

1                   **TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

2                                   701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501

3                                   Richmond, Virginia 23219

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8                                   **Full Commission Meeting**

9                                   Monday, September 28, 2020

10                                   4:00 o'clock p.m.

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14                                   (Electronic Conference Call Meeting)

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1     **APPEARANCES:**

2     The Honorable Terry G. Kilgore, Chairman

3     The Honorable Lashrecse D. Aird

4     Ms. Gayle F. Barts

5     Mr. Ed Blevins

6     The Honorable A. Benton Chafin, Jr.

7     Ms. Gretchen Clark

8     Ms. Becky Coleman

9     Mr. Joel Cunningham, Jr.

10    Dr. Alexis I. Ehrhardt

11    The Honorable James E. Edmunds, II

12    The Honorable John S. Edwards

13    The Honorable Franklin D. Harris

14    Ms. Julie Hensley

15    The Honorable Chris L. Hurst

16    The Honorable L. Louise Lucas

17    Mr. Robert Mills, Jr.

18    The Honorable Joseph D. Morrissey

19    The Honorable Edward Owens

20    The Honorable Sam Rasoul

21    The Honorable Bettina Ring

22    Mr. Cecil E. Shell

23    Mr. Buddy Shelton

24    Mr. Robert Spiers

25    Mr. Richard L. Sutherland

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COMMISSION STAFF:

- Mr. Evan Feinman, Executive Director
- Mr. Andy Sorrell, Deputy Director
- Mr. Michael F. Kaestner, Grants Program Administration Director
- Ms. Sarah K. Capps, Grants Program Administrator -  
Southern Virginia
- Ms. Michele Faircloth, Grants Assistant -  
Southern Virginia
- Ms. Sara G. Williams, Grants Program Administrator -  
Southwest Virginia
- Ms. Jessica Stamper, Grants Assistant -  
Southwest Virginia
- Mr. Jordan Butler, Public Relations Coordinator
- Ms. Stephanie Kim, Director of Finance
- Ms. Joyce Knight, Administrative Supervisor

COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION:

- Ms. Elizabeth B. Myers, Assistant Attorney General  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

1 September 28, 2020

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3 DELEGATE KILGORE: I want to thank you all for the  
4 work you've done going into closed sessions and out of closed  
5 sessions.

6 Now, I'm going to turn it over to Andy for items  
7 related to the remote meeting.

8 MR. SORRELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This  
9 meeting for the Tobacco Commission is being held electronically  
10 without a quorum of a public body in one location. The nature of  
11 the pandemic -- location. In addition, the purpose of the  
12 meeting is to transact business as statutorily required to continue  
13 the operation. The meeting is provided contemporaneously with  
14 the notice provided to the Commission members, and a recording  
15 of this meeting, as well as minutes, shall be posted on the  
16 Commission's website at the conclusion of the meeting -- --  
17 mute, any disruptions that occur.

18 Other comments will be provided at the end of the  
19 meeting. If a member desires to address the Commission,  
20 please hold your comments until that portion of the meeting.  
21 You can use the raise-your-hand feature or the chat box, or just  
22 speak up during public comment. At that time of public  
23 comment, please state your full name, location, and the  
24 organization that you represent. Please keep comments to two  
25 minutes each. If you're on the phone only, mute or unmute

1 yourself. Thank you.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you.

3 Evan, would you call the roll, please.

4 MR. FEINMAN: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

5 Delegate Kilgore.

6 DELEGATE KILGORE: Here.

7 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Aird.

8 DELEGATE AIRD: Present.

9 MR. FEINMAN: Secretary Ball or --

10 SECRETARY BALL: (No response).

11 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Blevins.

12 MR. BLEVINS: Here.

13 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Chafin.

14 SENATOR CHAFIN: Yes.

15 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Clark.

16 MS. CLARK: Here.

17 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Coleman.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Here.

19 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Cunningham.

20 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Here.

21 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Edmunds.

22 DELEGATE EDMUNDS: Here.

23 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Edwards.

