

Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
September 16, 2026
1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Claiborne Robertson Room
Richmond, Virginia

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:16 p.m. by Chair Steven Stone. A quorum was present.

Committee Members In-Person: Anne Oman, Emily O’Quinn, Steven Stone

Committee Members Absent:

Other Board Members present: Secretary Carrie Chenery, John Hewa, Ken Johnson, April Kees, Connie Loughhead, Christopher Lu, Bo Machayo, Sarah McCoy, David Ramadan, Secretary Mark Sickles, Steven Stone, Bill Sudow

Public Comment Period

Chair Stone solicited public comments. There were none.

Approval of Minutes for June 3, 2026 Meeting

Chair Stone requested approval of the June 3, 2026, minutes. Upon motion by Ms. O’Quinn, seconded by Ms. Oman, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2026 Special Session I Update

Lindsay Akers provided an overview of the Commonwealth’s final budget agreement and other Chapter 1 budget items impacting economic development. Key provisions included additional funding for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program, Internships Virginia, the Fast-Acting Insulin Project, Advanced Air Aviation Test Sites, and the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Project. Ms. Akers also discussed new oversight and reporting requirements affecting VEDP, including quarterly reporting on affiliated corporations, as well as several data center-related initiatives involving tax policy, water use, noise regulations, electricity consumption, and data collection. Other items included airline service incentives, Route 220 corridor planning, an Averett University partnership, state employee compensation increases, and a federal funding contingency reserve.

General Assembly Update

Ms. Akers provided an update on recent legislative and policy developments related to data centers, including a presentation by VEDP, DEQ, and the SCC to the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy regarding the Commonwealth’s data center sales and use tax exemption. The update included discussions on qualification requirements, environmental and community impacts, water use and noise regulations, electricity consumption reporting, and the newly enacted data center electricity consumption tax. Ms. Akers also reviewed recent economic and

budget updates presented by the Secretary of Finance, highlighting stronger-than-expected FY26 revenues, shifts in Virginia's labor market, potential federal budget impacts, and projected revenues associated with the new data center tax.

Elections Update

Ms. Akers provided an overview of upcoming federal and state elections, highlighting congressional races in Virginia, key election dates, and a special election to fill a vacant House of Delegates seat in Northern Virginia. She noted the potential implications of the election outcomes for congressional control and future policy priorities affecting the Commonwealth.

Copies of Ms. Aker's presentations are available in the meeting materials.

Closed Session

Ms. Oman motioned, seconded by Ms. O'Quinn, to move to a closed meeting. The members unanimously approved the motion below:

I move that the Legislation and Policy Committee of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority convene a closed meeting to discuss elements of VEDP's Strategic Plan, Marketing Plan, and Operational Plan pursuant to Subdivision A 50 of §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, which allows for the discussion of such activities that would reveal to Commonwealth's competitors for economic development projects the strategies intended to be deployed, thus adversely affecting the financial interests of the Commonwealth.

Return to Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call Vote:

After the Committee reconvened in open meeting, Counsel certified the closed meeting via a roll call vote:

Do you certify, that to the best of your knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of FOIA were discussed in the closed meeting, and (ii) only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting?

Upon the vote:

Ms. Oman	Aye
Emily O'Quinn	Aye
Mr. Stone	Aye

Adjournment

The next meeting of the Legislation and Policy Committee has not yet been scheduled. There being no further business, Chair Stone adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.