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VIRGINIA TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION
SPRING FULL COMMISSION TWO-DAY MEETING
THE SESSIONS HOTEL

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMMITTEE
BRISTOL, VA
MAY 11, 2022
1:30 P.M.

MARSHA SELF, CERT
Appalachian Court Reporting
P.O. Box 833
Abingdon, Virginia 24212
ID 54-1495140
(276) 676-2244

1 APPEARANCES

2 Del. Will Morefield, chair

3 Julie Hensley, v. chair

4 Edward Blevins

5 Gretchen Clark

6 Rebecca Coleman

7 Del. Terry Kilgore

8 Sandy Ratliff

9 Richard Sutherland

10 Del. Will Wampler

11 COMMISSION STAFF

12 Andrew Sorrell

13 Stephanie Kim

14 Sarah Capps

15 Sara Williams

16 David Bringman

17 Jordan Butler

18 Jessie Stamper

19 Emily Van Pelt

20 Joyce Knight

21 COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION

22 Elizabeth "Liz" Myers

23

24

25

1 This is the Session One of the Virginia Tobacco Region
2 Revitalization Commission, which was held on May 11, 2022, at
3 1:30 p.m. at The Sessions Hotel in Bristol, Virginia.

4 CHAIRMAN MOREFIELD: Good afternoon. We would like to call
5 the meeting to order for the Southwest Virginia Committee
6 Tobacco Commission. First of all, I'd like to welcome all of
7 you all to beautiful Southwest Virginia. Thank goodness summer
8 is finally here, but with that being said, we will do a call of
9 the roll.

10 MR. SORRELL: Thank you, Delegate Morefield, Chairman of
11 the Southwest Virginia Committee.

12 (THE ROLL IS CALLED.)

13 MR. SORRELL: You have the floor, Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN MOREFIELD: Okay. Well, we have a couple of
15 housekeeping items. Make you aware of the restrooms. The
16 bathroom is located right of the elevator, and then, also, we
17 ask that each person to speak so that the Court Reporter can
18 take your name. So, when you speak, speak into a mic, please.

19 All right. Next we have approval of the minutes.

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: make a motion we approve the 1/6/22
21 minutes, Mr. Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN MOREFIELD: We have a motion. Do we have a second
23 to approve the minutes of 1/6/22? Okay. We have a second.
24 All in favor say Aye.

25 (ALL AFFIRM.)

1 All oppose?

2 (NO RESPONSE.)

3 CHAIRMAN MOREFIELD: Okay. Minutes are adopted. Next we
4 will go to public comment. Are there any members of the public
5 who wish to make a comment? I do believe we have Lee or Lea
6 Ross. Please come up to the podium.

7 MS. LEA ROSS: I just wanted to say thank you for all you
8 do for the Commonwealth of Virginia. We have received funding
9 from you all before for our Birthplace of Country Music Museum.
10 And if you haven't been into it, we would like to offer you that
11 opportunity to visit it. We've opened until after 6:00 o'clock
12 tonight because we have Farmer and Fun Time Show going on now.

13 We have the ability, in between us and the hotel, that we
14 are still working on funding, but we're getting there. So,
15 you'll be hearing from me hopefully in October because we hope
16 to have matching funds. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN MOREFIELD: Thank you. I was just explaining to
18 our Executive Director that this is an incredible facility.
19 This is the first time I've had the opportunity to visit it.
20 We'd certainly like to see more establishments like this across
21 Southwest Virginia. I know you've got a few other ones in
22 southside Virginia.

23 So, I do believe we have one additional person. Yes, sir.

24 MR. ANDERSON: I'm Will Anderson. I'm President and CEO of
25 Blue Ridge PBS Asset. We are lucky enough to receive funds from

1 the Tobacco Commission in the past. Pre-covid hindered us a
2 little bit from doing what we needed to do, but what we were
3 able to do is to create Project Southwest with some media entity
4 that's bringing all of the great things that are happening in
5 Southwest Virginia to the world. It has been a tremendous
6 success.

7 As a matter of fact, our Executive Producer right now is
8 down on Commonwealth Avenue at a Bed & Breakfast and met some
9 friends there. They're creating a cooking show right here in
10 Southwest Virginia that we hope to take nationally and bring
11 some of that recognition here.

12 And, in the future, we hope to have more funds for a brand
13 new station that we will be creating here in Southwest Virginia;
14 the very first digital affiliate and a member station of PBS
15 with a big following that goes along with it.