24 SENATOR EDWARDS: Here.

25 MR. FEINMAN: Dr. Ehrhardt.

1 DR. EHRHARDT: Here.  
2 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Harris.  
3 MR. HARRIS: Here.  
4 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Hensley.  
5 MS. HENSLEY: Here.  
6 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Hurst.  
7 DELEGATE HURST: Present.  
8 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Jennings.  
9 MS. JENNINGS: (No response).  
10 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Lucas.  
11 SENATOR LUCAS: Here.  
12 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Mills.  
13 MR. MILLS: Here.  
14 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Morrissey.  
15 SENATOR MORRISSEY: Here.  
16 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Owens.  
17 MR. OWENS: Here.  
18 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Rasoul.  
19 DELEGATE RASOUL: Here.  
20 MR. FEINMAN: Secretary Ring.  
21 SECRETARY RING: Here.  
22 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Shell.  
23 MR. SHELL: Here.  
24 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Shelton.  
25 MR. SHELTON: Here.

1 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Spiers.

2 MR. SPIERS: Here.

3 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Sutherland.

4 MR. SUTHERLAND: Present.

5 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Kilgore.

6 DELEGATE KILGORE: Present.

7 DELEGATE KILGORE: You've got the minutes from 6-  
8 22-20. All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No  
9 response). The minutes are approved.

10 Ed, I think Ed Owens was elected for the Southern  
11 Virginia Committee. Ed, do you have a report?

12 MR. OWENS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do. Yes,  
13 Recommendation Number 1, I move that the Commission accept  
14 the Southern Virginia Committee's recommendation that the  
15 Commission approve grants and loans totaling \$7,352,178, and  
16 subject to the listed conditions with the following FY2021  
17 applications and as described on pages 4 through 14 of the  
18 Commission book. Do you want me to go through the numbers?

19 DELEGATE KILGORE: I'm going to ask if there's  
20 anyone that had or needs to remove any of those out of the  
21 block. Okay, hearing none, Evan, do we need to have the  
22 numbers in the record?

23 MR. FEINMAN: It's good practice.

24 DELEGATE KILGORE: Ed, if you can just read the  
25 numbers that you're asking for approval, please.

1 MR. OWENS: 3668 for an amount of \$103,468 grant;  
2 Campbell County, Application Number 3665 for Campbell County,  
3 \$184,306; Application Number 3667 for Halifax County, no  
4 award; Application Number 3661 for Henry County,  
5 recommending a loan to the applicant up to \$417,161;  
6 Application Number 3660, Nottoway County, no award;  
7 Application Number 3664 for Patrick County, recommending an  
8 approval for a grant of \$25,000; Application Number 3658 for  
9 Pittsylvania County, recommending a loan for the applicant up  
10 \$4.5 million for relocation of the AEP transmission line at the  
11 Virginia Resources Authority for a ten-year loan at \$1.5 percent  
12 interest; Application Number 3659, Pittsylvania County,  
13 recommended approval of a combined grant of \$2,005,076, of  
14 which \$742,875 from the Danville allocation and \$1,262,201  
15 from the Pittsylvania County allocation. That is combined with  
16 Application Number 3663, Danville, \$742,875 from their  
17 allocation. Application 3669, Prince Edward County,  
18 recommended approval of a grant for \$117,167. And that is the  
19 first block. Any questions?

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do we have a second to that?

21 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

22 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do we have any discussion?

23 Anyone wish one removed from the block?

24 MR. SORRELL: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make  
25 sure the conditions are separate, the Committee records'



1 conditions were also listed out.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: I thought I heard the Chairman  
3 say that.

4 MR. OWENS: Yes, all the conditions.

5 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any other comments? We have  
6 a motion and a second. Any more discussion? I understand you  
7 had a long hearing and a lot of discussion. It looks like you all  
8 were discussing all of them.

9 MR. OWENS: Very lively.

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: All right. Members are  
11 prepared to vote. All those in favor, say aye, those in favor of  
12 the list that the Chairman read, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No  
13 response).

14 Mr. Owens.

15 MR. OWENS: Item Number 2. I move the  
16 Commission accept the Southern Virginia Committee's  
17 recommendation that the Commission take no action on the  
18 following two tables for the third application as described on  
19 pages 17 and 18 of the Commission book. Application Number  
20 3591 for Charlotte County, no award. Application Number 3581,  
21 Halifax County, no award.

22 DELEGATE KILGORE: Mr. Chairman, to take those up  
23 or requiring any action would require the Full Commission, am I  
24 correct, Evan?

