



Goochland County
Economic
Development Authority

Meeting Location
1800 Sandy Hook Road
Goochland, VA 23063
804.556.5862
www.goochlandva.us

Meeting Minutes

View this meeting "live" 5:30 p.m. at www.goochlandva.us/1154/County-Meetings

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026, 5:30
PM**

BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM 250

Economic Development Authority

Lisa Dearden

Benjamin Slone

Demerst Smit

Kenneth Collier

Jennie Slade

Email Economic Development Authority
GoochlandForBusiness@goochlandva.us

STAFF: Nora Amos, Economic Development Director (804) 424-3193
Chance Robinson, Economic Development Assistant Director (804) 556-5847

I. Call to Order, 5:30 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Benjamin Slone	Member	Present	
Lisa Dearden	Member	Absent	
Demerst B. Smit	Member	Absent	
Kenneth Collier	Member	Present	
Jennie Slade	Member	Present	

II. Determination of a Quorum

Three members present. A quorum was established.

III. Citizen Comment

Chair Slone opened the meeting to citizen comment for items not scheduled for public hearing on the agenda. Seeing no one who wished to speak, Chair Slone closed the citizen comment period.

IV. Chair Comments

Chair Slone provided comments on the following topic:

- Mr. Slone attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting with Dominion Energy as well as the Dominion Energy community meeting at the Residence Inn July 21, 2026.
- The 230 kV West Creek transmission line to support Eli Lilly was recently approved by the SCC. It is now up to Dominion and the property owner to negotiate the route of the line on the property.

A full transcript and recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://goochlandcova.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3461/media>

V. Approval of Minutes

1. Economic Development Authority - Regular Meeting – June 24, 2026 5:30 PM

On a motion by Ms. Slade, seconded by Mr. Collier, the minutes from the June 24, 2026 meeting were approved as written.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Jennie Slade, Member
SECONDER:	Kenneth Collier, Member
AYES:	Slone, Collier, Slade
ABSENT:	Smit, Dearden

VI. Scheduled Matters**A. Treasurer's Report**

The financial report documents were given to the EDA.

A full transcript and recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://goochlandcova.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3461/media>

B. New Business Update

Ms. Amos provided comments on the following topics:

- The County has recently migrated to a new Agenda & Minutes software provided by Civic Plus
- Ms. Amos and Mr. Robinson attended Goochland County Parks and Recreation Career Day
- Ms. Amos attended the Governor's listening session for the creation of the state's economic development plan
- Economic Development staff met with lead staff from Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) for logistics and transportation
- Pre-Application meeting held for an expansion of the Old Dominion Industrial Park off Tri-County Drive for an additional twenty lots
- Work is ongoing with retail prospects in Centerville and medical prospects in the Courthouse
- There is a new skincare and injectable practice at Creekmore
- Meeting held with Lola's Farmhouse Bistro to discuss connection to county sewer
- Staff has applied for grants through the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) for a co-op program to obtain new videos and photos for tourism campaigns
- Interviews were held for the Economic Development Specialist position
- Marcello Forehand was promoted to the Director of Public Utilities
- The Tuckahoe Technology Park community meeting will occur July 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Goochland High School

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C. Tourism Update

Mr. Chance Robinson, Assistant Director of Economic Development, provided a presentation on FY26 tourism marketing and business recruitment marketing.

Mr. Robinson reviewed a new marketing video initiative with focus on sites and infrastructure and an emphasis on available spaces coming to the market. He asked if there

was interest from the EDA in supporting this initiative financially? Mr. Slone expressed his support of EDA funding for this initiative. Mr. Robinson noted the item can come before the EDA on the agenda of their next meeting. Staff will then provide cost estimates and video examples for the EDA's review.

Mr. Robinson also mentioned work is ongoing with Rent Fun for kayak rentals to being this fall at Tucker Park.