16 So, stick around. And thank you so very much. We couldn't
17 do it without you.'

18 CHAIRMAN MOREFIELD: Thank you so much. That's very exciting.
19 news. Okay. Next we will move on to business.
20 And Ms. Sara Williams will start with the funding applications.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir. Can you all hear me? Is
22 this picking up okay? They can't hear at all back there.

23 CHAIRMAN: Can you move closer to the microphone?

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. We did receive 10 applications to the
25 second round of the Southwest Virginia Program. As you

1 remember, we accepted applications in the fall and approved
2 several of those at the January meeting.

3 We did have a sufficient balance remaining, and we were
4 able to do a second round. And just one point of information
5 for you, we do have approximately four-and-a-half million
6 dollars in the available balance, so there are fund available to
7 fund these projects.

8 So, with that said, I will jump right in and start with the
9 Agribusiness Proposals. We had two submitted under
10 Agribusiness. The first one is number 3966. It is from the
11 Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association Improving Genetics, Health,
12 and Management of Small Ruminants in Southwest Virginia.

13 They have requested \$428,400.00. So, commission funds will
14 be used here to establish a new cost share program on improving
15 the genetics and herd management of small ruminants. This could
16 be goats or sheep in Southwest Virginia.

17 The majority of funds will be used for those cost share
18 payments. A small portion, about 2 percent of the request would
19 be used for administrative costs such as tax preparation,
20 printing, those sorts of things.

21 The cost share program will reimburse at a 33 percent rate
22 with a \$3,000 cap per participant.

23 Small ruminants are still a less popular source of revenue
24 for region farmers. However, there is evidence that this is
25 growing. Something that I thought was really interesting about

1 this set of ten applications is that out of ten applications
2 received this round, some of them relate in some way to small
3 ruminants. So, I think that reminds some verification that
4 small ruminants are a growing source of potential revenue for
5 our region farmers.

6 One concern that came up during staff review is that the
7 Program Guidelines that were submitted did not require a minimum
8 herd size per participation. And when we spoke to the applicant
9 about it, they suggested that in leu of requiring a minimum herd
10 size - because these are growing operations - it's very rare
11 that small ruminant producers are only raising small ruminants.
12 They're usually doing cattle or some other livestock or
13 agricultural enterprise. This is just something that they do
14 sort of on the side, and we want to grow that.

15 So, they said in leu of a minimum herd size participate,
16 what if we require applicants to provide their USDA/FSA farm
17 number? And what that accomplishes is it's a way to verify that
18 these participants are from working farms and aren't hobby
19 operations or that sort of thing which we would not be
20 interested in funding.

21 You will also note that in this instance, the Staff
22 recommendation is for a reduced award. And this is because the
23 Commission has funded at least two similar small ruminant cost
24 share programs for the southwest region. Both of those - and
25 there may more than I'm blanking on right now - but both of

1 those did close the grants with sufficient funds remaining that
2 would be obligated.

3 So, we thought that to reduce the award would be a good way
4 to determine the level of interests in the program. And should
5 there be more interests, then there are funds available. We
6 would welcome the opportunity for them to submit a second
7 proposal for a future round to continue the program.

8 So, the Staff recommendation is, Staff recommends a grant
9 award of \$215,000 with no more than two percent of the total
10 award to be allocated for administration.

11 CHAIRMAN: Okay. And if there are no objections, we will
12 have Ms. Williams just go through the full report, and then
13 we'll take individual questions from the Commission that you
14 have.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Next is another Agribusiness Project. It is
16 from Grayson County for a Sheep Wool Baler. Request number
17 3970. They have requested \$2,500 to assist in the purchase of a new
18 wool baler which will be based in Grayson County.

19 Currently, there is a wool baler in Grayson County; however, it's
20 reaching the end of its useful life. It is in dire need of replacement.

21 The baler, in its location in Grayson, is very important because
22 buyers require that wool be sorted by color, graded, baled, and
23 transported in minimum ton loads of 18 tons a loaded. So, as you can
24 imagine, those requirements can make it very

1 difficult for most region wool produces to be able to sell to
2 these buyers.

3 The total cost of the baler is estimated to be between
4 \$25,000 and \$30,000. The majority of that cost will be covered
5 through an intended VDACS AFID application that will be
6 submitted. The New River Valley Sheep and Goat Club will also
7 contribute to the costs. So, Staff recommends a grant aware of
8 \$2,500 contingent upon successful receipt of the intended AFID
9 grant.