25 MR. FEINMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any other items?

2 MR. OWENS: Yes, sir. I move that the Commission  
3 accept the Southern Virginia Committee's recommendation that  
4 the Commission approve \$280,160.25 from Special Projects carry  
5 forward funds, subject to the listed conditions of the following  
6 Regional application, as described on pages 18 and 19 of the  
7 Commission book.

8 Number 3670, application for the Virginia Health Care  
9 Foundation, for \$371,000, no, for \$280,160.25. So moved.

10 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Chairman, it's a little unusual  
11 calling out for everyone. This is an instance in which the  
12 condition in considering the Footprint, rather than twice, one in  
13 each committee, we figure we'd let one committee do the full  
14 kicking the tires on the project, and then the other committee  
15 will be present with the Full Commission. And that's the way  
16 we're going to handle these footprint-wise decisions moving  
17 forward. We'll be approving it for the region through the actions  
18 of the Full Commission.

19 DELEGATE KILGORE: That's correct. We'll be  
20 approving it for the Full Commission, Evan, is that what you're  
21 saying?

22 MR. FEINMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just want folks to  
23 be aware that moving forward, a project that would cover the  
24 whole footprint may come up through either Southwest or  
25 Southern Virginia, it merely, it avoids duplication and redundancy

1 in our meetings.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: I agree. All right, thank you.  
3 Do I have a second?

4 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, I need an  
5 abstention on 3670.

6 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you, Mr. Cunningham.  
7 Did we get a second on that?

8 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

9 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any further discussion? All  
10 those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).

11 It's noted Mr. Cunningham, his abstention.

12 There was a second. All right.

13 Chairman Owens.

14 MR. OWENS: Extensions and modifications for the  
15 Town of Brodnax, Brodnax Depot Renovation. I move that the  
16 Commission accept the Southern Virginia Committee's  
17 recommendation to grant a one-year extension to January 12,  
18 2022 for Project 2975, Town of Brodnax, Brodnax Depot  
19 Renovation Project.

20 UNIDENTIFIED: So moved.

21 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is there a second?

22 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

23 DELEGATE KILGORE: It's been moved and seconded.  
24 Any more discussion? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Any  
25 opposed? (No response).

1 MS. CLARK: I need to abstain.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: Okay. Thank you, Gretchen.  
3 Chairman Owens.

4 MR. OWENS: Town of Alberta, Tobacco Heritage Trail,  
5 Alberta to Danielstown. I move that the Commission accept the  
6 Southern Virginia Committee's recommendation to approve a  
7 budget revision and extension to September 30, 2021, for Project  
8 Number 3149, Town of Alberta, Tobacco Heritage Trail, Alberta to  
9 Danielstown, Phase 1, contingent on the grantee completing  
10 design engineering of the 5.2 mile section of trail to a Roanoke  
11 River Rails to Trails standard or other standard approved by  
12 Commission Staff prior to the Commission's release of any  
13 further grant funds.

14 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you.

15 DELEGATE EDMUNDS: I'll second the motion.

16 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion? All those in  
17 favor of extending Number 5, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No  
18 response). That motion carries.

19 MR. OWENS: Item Number 6, Pittsylvania County,  
20 Cane Creek Centre Shell Building. I move that Commission  
21 accept the Southern Virginia Committee's recommendation to  
22 convert Grant 3352 to a loan of up to \$1.15 million that may be  
23 in the name of Pittsylvania County or its IDA subject to the  
24 following terms:

25 Zero percent of interest for a five-year term;

1 Four hundred thousand to be forgiven upon Realty  
2 Link's substantial completion of a 100,000 square foot building at  
3 Cane Creek, as determined by a licensed A&E;

4 And, (c), repayment of \$750,000 by the end of the  
5 five-year term of the loan. Staff further recommends authorizing  
6 the Executive Director to take any additional actions necessary to  
7 execute the contemplated transaction. So moved.

8 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do I have a second?

9 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any more discussion? All those  
11 in favor, say aye. (Ayes). All right, that motion carries.

12 MR. OWENS: The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar  
13 Forest, Construction of the Poplar Forest Parkway, Number 3091.  
14 I move that the Commission accept the Southern Virginia  
15 Committee's recommendation to grant a two-year extension to  
16 September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 for Project Number 3091, The Corporation  
17 for Jefferson's Poplar Forest, Construction of the Poplar Forest  
18 Parkway. So moved.

