

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Southwest Economic Development Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, September 19, 2018  
9:00 o'clock a.m.

Floyd Event Center  
Floyd, Virginia

1     APPEARANCES:

2     The Honorable Charles W. Carrico, Sr., Chairman  
3     The Honorable A. Benton Chafin, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
4     The Honorable Brian Ball  
5     Mr. Ed Blevins  
6     Ms. Becky Coleman  
7     The Honorable James W. (Will) Morefield  
8     Ms. Sandy Ratliff

9  
10    COMMISSION STAFF:

11    Mr. Evan Feinman, Executive Director  
12    Mr. Andy Sorrell, Deputy Director  
13    Mr. Timothy S. Pfohl, Grants Program Administration Director  
14    Ms. Stephanie S. Kim, Director of Finance  
15    Ms. Sara G. Williams, Grants Program Administrator -  
16        Southwest Virginia  
17    Ms. Sarah K. Capps, Grants Program Administrator -  
18        Southside Virginia  
19    Ms. Stacey Richardson, Administrative Supervisor  
20    Ms. Jessica Stamper, Grants Assistant - Southwest Virginia

21  
22    COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION:

23    Ms. Elizabeth B. Myers  
24        Assistant Attorney General  
25        Richmond, Virginia 23219

1 September 19, 2018

2

3 SENATOR CARRICO: Welcome, this is the Southwest  
4 Economic Development Committee Meeting. I'll call it to order.  
5 Evan, would you call the roll.

6 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Ball.

7 MR. BALL: Here.

8 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Blevins.

9 MR. BLEVINS: Here.

10 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Carrico.

11 SENATOR CARRICO: Here.

12 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Chafin.

13 SENATOR CHAFIN: Here.

14 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Coleman.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Here.

16 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Morefield.

17 DELEGATE MOREFIELD: Here.

18 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Ratliff.

19 MS. RATLIFF: Here.

20 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Sutherland.

21 MR. SUTHERLAND: (No response).

22 MR. FEINMAN: You have a quorum, Mr. Chairman.

23 SENATOR CARRICO: Thank you. Next we have to  
24 approve the minutes of our last meeting.

25 SENATOR CHAFFIN: So moved.

1           SENATOR CARRICO: We have a motion and a second.  
2 All those in favor of the Southwest Economic Development  
3 Committee Minutes, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).  
4 Tim.

5           MR. PFOHL: Sara is going to go through these.

6           MS. WILLIAMS: The first matter is the Southwest  
7 Virginia Community Foundation, Bush Mill Heritage Tourism  
8 Project, Number 2549. That was approved for \$100,000 in  
9 September of 2012. There's a \$27,860 balance, and it's a  
10 request for an additional extension. The grantee has requested  
11 the grant be extended into a seventh year. And the most current  
12 update provided indicates that the renovation work is well  
13 underway and expected to be completed in the fall of 2018.  
14 Staff recommends approval of an extension through December  
15 31, 2018, to allow for the project completion and adequate time  
16 for final invoicing for grant closeout.

17           The next project is the Lee County IDA, Constitutional  
18 Oaks Access Road Development, Number 2729, approved for  
19 \$60,000 in September of 2013, and there's a \$42,704 balance  
20 remaining.

21           Again, this is a project that has some delays for the  
22 park. A VDOT approval is necessary, and they did commit to the  
23 plan in February of '18, and it's undergoing review there, and  
24 there's some other issues identified, and they're working with the  
25 necessary people. They hope to receive the approval after this

1 review process and hope to proceed with the project. Staff is  
2 recommending approval of an extension through September 30,  
3 2019. That's a one-year approval.

4 Next, we have Number 2739, Virginia's Heritage Music  
5 Trail: The Crooked Road. They were approved in September of  
6 2013 for \$208,000, and there is a \$49,525 balance. This was to  
7 help construct additional kiosk and some exhibits originally to  
8 match what came from ARC. Those funds are in place.

9 Additionally, they have secured more match from the  
10 Thompson Foundation and they're working with Bland and Wythe  
11 Counties. When we met with the Crooked Road staff, the  
12 director was upfront and had just been staffed, and some of the  
13 workload was delayed, but it shouldn't be long. And the Staff  
14 recommends approval of an extension through September 30,  
15 2019.