10 Moving on to our Sites and Infrastructure section of the
11 projects. The first project there is number 3968 from the Floyd
12 County EDA for the Planning Expansion of the Floyd Innovation
13 Center requesting \$20,000.

14 Commission funds are requested to help with engineering and
15 architectural design for the expansion of the Floyd Innovation
16 Center. The Center opened up in 2015. I think it was
17 funded primarily from Commission and US EDA funding and ARC
18 and some others. But it has been very successful in providing
19 space to new businesses who are beginning and growing in Floyd
20 County.

21 Since 2014, ten businesses have graduated from the center.
22 There are currently four businesses located there now with 36
23 employees. Three of those have expressed the desire to expand;
24 however, there is no space at the Center or elsewhere in Floyd
25 that can accommodate these specific types of businesses.

1 An application has been filed with ARC for the remaining
2 cost; 50 percent of the A&E design work. The application also
3 indicates that once design it is complete, it is very likely
4 that they would approach the Commission and ARC and US EDA and
5 others for the construction phase. And, so, I did want to point
6 out that at that point, when that application comes in, this
7 will be a revenue generating project and would be most
8 appropriate to consider for loan support; however, that A&E
9 design phase, which is what is requested here, does not result
10 in any additional revenue for the Center, and, therefore, is
11 eligible for grant funding.

12 So, staff recommends a grant award of \$20,000.

13 Number 3971. Historic Pocahontas. Engineering Study of
14 Pocahontas Fuel Building and Dr. Ballard Building. They have
15 requested \$50,000.

16 The Commission fund will be used to conduct preliminary
17 engineering work focused on two buildings in downtown
18 Pocahontas. The Pocahontas Fuel Building and Dr. Ballard's
19 building.

20 Recently, the Thompson Foundation awarded an almost 48,
21 \$49,000 grant that will help replace the building on the Ballard
22 - the roof on the Ballard Building. However, it is still in need
23 of a great deal of structural repair and roof renovation.

24 Our funds would help to really get some good cost estimates
25 and details on what is going to be required to rehabilitate

1 those buildings. I will admit, I had never been to Pocahontas
2 until just last week. I made my first visit to Pocahontas, and
3 I will say I was blown away by the potential of that small town.

4 I don't know that we have architecture like that in any
5 other small town that I've seen in Southwest Virginia.
6 Unfortunately, a lot of it is in pretty rough shape these days,
7 and will require quite a lot to rehabilitate it, but the streets
8 are made of walkable brick. And some of these buildings, you
9 know, they don't look like they belong in our region.

10 Pocahontas has been really successful recruiting tourists
11 as a result of Spearhead Trails. They are located in prime
12 location. There is no better ATV community location in
13 Southwest Virginia than Pocahontas because they happen to be on
14 the border of West Virginia, so they get visits from the West
15 Virginia Hatfield McCoy trails as well as Southwest Virginia
16 Spearhead Trail but original Pocahontas trails.

17 And, although they have been really successful, I think,
18 one of the campgrounds they frequently pre-pandemic had to
19 visitors from Canada. Like, pretty common to have Canadians
20 down.

21 But, unfortunately, despite the campgrounds and the cabins
22 and things that have been built, there are not a lot of other
23 amenities available in Pocahontas and in the area to serve these
24 tourists.

25 And, so, there's a great deal of potential to renovate and

1 rehabilitate these buildings to provide a space for those types
2 of businesses.

3 This project is part of a larger downtown revitalization
4 effort that began twelve years ago. In 2012, CDBG funded a
5 downtown master plan for the town. Progress there stalled for a
6 variety of reasons. And the part that I found really sad is
7 that since that time in the past twelve years, some of those
8 buildings identified in that plan are past the point of being
9 rehabilitated. There's been, you know, at least one or two
10 that, I think, are no longer standing. So, there is a bit of
11 time urgency here.

12 The town will be working with the Planning district,
13 Cumberland Planning District Commission to submit another
14 request to CDBG for \$50,000 to update that 2010 planning
15 document. And, again, that will be through the town. You'll
16 notice that this is through Historic Pocahontas, the non-profit.
17 And, so, it will require quite a bit of coordination between
18 those two parties.

19 There has recently been an MOU signed, though, between the
20 two parties documenting a renewed commitment to work together on
21 the revitalization project. So, I was very encouraged by this,
22 and I'm looking forward to going back up there.

23 So, Staff recommends a \$50,000 grant award to support the
24 development of preliminary engineering reports for the Ballad
25 and Fuel Buildings. Any funds not needed for PER work may, with

1 the approval of the Executive Direct, be repurposed for other
2 planning or rehabilitation work on either building.