19 DELEGATE KILGORE: Motion for Poplar Forest to give  
20 them an extension, do I have a second?

21 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

22 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion? I think Senator  
23 Edwards seconded that. All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).  
24 That's carried.

25 Let me know pretty quick, I'm struggling hearing the

1 ayes and nays.

2 MR. OWENS: Prince Edward County, Prince Edward  
3 County Industrial Access Road, Application Number 3089. I  
4 move that the Commission accept the Southern Virginia  
5 Committee's recommendation to grant a two-year extension to  
6 May 21, 2022 for Project Number 3089, Prince Edward County,  
7 Prince Edward County Industrial Access Road. And I so move.

8 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

9 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second.  
10 Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed?  
11 (No response).

12 Chairman Owens.

13 MR. OWENS: Mr. Chairman, that ends my report.

14 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you, Chairman Owens. I  
15 know you all had hard and long meetings. I was in and out of it  
16 a couple of times. So, thank you.

17 Now, it looks like we're going to move to the Grants  
18 Program Director to discuss the Health Care Foundation.

19 MR. FEINMAN: We're going to go to the Southwest  
20 Virginia Committee.

21 DELEGATE KILGORE: Now, we have our new  
22 chairman's presentation from the Southwest Virginia Committee,  
23 Chairman Hurst. I think he's muted.

24 DELEGATE HURST: Thank you very much, Mr.  
25 Chairman and members of the Southwest Virginia Committee.

1 We met earlier this morning, and there are 11 different items  
2 that are pending. Two of them, Mr. Chairman, no action needs  
3 to be taken, so there are nine remaining that all of them I would  
4 move to accept before the Commission, the Southwest Virginia  
5 Committee's recommendation.

6 So, going through those individual items, and the first  
7 is Item 3185. The Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens. The  
8 Falls Mills Adult Day Care. The recommendation is to grant an  
9 extension through January 31, 2021 for that project. And I  
10 would so move.

11 The second item is Number 3071, The Barter  
12 Foundation, Expanding the Production Capacity of Barter Theatre.  
13 That, of course, is the historic theater in Abingdon. That is an  
14 economic driver for the area. Not being able to do productions at  
15 The Barter Theatre has meant that they have had to make some  
16 adjustments and are able now to do live theater in an outdoor  
17 setting during the pandemic.

18 The recommendation that we hope the Commission  
19 would accept is a budget provision to permit the full grant  
20 amount be used for operating support related to The Barter  
21 Theatre's response to COVID-19 and also extending the grant  
22 period through September 30, 2021 for that project. Expanding  
23 the production capacity of The Barter Theatre under second  
24 phase for that.

25 The next item up would be Item 3198, Friends of

1 Southwest Virginia, Building Appalachian Spring: Growing the  
2 Economy of Southwest Virginia through Developing Outdoor  
3 Recreation Destinations. The Committee recommendation is to  
4 grant an extension through September 30, 2021 for that project.  
5 And I would so move.

6 Number 6 is Item 2729, with the Lee County  
7 Industrial Development Authority, Constitutional Oaks Access  
8 Road Development. This is trying to make sure that there is an  
9 access road for that park. Again, the recommendation from the  
10 Southwest Virginia Committee is to grant an extension through  
11 September 30, 2021 for Project Number 2729.

12 Item Number 3078 is from the Smyth County Board of  
13 Supervisors and The Back of the Dragon Overlook. The  
14 motorcycle trail that is a popular destination for many folks inside  
15 and outside of the region. There is a request to grant an  
16 extension, that is a recommendation from the Committee, and I  
17 hope that the Commission would accept to grant that extension  
18 through September 30, 2021 for that project. Item Number  
19 3078.

20 Item Number 3187 has to do with the Southwest  
21 Virginia Regional Cybersecurity Initiative, that's through the  
22 Southwest Virginia Community College. I would hope that the  
23 Commission would accept a motion for the recommendation of  
24 the Southwest Virginia Community to grant extension again  
25 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for that project, Item Number



1 3187.

2 Item Number 2904 is with the Southwest Regional  
3 Recreation Authority, Adventure Playground. It was the  
4 recommendation of the Committee to grant an extension through  
5 September 30, 2021 for that project, Number 2904.

