

MINUTES

The August meeting of the Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority (WVRIFA) Board was held on Friday, August 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Roanoke Regional Partnership (Conference Room), 111 Franklin Road SE Ste.333, Roanoke VA.

Note: The August 21st meeting of the WVRIFA Board and WVRIFA Participation Committee were held simultaneously (jointly).

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Larrowe called the WVRIFA Board of Directors' meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Larrowe asked Ms. Virginia Mullen to call the roll of the WVRIFA Board. Ms. Mullen reported that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Gary Larrowe, Botetourt County; Kyle Rosner, Botetourt County; Richard Caywood, Roanoke County; Doug Blount, Roanoke County; Marc Nelson, City of Roanoke; Boyd Johnson, City of Roanoke; Rob Light, City of Salem; Tommy Miller, City of Salem; Richard "Pete" Peters, Town of Vinton; Cody Sexton, Town of Vinton.

Chair Larrowe recognized and welcomed the newest WVRIFA Board member, Mr. Boyd Johnson, representing the City of Roanoke.

Staff Present: John Hull, WVRIFA Director; Tori Williams, Roanoke Regional Partnership; Bryce Hunter, WVRIFA Counsel; Virginia Mullen and Sherry Dean, WVRIFA Finance/Administrative Staff.

Others Present: Pete Eshelman, Roanoke Regional Partnership; Alexia Partouche, Roanoke Times; Ben Verschoor, Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADMINISTERED BY:

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA 24016
info@wvrifa.org / www.wvrifa.org

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier: (A) August 21, 2026 WVRIFA Board Agenda, (B) May 15, 2026 WVRIFA Board Meeting Minutes, and (C) Financial Reports Ending June 30, 2026.

Chair Larrowe noted the following amendment to the agenda: after item #5 the Board will adjourn and the Participation Committee would proceed toward closed session.

Motion: by Richard Caywood to approve consent agenda items (A), as amended, and (B), and (C), as presented. The motion was seconded by Marc Nelson.

WVRIFA Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

One comment was received during the public comment period:

Mr. Ben Verschoor, with the Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance, spoke in opposition to potential data center development associated with the Wood Haven property. He referenced a recent article he published about the property and noted that the agenda indicated a closed session related to the disposal of property, which he assumed involved Wood Haven. While acknowledging the Authority's ability under Virginia law to withhold details of closed-session negotiations, he urged the Board to reconsider moving forward with a data center, citing concerns about high water and electricity demands, noise, visual impacts, and broader community disruption. He also referenced other recent or ongoing data center proposals (including one defeated in Franklin County and the "Project Raspberry" proposal) as examples of strong public opposition and encouraged the Authority to pursue an alternative use for the property.

5. DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Tori Williams reported the drainage improvement project was complete. He noted the final inspection was delayed into the spring to allow vegetation to stabilize the impacted areas, with additional seeding completed in June. The project was closed out in July, and reimbursement paperwork was submitted under the Business Ready Sites Program (typically a 6–8 week turnaround). He also reported a change order of a little over \$38,000 for trench rock removal; total project cost was a little over \$510,000 with \$504,149 expected in reimbursement, finishing about \$40,000 under the \$550,000 budget.

Note for items 6 through 9 of the agenda packet: Agenda items 6 through 9 were not taken up by the Board. The Board adjourned following Item 5 per the agenda modification.

ADMINISTERED BY:

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA 24016
info@wvrifa.org / www.wvrifa.org

ADJOURNMENT OF THE WVRIFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

The WVRIFA Board of Directors' meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Richard W Peters Jr.

Richard "Pete" Peters, Secretary
WVRIFA Board of Directors



Attest

ADMINISTERED BY:

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA 24016
info@wvrifa.org / www.wvrifa.org