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D. Existing Business Update

Mr. Robinson provided comments on the following topics:

- Sheltering Arms bond refinancing. Mr. Robinson mentioned Sheltering Arms is willing to come and speak to the EDA at an upcoming meeting to discuss the EDA's involvement in the process.
- JR Caskey, located in the Old Dominion Industrial Park, had a fire in July which destroyed their business. Economic Development staff has assisted by providing resources and information regarding temporary office space.
- Multiple BRE meetings are scheduled over the course of the next few weeks.
- Next week the Small Business Development Center has office hours in Goochland.
- Farm Tours are set and the website is published with the event to occur September 19, 2026.
- The Chamber of Commerce is having a Connect at 5 event on August 5, 2026 at Dover Hall.
- Mr. Collier discussed the sale of Tuckahoe Plantation.

Ms. Slade requested additional information regarding the Strategic Plan and Food Truck Permits. Ms. Amos and Ms. Worley provided updates. Ms. Slade requested the EDA meet with the Board of Supervisors during a work session to discuss the Strategic Plan. Ms. Worley mentioned there would be multiple work sessions throughout the county. Ms. Amos noted the Food Truck Policy should be ready to come before the EDA on the August agenda.

A full transcript and recording of the meeting can be found here:

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VII. Other Business

A. REDO Monthly Update

Mr. Collier provided an update. GAP Alliance was decided on as the name. GAP stands for Goochland, Amelia, Powhatan. The tag line is Virginia's corridor for growth,

advancement and prosperity. GAP has been recognized by VEDP and is currently in the process of setting up a meeting between all involved in the REDO and VEDP to go over what they offer. Work on the Bylaws, logos and branding is forthcoming. Ms. Amos authorized Rural Resilience Advisors (RRA) to interact with VDEP on the EDA's behalf. Ms. Amos elaborated by saying there is data Economic Development would like to collect and RRA can request the data from VDEP, compile it and provide it to report back to GAP.

Ms. Amos mentioned Economic Development is working with VEDP on a Familiarization Tour (Fam Tour). The next meeting will take place July 28, 2026.

Ms. Slade requested an opportunity for the entire EDA to participate in the REDO.

A full transcript and recording of the meeting can be found here:

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B. Schedule a Work session

Comments were provided on the following topics:

- NDA Policy
- Bylaw updates to address citizen comment
- Mr. Slone requested the Board of Supervisors Chair and Vice Chair or the entire Board of Supervisors be in attendance of the work session
- Mr. Slone requested the work session occur in September

A full transcript and recording of the meeting can be found here:

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C. EDA Legislative Agenda Overview

Comments were provided on the following topics:

- Ms. Amos reviewed last year's EDA legislative agenda
- Ms. Slade requested local land use decisions remain with the locality
- Mr. Slone requested sick leave be repealed
- Ms. Slade will be working on updating the EDA's legislative agenda

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VIII. Closed Session

1. 6618: Closed Session: In accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711 and 2.2-3712, I move that the Economic Development Authority of Goochland County convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussion concerning a prospective business or industry locating in the community where no previous announcement about its plans has been made , as permitted by Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(5).

On a motion by Mr. Slone, seconded by Mr. Collier, the EDA voted 3-0 to enter into closed session.

Closed Meeting Motion: In accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711 and 2.2-3712, I move that the Economic Development Authority of Goochland County convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussion concerning a prospective business or industry locating in the community where no previous announcement about its plans has been made and discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, as permitted by Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(3) and (A)(5).

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Benjamin Slone, Member
SECONDER:	Kenneth Collier, Member
AYES:	Slone, Collier, Slade
ABSENT:	Smit, Dearden

IX. Certification of Closed Meeting:

1. Certification of Closed Meeting Motion

On a motion by Mr. Slone, seconded by Mr. Collier, the EDA voted 3-0 to certify closed session.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, I move that the Goochland County Economic Development Authority hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Goochland County Economic Development Authority in the Closed Meeting of this date.

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RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Benjamin Slone, Member
SECONDER:	Kenneth Collier, Member
AYES:	Slone, Collier, Slade
ABSENT:	Smit, Dearden

X. Adjournment: Next Regular Meeting of the Authority is August 26, 2026