3 Next is the 3974. Russell County Industrial Development
4 Authority. ACME Building Renovations. Requesting \$189,000.

5 So, funding is requested here to continue to renovate the
6 former ACME Building in Russell County. The IDA purchased this
7 building using the VCEDA loan fund along with other VCEDA loan
8 funds to begin to renovate it. To provide a space for a local
9 manufacturer of goat milk products - and this is the third
10 ruminant connected project here - Bates Family Farm is a local
11 producer of goat milk, and they make lotions and I think they
12 sell wholesale milk and things.

13 They have outgrown their current space and will be moving
14 into this property once it is available. They will execute a
15 ten-year lease to purchase agreement with the IDA for the
16 property.

17 The big questions that we had when we reviewed this one
18 really related to the VCEDA loans which total \$700,000 and sort
19 of how commission funds should work with those funds that were
20 already in place? The VCEDA loans require that VCEDA maintain
21 the first lien position on the property; although, we do know
22 that from the loan documents; however, we don't have a payment
23 schedule or lease amounts. We did get a standard draft of the
24 lease that the IDA uses for tenants, but it wasn't specific to
25 this project. So, without that type of information, Staff was

1 not able to determine if the IDA would be able to take on
2 additional debt for the project.

3 However, it was clear to us that this project will
4 immediately start to generate revenue through that lease,
5 identify the tenants, and so, because of the Commission's strict
6 policies governing revenue generating projects, we felt that
7 this was best sent to VRA for evaluation under their loan
8 program.

9 We did speak to the applicant. They are in agreement with
10 that. However, they asked that our loan terms be developed
11 along similar lines as the VCEDA loans which are zero percent
12 interest loans to be payable over a ten-year period, and the
13 Staff recommendation reflects that.

14 Staff recommends this project be referred to the VRA
15 Revolving Loan Program for consideration of a zero percent
16 interest loan to be payable over a ten-year period.

17 Next we have number 3972. Joint IDA of Wythe County,
18 Virginia. Extension of Rail in Progress Park. Requesting
19 \$800,000.

20 This request will assist with infrastructure improvements
21 to serve Lot 24 in Progress Park. This is the site of the
22 recently announced Blue Star Project, which as we all know is a
23 major project to Southwest Virginia.

24 It is estimated to create thousands of jobs and hundreds of
25 millions of capital investment within a short five-year period,

1 but with that, comes a large price tag.

2 Approximately, \$32 million of infrastructure improvements
3 are needed to accommodate the project and to serve Lot 24. This
4 application focuses on the extension of the rail line. The
5 total cost is \$1.6 million.

6 The Commission is being asked for half. \$450,000 has been
7 provided through the Virginia Rail Access Funds Program. And
8 local funds will make up the difference to get to that full 1.6
9 cost.

10 Of course, some history, the Commission has provided over 4
11 million of grant funds to Progress Park. 3.65 of those directly
12 into development of Lot 24. For the Blue Star Project, in
13 particular, a \$1 million TROF award has been made, which I
14 believe they will be using for some of these infrastructure
15 needs.

16 In January of 2022 - not May - that's the typo in your
17 document. In January of 2022, the Commission considered an
18 application for a wastewater extension. That project was
19 determined to be more suitable for loan funding and was offered
20 as zero percent loan. That offer is still on the table. We
21 have not received a final answer from Wythe County on if they
22 have chosen to accept that or not, but I wanted to make you
23 aware that that is still out there.

24 The Rail Extension Project, the railbed will be owned by
25 the locality and there is no revenue generated as a result of

1 the cars that will use it. So, with all that in mind, it really
2 fit our criteria for onsite infrastructure which can be funded
3 with grant funds.

4 And, for that reason, Staff recommends a grant award of
5 \$800,000.

6 Now we have Regional Economic Development Marketing
7 Initiatives. Number 3973 is from Mount Rogers Development
8 Partnership for the Mount Rogers Development Partnership Talent
9 & Industry Attraction Program. Requesting \$300,000.

10 So, Commission support has been requested for a regional
11 marketing campaign focused on both industrial and workforce
12 recruitment. For many years, the Commission has provided
13 support to our Regional Marketing Organization such as this one
14 to help support the cost of regeneration and industrial
15 recruitments.

16 Those activities will continue under this application.
17 What is new for this project is the addition of a workforce
18 recruitment needs. As we all know, the region has lost a great
19 deal of its population. Workforce recruitment is a critical
20 need for multiple reasons: population decline, low
21 participation rate, again, demographics. All those reasons.

