

Minutes
Rural Virginia Action Committee Meeting
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
September 16, 2026
12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Claiborne Robertson Room
Richmond, Virginia

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m. by Vice Chair Connie Loughhead.

Committee Members In-Person: Rick Harrell, Connie Loughhead

Committee Members Absent:

Other Board members present: Secretary Carrie Chenery, John Hewa, Ken Johnson, April Kees, Christopher Lu, Bo Machayo, Sarah McCoy, Emily O'Quinn, Anne Oman, David Ramadan, Secretary Mark Sickles, Steven Stone, Bill Sudow

Public Comment Period

Vice Chair Loughhead solicited public comments. There were none.

Approval of Minutes for March 18, 2026 and June 3, 2026, Meetings

Vice Chair Loughhead requested approval of the March 18, 2026 and June 3, 2026, meeting minutes. Upon motion by Mr. Hewa, seconded by Mr. Harrell, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Partner Presentation: Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

David Manley, Executive Director of the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC), provided an overview of the Commission's mission and programs supporting economic growth and revitalization across Southern and Southwest Virginia. He reviewed the Commission's 2025-2027 Strategic Plan, which focuses on transformational investments, long-term financial stewardship, and capacity building to strengthen economic competitiveness, workforce development, entrepreneurship, housing, and community development throughout the region.

Mr. Manley highlighted the Commission's key funding priorities, including workforce and education initiatives, agribusiness, business attraction and expansion, infrastructure development, and community revitalization. He also discussed several programs and investments supporting industrial site development, workforce housing, rural business growth, and economic development capacity, noting the importance of strategic partnerships in advancing economic opportunities across the Tobacco Region.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the Rural Virginia Action Committee has not yet been scheduled. There being no further business, Vice Chair Loughhead adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

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