



**Economic Development Authority
for Albemarle County, Virginia**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT FOR THE MONTICELLO WINE
TRAIL CONTRACT WITH SIMONIT & SIRCH FOR PRUNING TRAINING
FOR WINERIES IN THE MONTICELLO AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREA**

WHEREAS, the Jeffersonian Wine Grape Growers Society, doing business as the Monticello Wine Trail (“Monticello Wine Trail”), led by Tracey Love, represents wineries in the Monticello American Viticultural Area, in which Albemarle County is included; and

WHEREAS, in April 2026, a sudden hard freeze devastated early grape buds across Virginia with many vineyards projecting a total loss without mitigation; and

WHEREAS, proper pruning techniques will play an important role in supporting vine recovery, optimizing sap flow, and promoting long-term vineyard health in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, Monticello Wine Trail seeks to contract with Simonit & Sirch, a recognized pruning school, to train its members on internationally recognized best practices to protect the vineyard assets and strengthen the resilience of one of Albemarle County’s signature industries through the use of a three day hands-on winter pruning workshop in December, a Spring webinar on shoot selection and frost recovery, Scientific educational materials and technical resources, and bilingual instruction for vineyard managers and crews (the “Training”); and

WHEREAS, the cost of the training, which will benefit wineries who are expected to participate from across the Monticello American Viticultural Area, is estimated at \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, Monticello Wine Trail is seeking a \$20,000 grant from the Economic Development Authority for Albemarle County, Virginia (“EDA”) to help offset the cost of the training, and will meet the remaining cost through winery participation, educational funding, and industry partnerships;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Economic Development Authority for Albemarle County, Virginia, that:

1. Approval of Local Match (Contingent): The EDA hereby approves a grant not to exceed Twenty Thousand United States Dollars (\$20,000.00) from the Economic Development Opportunity Fund (EOF) to support the Monticello Wine Trail.



2. Purpose of Funds: Grant funds will be used for eligible costs associated with the Training.
3. Performance & Reporting: As a condition of funding, Monticello Wine Trail must (a) provide documentation of its agreement with Simonit & Sirch for the Training (b) execute a grant agreement with the EDA, (c) submit a summary of program outcomes as described in the staff memo.
4. Disbursement: Disbursement of grant funds may occur only after (a) receipt by EDA staff of an executed agreement with Simonit & Sirch for the Training, (b) execution of a grant agreement satisfactory to EDA counsel, and (c) evidence of eligible expenditures (e.g., payments made to Simonit & Sirch).
5. Compliance: The project and expenditure of EDA funds must comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including Virginia public procurement requirements, and will be administered in accordance with EDA policies.
6. Clawback/Remedies: The grant agreement will include customary provisions for recapture or reimbursement if project scope materially changes without EDA approval or performance and reporting obligations are not met.
7. Authorization: The Chair and/or Assistant Secretary of the EDA are authorized to take all actions, execute all documents, and make such modifications not materially adverse to the EDA as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the intent of this Resolution.
8. Effective Date: This Resolution will be effective immediately upon adoption.

I, Emily Kilroy, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing is the Resolution duly adopted by the Economic Development Authority for the County of Albemarle, Virginia, by a vote of _ to _ as recorded below, at a meeting held on July 21, 2026.

Emily Kilroy
Assistant Secretary

Yes No

Dir. Long _____

Dir. Hood _____



Dir. Johnson _____

Dir. Storm _____

Dir. Friedman _____

Dir. Mechnick _____

Dir. Cox _____