

Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority
March 18, 2026
3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

901 East Cary Street
James Center One, Board Room – 9th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m. by Chair John Hewa.

In-Person Committee Members: Secretary Carrie Chenery, Mimi Coles, Rick Harrell, John Hewa, Nick Rush, Will Sessoms, Secretary Mark Sickles, Steven Stone

Absent Members:

Other Board Members present: Bill Hayter, Todd House, Pace Lochte, Connie Loughhead, Sarah McCoy, Emily O'Quinn

Virtual Other Board Members: April Kees

Chair Remarks

Chair Hewa welcomed the Board members and introduced Sara McCoy as a new member of the Board. Ms. McCoy serves as Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Port Authority. Chair Hewa also introduced Secretary Mark Sickles, Secretary of Finance, as a new member of the Board, and welcomed Secretary Carrie Chenery back to the Board in her new role as Secretary of Commerce and Trade.

Public Comment Period

Chair Hewa solicited public comments. There were none.

Approval of Minutes for December 10, 2025 Meeting

Chair Hewa asked for approval of the minutes from the December 10, 2025, Committee meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Rush, seconded by Ms. Coles, the motion was unanimously approved.

President's Report

Jason El Koubi, President and CEO, presented a brief summary of the President's Report and indicated that he would present a fuller presentation at the Board meeting on March 19, 2026. A copy of the President's Report is available in the Committee meeting materials.

Closed Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Coles and seconded by Mr. Stone to 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.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Certification of Closed Meeting

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 session, and (ii) only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting?

Upon the vote:	Secretary Chenery	Aye
	Ms. Coles	Aye
	Mr. Harrell	Aye
	Mr. Hewa	Aye
	Mr. Rush	Aye
	Mr. Sessoms	Aye
	Secretary Sickles	Aye
	Mr. Stone	Aye

Vote on Closed Session Items

Ms. Coles made a motion that the Board vote to approve the creation of a 501(c)3 nonstock corporation, as discussed in closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rush.

Upon the vote:	Secretary Chenery	Aye
	Ms. Coles	Aye
	Mr. Harrell	Aye
	Mr. Hewa	Abstained
	Mr. Rush	Aye
	Mr. Sessoms	Aye
	Secretary Sickles	Aye
	Mr. Stone	Aye

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held June 3, 2026. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.