6 Item 3212. It's with the Southwest Virginia Higher  
7 Education Center Foundation and Micronic Technologies, that  
8 they are developing a potentially novel water filtration system  
9 that could see some commercialization. They are in Phase 2 of  
10 that. It is the recommendation of the Southwest Virginia  
11 Committee to grant the extension for that performance obligation  
12 through May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2021 for Project 3212.

13 Finally, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission,  
14 Item Number 2739 is with the Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, and  
15 Expanding The Crooked Road Brand. It was the recommendation  
16 of the Southwest Virginia Committee to grant an extension  
17 through May 31, 2021 for that project, pending the Executive  
18 Director's approval of a budget revision to allow the balance of  
19 the grant not needed for touchscreen updates to be used for app  
20 development or update the kiosk along The Crooked Road, Trail  
21 to be used for application development rather than for the  
22 touchscreen update.

23 Again, all of those items, the motion before the  
24 Commission would be to accept the Southwest Virginia  
25 Committee's recommendation, and I would so move all of those

1 items in a block. Mr. Chairman.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you, Chairman Hurst.

3 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

4 DELEGATE KILGORE: Can everybody hear? All those  
5 in favor of the motion by Chairman Hurst, say aye. (Ayes).  
6 Opposed? (No response).

7 Chairman Hurst, does that complete your report?

8 DELEGATE HURST: That completes my report, Mr.  
9 Chairman.

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you. Now, we'll go to  
11 Chairman Coleman, Becky Coleman, our Education Committee.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, Chairman Kilgore. The  
13 Education Committee took up four recommendations for  
14 consideration by the Full Commission. The first is with respect to  
15 New College Institute, New College Institute Center of  
16 Excellence, Grant 2882. I move that the Commission accept the  
17 Education Committee's recommendation to grant an extension  
18 through September 30, 2021 for Project Number 2882, New  
19 College Institute, New College Institute Center of Excellence.

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do I have a second?

21 MR. OWENS: Second.

22 DELEGATE KILGORE: A second by Mr. Owens. Any  
23 discussion? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). All opposed?  
24 (No response). That motion carries.

25 Chairman Coleman.

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. The second is with  
2 respect to the Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing,  
3 Southwest Virginia Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence,  
4 it's Project Number 3100. I move the Commission accept the  
5 Education Committee's recommendation to grant an extension  
6 through December 31, 2020 for Project Number 3100, Southwest  
7 Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing, Southwest Virginia Advanced  
8 Manufacturing Center of Excellence.

9 UNIDENTIFIED: --

10 MS. COLEMAN: Sir?

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Sorry.

12 DELEGATE KILGORE: What was your motion,  
13 Chairman Coleman?

14 MS. COLEMAN: This is my second motion, correct,  
15 okay, all right. The motion is with respect to the Southwest  
16 Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing, Southwest Virginia Advanced  
17 Manufacturing Center with respect to Project Number 3100. I  
18 move that the Commission accept the Education Committee's  
19 recommendation to grant an extension through December 31<sup>st</sup>,  
20 2020 for Project Number 3100, Southwest Virginia Alliance for  
21 Manufacturing, Southwest Virginia Advanced Manufacturing  
22 Center of Excellence, to allow the remaining balance of  
23 \$199,533.70 to be used for project closeout expenses.

24 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do I have a second?

25 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion? All those in  
2 favor, say aye. (Ayes) Opposed? (No response). That motion  
3 carries.

4 Chairman Coleman.

5 MS. COLEMAN: The third motion is regarding the  
6 Virginia Department of Health. I move that the Commission  
7 accept the Education Committee's recommendation to fund the  
8 Virginia Department of Health Student Loan Repayment Program  
9 for Health Care Professions in the amount of \$1,500,000 for  
10 FY2021.

11 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do I have a second?

12 MR. OWENS: Second.

13 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion, any discussion?  
14 All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). All right, that motion carries.

15 MS. COLEMAN: The final motion is regarding the  
16 Talent Attraction Program, TAP Funding. I move the Commission  
17 accept the Education Committee's recommendation to fund the  
18 Talent Attraction Program, targeting hard-to-fill occupations in  
19 the amount of \$1,500,000 for FY2021.

20 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

21 DELEGATE KILGORE: I know that Chairman Coleman  
22 had a presentation about that program and brought everybody  
23 up to date. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).  
24 That motion carries.