16 Next, we have Southwest Regional Recreation  
17 Authority, Number 2904. This is the Spearhead Trails, and they  
18 were approved in September, 2014 for \$435,000, and there's a  
19 \$93,204 balance. This is delayed because they're intending to  
20 build a horse trail in Scott County, and the delay has been  
21 because of a problem in obtaining all the necessary easements  
22 for that project. And they have encountered some road blocks,  
23 but they say they're getting close to getting everything they  
24 need. They've also looked into some alternative routes, a plan B,  
25 if they're not able to get the easements they want. The Staff

1 recommends an approval of an extension through September 30,  
2 2019.

3 The next project is 3192, and this is a request to  
4 amend the contingency project budget amendment for the  
5 LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, and this is for  
6 acquisition for an intersection that was approved in September of  
7 2016 for \$1.25 million. The Staff at the time had recommended  
8 a contingency or approved with a contingency, and the  
9 Commission funds would be used to fund half of the acquisition  
10 costs, and the match should come from ARC Power application.

11 Since that time, there have been a few changes to the  
12 project. The project is now being matched by a \$3.5 million  
13 grant from the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy.  
14 Additionally, they have been able to acquire the site for a little bit  
15 less. What they have asked and what the Staff has  
16 recommended is an amendment to the original contingency to  
17 allow Tobacco Commission Funds to be matched by any non-  
18 Commission source to be used for one-half of the acquisition  
19 costs, with any remaining funds to be used for other site  
20 development needs.

21 Are there any questions?

22 SENATOR CHAFIN: Do any Committee members have  
23 any questions?

24 MR. BLEVINS: I move that these requests for  
25 extensions be approved.

1           SENATOR CHAFIN: We have a motion and a second  
2 to grant these extensions, and I understand there's a second. All  
3 right. So, it's been moved and properly seconded. All those in  
4 favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).

5           MR. FEINMAN: As the members sitting around the  
6 table will recall at our last meeting, we set aside \$4.5 million for  
7 a project that was somewhat undefined in working with these  
8 folks from Northern Virginia and were trying to build a very  
9 successful entrepreneurial workforce project that was to be  
10 supported in an ongoing fashion from for profit and subsidiaries  
11 and, in essence, a self-sustaining project in Southwest Virginia.  
12 We initially had some setbacks, and they had some staff that did  
13 not inspire confidence and that came through very clearly to me  
14 after some meetings. The CEO basically got very involved  
15 personally and made some staff changes and done a lot of work  
16 to regain credibility. I'm fairly optimistic about the project. But  
17 there's been a lot of time in meetings, but I think it's been made  
18 clear to everyone that this involves a match to be generated.  
19 And then we've worked on an actual cash match and we will  
20 expect a greater percentage in kind.

21           Now, the question is I'm not too optimistic that all  
22 that will be done. The general update is I think we're now  
23 moving in the right direction and I'm cautiously optimistic, but I  
24 was unhappy before.

25           SENATOR CHAFIN: Any questions?

1 MR. PFOHL: Mr. Chairman, can we clarify for the  
2 record the motion that was approved mentioned the extensions  
3 at one point, and I think we also, I think the Staff  
4 recommendation was mentioned, and I'm speaking about the  
5 LENOWISCO Project Intersection as part of the previous motion.

6 MR. BLEVINS: I move that that be part, it was my  
7 intention for that motion to be approved, for all the Staff  
8 recommendations to be approved.

9 SENATOR CHAFIN: And that's been seconded. All  
10 right, thank you, Tim.

11 Are there any other comments? Any public  
12 comments? If not, the Southwest Economic Development  
13 Committee Meeting will be adjourned.

14

15

16

---

**PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.**

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**CERTIFICATE OF THE COURT REPORTER**

I, Medford W. Howard, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Virginia at Large, do hereby certify that I was the Court Reporter who took down and transcribed the proceedings of the **Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, Southwest Economic Development Committee Meeting**, when held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., at the Floyd Event Center, Floyd, Virginia.

I further certify this is a true and accurate transcript, to the best of my ability to hear and understand the proceedings.

Given under my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

---

Medford W. Howard  
Registered Professional Reporter  
Notary Public for the State of Virginia at Large

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: October 31, 2018.