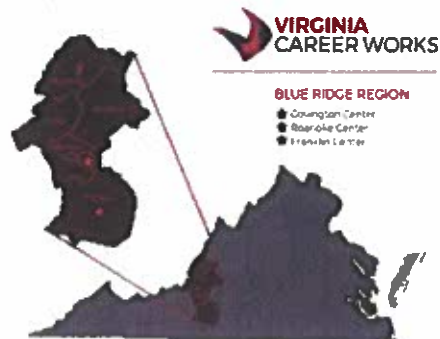
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Stickleland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "S".

Wayne Stickleland, Secretary  
Secretary to the Regional Commission

## **Workforce in the Roanoke Valley & Alleghany Highlands**

*Roanoke Valley Alleghany  
Regional Commission*

*May 27, 2021*

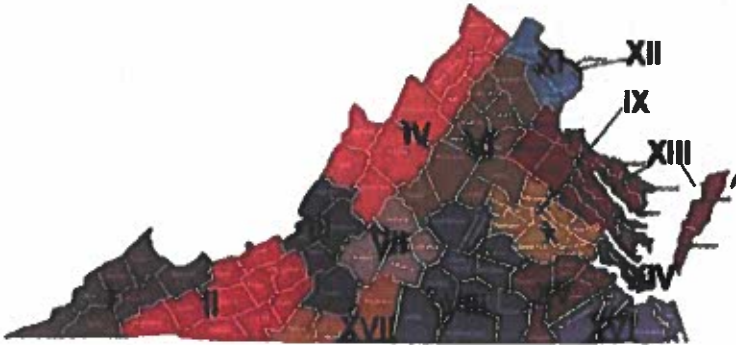


## **What is Virginia Career Works?**

- Workforce development system
- Overseen by Workforce Development Board
- Convene workforce development partners in the Blue Ridge Region
- Premier talent development resource
- Federal, state, and local funding



## Virginia's Workforce Areas

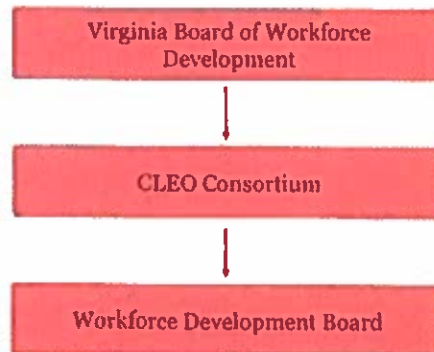


- Southwest
- New River/Mt. Rogers
- Blue Ridge
- Shenandoah Valley
- Piedmont
- Central
- South Central
- Capital
- Northern Virginia
- Alexandria/Arlington
- Bay Consortium
- Greater Peninsula
- Crater
- Hampton Roads
- West Piedmont



## Local Governance

- Local area created by local governments and certified by the Governor
- CLEO Consortium with one elected official from each member jurisdiction: Alleghany County, Botetourt County, Craig County, Covington City, Franklin County, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem City
- 29-member Workforce Development Board; business-led majority appointed by CLEO Consortium





## Customers





# Virginia Career Works Centers

Covington Center  
106 North Maple Avenue  
Covington, VA 24426



Roanoke Center  
3601 Thirlane Road NW  
Suite 2  
Roanoke, VA 24019



Franklin Center  
50 Claiborne Avenue  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151



## Job Seeker Services

- Job search, resume help, interview techniques, etc.
- Pre-vocational and work ready services
- Training assistance: funding, OJTs, testing/certification fees
- Supportive Services
- Paid work experiences
- Youth: leadership development, mentoring, dropout recovery, study skills, tutoring



## Business Services



- Recruitment and hiring assistance
- Job fairs
- Use of facilities
- Training funds
- Labor market information
- Information on tax and other incentive programs
- Assistance with downsizing and layoff situations

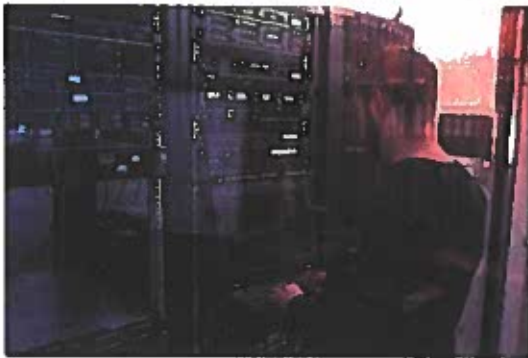


## Talent Development

- Partnership with Roanoke Regional Partnership
- Talent attraction & retention
- Linking businesses with training providers
- Customized training
- Expanding Get2KnowNoke
- Young professionals
- LinkedIn Learning
- Virtual Reality Labs



## Sector Strategies



- Employer roundtables
  - Manufacturing
  - Healthcare
  - Technology
- Hiring events
- Open houses
- Awareness Campaigns



## Career Quest



- 2019 – Inaugural Event
- 2021 – Two events
  - September 28-29
  - October 19-20
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- 11 school districts
- Salem Civic Center



## INSPIRE Grant

- April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2024
- Alleghany County, Covington City and Craig County residents
- Substance abuse recovery
- Wrap-around supportive services
- Training & employment
- Recovery ecosystem
  - In-patient providers
  - Out-patient providers
  - Human services
  - Workforce development system



**Appalachian  
Regional  
Commission**



## Career & Technical Education

- Regional CTE Study
- CTE Collaborative
- Perkins plan development & approval
- Registered Apprenticeship



## Community Health Worker Grant



*Your Partner in Community Wellness*

- 9 Community Health Workers
- Vaccination & COVID-19 education
- Travel & support in communities
- Employment events and access to healthcare and healthcare education
- Outreach & marketing





## Summer Employment Program

- Youth ages 16-24
- Barriers to employment and/or education
- Internship placement
  - Max 360 hours
  - \$10.00/hour stipend
- Career coach assignment
- Academic & workforce preparation
- Roanoke City & Goodwill Industries of the Valleys



**Morgan Romeo**

Executive Director

Virginia Career Works – Blue Ridge

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