25 Is that your Committee's findings?

1 MS. COLEMAN: The Education Committee's report,  
2 Chairman.

3 DELEGATE KILGORE: Now, we have a new  
4 committee, the Incentives and Loan Committee. And our new  
5 chairman, Chairman Aird. Do you have your report ready?

6 DELEGATE AIRD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
7 Chairman, the Incentives and Loan Committee has six  
8 recommendations for the Commission to consider. The first  
9 recommendation goes to the TROF Incentive Policy, and the  
10 Committee had a lively discussion. And instead of taking action  
11 on that policy today, the Committee is actually recommending  
12 that the Commission accept the Incentives and Loan Committee's  
13 request to set a special-called meeting later this fall to discuss  
14 and review the Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Program  
15 policies, and have a discussion with our Economic Development  
16 leaders, as well as --

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is there a second? All right, all  
18 those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). All right, that motion carries.  
19 Chairman Aird.

20 DELEGATE AIRD: The second recommendation as  
21 relative to Loan Fund Program Guidelines, and the Committee is  
22 recommending that the Commission accept our request to  
23 approve the Loan Fund Program Guidelines, as found on pages  
24 46 through 50 of the Commission book. And I so move.

25 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you. All those in favor,

1 say aye. (Ayes). That motion carries.

2 Chairman Aird.

3 DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.  
4 The next recommendation relative to confidential project. The  
5 first project is Project Skyscraper, and I would ask that the  
6 Commission accept the Committee's recommendation to approve  
7 Project Skyscraper with a 36-month performance period, with a  
8 grant incentive of up to \$710,000 and a loan incentive of up to  
9 \$710,000, for a total incentive of up \$1,420,000, of which  
10 \$710,000 would be repaid to the Commission. And I so move.

11 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is there a second? All right. All  
12 those in favor of Project Skyscraper, say aye. (Ayes). One  
13 abstained. That motion carries.

14 Chairman Aird.

15 DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next  
16 two recommendations are relative to Project Homecoming, and I  
17 move that the Commission accept the recommendation of the  
18 Incentives and Loan Committee to allow an exception to the  
19 TROF policy, to allow for an incentive estimate to be provided for  
20 Project Homecoming, which is providing an average annual  
21 salary, which is lower than the prevailing average for the locality,  
22 but creating over 400 new jobs. I so move.

23 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is there a second?

24 MR. OWENS: Second. I do have a question. What is  
25 the unemployment rate in that area?

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: It would have to be north of  
2 seven percent or eight percent.

3 MR. FEINMAN: Five is a safe answer, five.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: One county was listed at 9.2 for  
5 July.

6 DELEGATE KILGORE: Pretty high, yes. Five hundred  
7 jobs would help a lot.

8 Kilgore talking, is there a second on that? Did we get  
9 a second, Andy? Okay, all right.

10 All those in favor of that motion, say aye. (Ayes).  
11 That motion carries.

12 DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The  
13 second part of the recommendations for Project Homecoming, is  
14 that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendation to  
15 approve Project Homecoming with a 36-month performance  
16 period with a grant incentive of up to \$213,720 and a loan  
17 incentive of up to \$213,720, for a total incentive of up to  
18 \$427,440, of which \$213,720 would be repaid to the  
19 Commission. The project will also be eligible for an additional  
20 \$60,280 in grant funds and \$60,280 in loan funds, provided the  
21 project is able to meet the blended prevailing average for the  
22 region at the end of the performance period. And I so move.

23 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do I have a second?

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

25 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion? All those in

1 favor of that motion, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No  
2 response). That motion carries.

3 DELEGATE AIRD: The final recommendation from the  
4 Committee, I'd ask that the Commission accept the  
5 recommendation to recommend a grant extension through  
6 December 31, 2021, for Grant Number 2850, regarding the  
7 Bristol project. And I so move.

8 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is there a second?

9 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: All those in favor, say aye.  
11 (Ayes).

12 Chairman Aird, does that complete your report?

13 DELEGATE AIRD: Yes.

14 DELEGATE KILGORE: Andy.

15 MR. SORRELL: On pages 51 through 55 in your  
16 Commission book, which talks about the status of the TROF  
17 Program, and the status of the TROF awards, you'll see that in  
18 2020, we approved nine TROF budget and nine TROF projects,  
19 with over 1,800 jobs promised, and \$245 million in capital  
20 investment, for a total incentive offering of \$687 million, pretty  
21 good compared to previous years in terms of jobs.