22 So, this application, this project will work to address
23 some of that, too.

24 Matching funds are in place from a variety of local
25 foundations and GOVA that will fund the addition of three

1 positions to MRDP - their name keeps changing, so I can never
2 get it straight.

3 To the Staff, these would include a Marketing Manager, a
4 Talent Solutions Manager, and a Talent Solutions Coordinator.
5 Once those positions are in place, they will immediately get to
6 work refining and implementing a regional marketing plan. Our
7 funds will be used for contractual services to implement that
8 plan. So, to do marketing content and that sort of thing.

9 Staff recommends a grant award of \$300,000.

10 And now we move to Tourism. Number 3967. Town of Big
11 Stone Gap. Regional Outdoor Recreation Connecting Appalachia,
12 Big Stone Gap, Norton, and Scott County. Requesting \$300,000.

13 So, Commission funds will be used to assist with the
14 development of campsites at three locations in Wise and Scott
15 Counties. These campsites center around destinations such as
16 the Big Cherry Reservoir, Flag Rock Recreation Area, High Knob
17 Recreation Area, the Devils Bathtub, and the Jefferson National
18 Forest.

19 The total projects will construct 35 campsites, 18 of which
20 will be paid for with the Commission grant. There is a large
21 request pending with AMLER for \$2 million dollars that will fund
22 the remaining campsites but will also fund all the amenities,
23 furnishings, and everything else related to the campsites even
24 those that the Commission are being asked to construct.

25 Additionally, those funds will build a General Store and

1 bathhouse for the Big Cherry Campground location. That's really
2 the money that makes these campsites, you know, attractive to
3 visitors will come from.

4 So, our minor concern was the matching funds which are a
5 significant part of the project were not committed. I believe
6 an extension is expected any day, so if there is an update, you
7 all feel free to jump in and let us know.

8 But we felt that it was necessary that any award be
9 contingent on the receipt of that AMLER fund. So, you'll see
10 that reflected in the recommendation.

11 Just another note. The Southwest Program requires that
12 tourism projects document potential to recruit visitors from
13 national and international markets thanks to the results of a
14 years long effort to brand Southwest Virginia as a premier
15 outdoor recreation destination.

16 I think Sarah Capps has a magazine here with a bunch of
17 them listed she brought. If you can hold it up to share. We
18 felt that this application certainly met that requirement.
19 Overnight lodging is a known problem especially in that part of
20 the region. So, this project should go a long way to help to
21 address some of that.

22 Staff recommends a grant award of \$300,000 contingent upon
23 documentation of the availability of a minimum of
24 \$2 million matching funds sufficient to complete the project as
25 described.

1 Next we have 3969. Friends of Southwest Virginia.
2 Southwest Virginia Regional Marketing Campaign. Requesting
3 \$140,000.

4 Commission funds will be used to develop updated
5 videography and photography assets being used in regional
6 marketing efforts. These assets will be used only by the
7 applicant, but they will also be provided to their regional
8 partners and venues for use in their individual marketing
9 campaigns.

10 A small portion of funding is also allocated to support a
11 portion of the Director of Marketing position for an 18-month
12 period.

13 The Marketing Campaign will target both new and existing
14 markets. The existing markets are Asheville, Boone, Knoxville,
15 Richmond, and Tri-Cities. And these markets minimally address
16 the requirement for national and international visitation.
17 However, the expanding markets that are planned in this campaign
18 are better fit for that requirement.

19 The new markets will include Atlanta, Chicago, New York,
20 DC, London, and Toronto.

21 During our review of this application, we did struggle a
22 little bit when we reviewed the budget because it wasn't
23 immediately clear to us which expenses represented new expenses
24 and which may be expenses that reflect activities that were
25 already in the organizations already budget. In that case, they

1 should be classified as in-kind. As you know, the Commission
2 has a limit on in-kind. No more than 25 percent of the match
3 can come from the in-kind sources. So, we wanted to reflect
4 that in the recommendation.

5 I will say, I've already heard from the Staff, Friends of
6 Southwest Virginia, they are already working on the budget
7 and sent me one last night that clarifies that a lot of this
8 is actually cash, and then make sure that it is clear that the
9 in-kind is kept within the allowable 25 percent limit. And,
10 so, that is a very positive update to share as part of my
11 presentation.

