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TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Southwest Economic Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, 2019
9:30 o'clock a.m.

Homewood Suites
Richmond, Virginia 23219

1 APPEARANCES:

2 The Honorable Charles W. Carrico, Sr., Chairman

3 The Honorable A. Benton Chafin, Jr., Vice-Chairman

4 Mr. Ed Blevins

5 Ms. Becky Coleman

6 The Honorable James W. (Will) Morefield

7 Ms. Sandy Ratliff

8 Mr. Richard L. Sutherland

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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. Jessica Stamper, Grants Assistant - Southwest Virginia

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17 COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION:

18 Ms. Elizabeth B. Myers

19 Assistant Attorney General

20 Richmond, Virginia 23219

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1 January 8, 2019

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3 SENATOR CARRICO: All right, we're going to call the
4 meeting of the Southwest Economic Development Committee to
5 order.

6 Evan, please.

7 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Blevins.

8 MR. BLEVINS: Here.

9 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Coleman.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Here.

11 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Morefield.

12 DELEGATE MOREFIELD: Present.

13 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Ratliff.

14 MS. RATLIFF: Present.

15 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Sutherland.

16 MR. SUTHERLAND: Present.

17 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Chafin.

18 SENATOR CHAFIN: Present.

19 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Carrico.

20 SENATOR CARRICO: Present.

21 MR. FEINMAN: You have a quorum.

22 SENATOR CARRICO: Going to page 31 and 32 in your
23 books. Do I have a motion to approve the minutes of 9-19?

24 MR. BLEVINS: So moved.

25 SENATOR CARRICO: We have a motion and a second

1 to approve the minutes of 9-19. All those in favor, say aye.
2 (Ayes). All right.

3 And now we have the grant extension request for a six
4 year, which is the Virginia Coalfield Coalition, Item 2841, page 32
5 in your book. Is there any discussion or is there a motion? All
6 right, it's been moved. Is there a second to approve the
7 extension for Grant 2841?

8 MS. RATLIFF: Second.

9 SENATOR CARRICO: All those in favor, say aye.
10 (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).

11 Next on the agenda is a loan request, Scott County
12 Economic Development Authority.

13 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Chairman, unanticipated expenses
14 arose out of the Mountain Top Timber project, and it turned out a
15 number of the facilities that they were counting on were out of
16 date and needed updating, so they've asked that we extend them
17 a loan in the amount of \$113,000. From a Staff's standpoint,
18 we've extended them a loan already as part of our opportunity
19 fund, and if the Committee were to extend a loan, it would ease
20 our Staff work and simply instruct us to increase the loan we've
21 already extended rather than make a second loan. If the
22 Committee is interested in doing it, the motion would be to
23 increase the TROF loan by \$113,000. The Southwest Committee
24 has \$981,000 in its budget right now, and we can accommodate
25 this loan, but to be clear, that money would come out of the

1 Southwest budget and not the TROF.

2 SENATOR CARRICO: We have a request. This loan is
3 a little over \$100,000, and you've heard we have well over
4 \$900,000. We've got a motion. Is there a second?

5 MR. BLEVINS: I'll so move.

6 SENATOR CARRICO: Is there a second.

7 MR. SUTHERLAND: Second.

8 SENATOR CARRICO: It's been moved and seconded
9 that we grant this request or there's been a motion and a second
10 that we grant \$113,000 to add to the TROF commitment. All in
11 favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). All right, that
12 passes.

13 That concludes what's on the docket. Anything
14 further?

15 SENATOR CHAFIN: There is a grant application that
16 was passed by motion yesterday. That grant concerns the
17 Russell County Fair Association and construction of an exhibitor
18 building at the Russell County Fair Association. The Staff
19 recommends not to do this, but I spoke about it yesterday, This
20 has consistently been over the past 20 years that the
21 Commonwealth of Virginia has met, reviewed, and ranked, and
22 determined which fair was the overall best fair in the
23 Commonwealth. And the Russell County Fair has ranked number
24 one. Just recently, 674 people met at the Homestead to vote on
25 this measure. Once again, Russell County Fair was determined

1 to be number one, the best fair in the Commonwealth of Virginia,
2 with 30,000 and up attended that fair. I believe this is a proven
3 and worthwhile expenditure of our resources, and the reason I
4 believe that is because right now the Fair Association doesn't
5 have any exhibitor buildings that can be heated or cooled and
6 can be used at times other than during what is traditionally been
7 the fair season, which is one month of the year. The Russell
8 County Fair has always been the first part of September.

9 As I pointed out yesterday, all of the monies that we
10 are stewards of all came on the backs of farmers and people in
11 agriculture. The Russell County Fair Association has
12 demonstrated they are the most exceptional putting on the fair
13 and the education and betterment of our agriculture industry
14 throughout Southwest Virginia and beyond. It's a rather
15 extensive fair that Russell County has. For that reason, I'll be
16 making a motion to approve the grant.

17 SENATOR CARRICO: How much is the grant for?

18 SENATOR CHAFIN: Two hundred and forty-seven
19 thousand five hundred.

20 MR. PFOHL: The portion referred over to Southwest
21 was \$230,000.

22 SENATOR CARRICO: For the Committee's
23 consideration, we have two thirty, we have a little over 700,000.

24 MR. PFOHL: Eight hundred and seventy thousand.

25 SENATOR CARRICO: Eight seventy after the one

1 thirteen, and that would take us down to a little less than 656.

2 SENATOR CHAFIN: There was a request for a study,
3 and that was funded.

4 SENATOR CARRICO: We have a motion on the table
5 to appropriate \$232,000 for Grant Number 3370.

6 MR. PFOHL: It's two three zero.

7 SENATOR CARRICO: Two three zero. All right, for
8 Grant 3370. Is there a second to the motion? There's a motion
9 and a second to approve Grant 3370 for \$232,000. Any
10 discussion?

11 MS. COLEMAN: Are we setting a precedent for
12 funding fairground improvements across the Tobacco Region if
13 we do this?

14 SENATOR CHAFIN: I would respond to that question.
15 Throughout the last 20 years, this fair has met all the criteria to
16 be the top fair, and this will help set up an area where the
17 exhibits can be exhibited, to the point where they could be used
18 year-round. It's a \$550,000 project, and the County is
19 committed to spending the additional monies. If you look at this
20 on a case-by-case basis, like all applications for grants, the
21 criteria and the goals, I think we should move forward with those
22 requests for grants.

23 SENATOR CARRICO: Any further discussion on the
24 motion? Seeing none, motion is before us and properly
25 seconded. All those in favor of appropriating \$230,000 for Grant

1 Number 3370, say aye. (Ayes). All opposed?

2 MS. COLEMAN: No.

3 SENATOR CARRICO: We have one no, so the motion
4 is approved.

5 Any other comments? Any further discussion?

6 Hearing none, we are adjourned.

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PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.

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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, January 8, 2019, at 9:30 o'clock a.m., at the Homewood Suites, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

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 _____ day of January, 2019.

Medford W. Howard
CCR