22 So far, in FY2021, we've approved two projects and  
23 more are coming.

24 And on page 52, the status of these and what those  
25 are doing. There's a listing of the performance period of projects



1 and we're working out in terms of a repayment and gathering  
2 additional data. We wanted to make sure that everybody had a  
3 copy of that for reference for department records.

4 DELEGATE KILGORE: Andy, on the Nonprofit  
5 Foundation, the CARES Act.

6 MR. FEINMAN: I'll go through this as quickly as I can.  
7 We've been running a little long. The first thing to flag for all of  
8 you all is that we have become aware of Federal EDA Economic  
9 Development Authority or Agency, has opened the CARES Act  
10 application and the opportunity for the Commission to pursue an  
11 additional project.

12 We have worked with our partners to develop a  
13 proposal that looks quite similar to the proposal that we have, or  
14 to the projects we have with Joe Anwyl and his consulting firm in  
15 the UK Foreign Direct Investment Consultants in South America,  
16 and will be picking up the vast majority of the funding for the  
17 following three years, but the Commission would need to  
18 contribute up to \$116,000 in cash, as well as some staff time, to  
19 pursue what would be in excess of an \$800,000 project. So, I'm  
20 seeking authorization from the Commission to commit those  
21 funds from our General Account and seek that grant funding.

22 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is that the CARES Act funding  
23 that you're talking about?

24 MR. FEINMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

25 DELEGATE KILGORE: So, the motion would be that

1 the Commission approve and support the Executive Director's  
2 submission of the US EDA CARES Act grant application discussed  
3 by Staff and authorize the Executive Director to take all  
4 additional actions necessary to proceed with and implement this  
5 initiative, including awarding a contract and expending  
6 Commission funds as necessary to provide the matching funds.  
7 Is that the motion you need?

8 MR. FEINMAN: It is, Mr. Chairman, yes.

9 MR. OWENS: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion on that? Sounds  
11 like a great opportunity for us to get it to a market that we were  
12 not in.

13 MR. FEINMAN: We don't have much of a trade  
14 relationship with South America. We ought to, and I believe we  
15 can capitalize on the cable landing from South Harlow and we  
16 have a strong model in which Joe Anwyl will seek to replicate.

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion? We have a  
18 motion and we have a second. All in favor, say aye. (Ayes).  
19 Anybody opposed? (No response). That motion carries.

20 Evan.

21 MR. FEINMAN: Relatedly, you folks will remember  
22 from our Strategic Plan that the Commission is seeking to create  
23 an outside foundation to be able to bring in additional grants and  
24 other charitable gifts. I do not know when that might be acted  
25 upon relative to legislative authorization, but what I'm hoping is

1 that I can get authorization to do everything up to pulling the  
2 trigger prior to getting legislative authorization to establish that  
3 outside 501C3 and draw up the bylaws, et cetera, et cetera, and  
4 begin pursuing a potential development staffer, none of which  
5 will be finalized until the Commission takes final action and we  
6 have a legislative authority. We have gotten legislative  
7 authorization and the Governor signs authority to actually create  
8 that outside entity, just want to be ready to go.

9 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do we need to make any  
10 motions?

11 MR. FEINMAN: You can, I'm not going to be spending  
12 any of your resources between now and then. If you want to  
13 wait until I put everything in front of you, I'm happy to do that in  
14 January or May.

15 DELEGATE KILGORE: That would be better, I think.

16 DELEGATE AIRD: This is Delegate Aird. Are you just  
17 saying that we're just waiting for the Governor's final signature,  
18 was that what I heard?

19 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate, no, this was not brought up  
20 in the Special Session. But we're hoping to pursue some  
21 legislation in January that would enable, our enabling statute to  
22 permit us to create an outside foundation.

23 DELEGATE AIRD: Okay, thank you.

24 DELEGATE KILGORE: Evan?

25 MR. FEINMAN: I have no other business for you. It's

1 been a long day, Mr. Chairman. Other than public comment, I  
2 believe that completes your business.

3 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any public comment? Great.  
4 Do I have a motion we adjourn? I appreciate you all  
5 staying with us all. Thank you all. We're 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, Full Commission Meeting**, when held on Monday, September 28, 2020, at 4:00 o'clock p.m., (By Electronic Conference Call).

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 October, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_

Medford W. Howard  
CCR