12 But with that in mind, Staff recommends a \$140,000 grant
13 award contingent upon the Executive Director's approval of a
14 final budget reflecting adequate cash match focused on new
15 activities to meet TRRC's one-to-one match requirement. In-kind
16 match may be allowed up to the Commission's 25 percent limit.

17 And, finally, we have number 3975. Sunset Holler, Inc.
18 Southern Gap Amphitheater Project - Constructions Documents &
19 Construction. Requesting \$500,000.

20 The funds requested in this application are to assist with
21 construction of an amphitheater at Southern Gap in Buchanan
22 County. The facility which is expected to cost over \$5 million
23 to construct will have a capacity that accommodate 4,000
24 attendees.

25 This project may be familiar to a lot of you. The

1 Commission has supported it in the past. In 2019, we provided a
2 \$57,000 grant to support half the cost of the initial design.
3 In January 2021, we actually declined a very similar request for
4 \$500,000 for construction.

5 And we did that for two reasons. The first was that we
6 wanted to see a final design and construction documents
7 available that would clarify what the cost of the facility would
8 actually be. And, at that time, we were also the first funder
9 that had been approached for construction dollars.

10 And, so, given the vast amount of funding still to be
11 raised at that point and the Commission's requirement that all
12 matching funds must be in place within a year of the award, we
13 declined that application.

14 So, they have resubmitted now with positive progress. They
15 have three applications pending with - one with ARC, one with US
16 EDA, and one with AMLER. And should all three of these be
17 approved, they will be very close to their fundraising goal.

18 Unfortunately, we don't have that information, nor do we
19 know when it will be available.

20 So, that leads us to another point of consideration.
21 Should they be successful in obtaining \$5 million of matching
22 funds as grants, this is technically going to be operated as a
23 revenue generating enterprise. And, so, at that point, we would
24 need to determine if grant support is appropriate or if it
25 should be handled as we do other revenue generating projects

1 through the loaning program. You know, the plus side of that,
2 too, is if only one of these applications is not successful,
3 they will still have a major funding gap to get to the point
4 where they can begin construction.

5 So, with all these factors in mind, we just really did not
6 feel we were in a place where we could make a decision today
7 about the project. We thought it would be best to table it
8 until we have more information on those matching funds.

9 And, so, the Staff recommendation requests that.

10 Staff recommends this request be tabled until decisions
11 from all pending applications are available.

12 And that completes my presentation of the applications.

13 CHAIRMAN OWENS: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Williams. Now
14 we'll go and open up for questions from the Commission
15 on any of the applications.

16 (Pause.)

17 CHAIRMAN OWENS: Okay. With that being said, I would
18 like to entertain a motion to approve the Staff
19 recommendation in a block.

20 MS. HENSLEY: So moved.

21 CHAIRMAN OWENS: And I apologize. Just one moment.
22 Would anyone in the audience or any of the applicants
23 like to make a comment?

24 (NO RESPONSE.)

25 DELEGATE KILGORE: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a motion and a second to approve
2 in a block. All in favor say Aye.

3 (ALL AFFIRM.)

4 CHAIRMAN: Aye. All oppose?

5 (NEGATIVE RESPONSE.)

6 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. I think that was the fastest
7 Southwest Virginia -

8 MR. KILGORE: Exactly.

9 MS. HENSLEY: Accolades to the chair.

10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We have to give the staff a lot of
11 the credit. Next we will go to Extensions and Modifications.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: We do not have any extensions nor
13 modifications at this time.

14 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Next on the Agenda: Other Business.
15 Andy?

16 MR. SORRELL: We don't have any other business, but I did
17 want to also say that the reason why, you know, there's a lot of
18 good staff work that goes into making sure that those
19 applications are well vetted and that any of the questions that
20 they may have are addressing your staff, and Sara Williams and
21 her staff are really great in making sure that those application
22 questions are answered and then we review them at the Staff
23 level to make sure that they're going through the proper
24 channels. Thank you.

25 I have no further questions.

CERTIFICATE

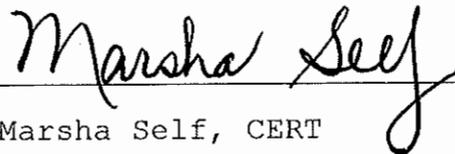
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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

I, Marsha Self, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, at large, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of Session 1 of the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission held on May 11, 2022, was taken before Marsha D. Self at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not a relative, counsel, or attorney for either party or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Given under my hand this 13th day of June, 2022.


Marsha Self, CERT

My Commission Expires: February 28, 2023.

State Notary Registered Number: 174126