

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
5/6/15

PRESENT

Mike Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Associates) Bruce England (SWN), Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), Denise Davis (CCPL), Dan Schneckenburger (County Council), Bob Palsgrove (WSFS), Norman Gaither (NorArk Executive Group), Grove Miller (Citizen), Walter Buck (Citizen), Dr. D'Ette Devine (CCPS), Mike Lara (Orbital ATK), Doris Mason (USRC), Woody Jackson (Citizen), Denise Davis (CCPL), Rupert Rossetti (Citizen), Dr. Ken Lewis (UHCC), Scott Holland (i-lighting).

STAFF

Lisa Webb (Economic Development Director), Joanne Richart-Young (Ag Coordinator), Sandy Turner (Tourism Coordinator), Susan O'Neill (Economic Development Manager), Robin McCann (Administrative Assistant), Jim Ford (SBDC).

ABSENT

Jeanne Miner (Town of Elkton), Mike Travers (Cecil Dance Center), Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), Lauren Johnsky (APG), Joanne Dawson (Fairwinds), Danny De Marinis (URP), Paula Gilley (Citizen), Dr. Gell (Town of Charlestown), Jason Zang (Economic Development).

GUESTS

Tari Moore (County Executive), Alan Sexton (SWN), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Carl Roberts (Chamber Government Relations), Tammy Edwards (DBED), Scott Flanigan (DPW), Cheryl Mattix (Cecil Whig), Mie Mie Strickler (Citizen), Linda McGuigan (EDis).

Call to Order & Welcome

Mike Ratchford called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. The Meeting Minutes for April 1, 2015 were approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Mike Ratchford discussed the following:

- Hatem Bridge tolls;
- Additive Manufacturing partnership;
- MEDA Conference;
- Congratulated Cecil County Public Library for receiving the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Annapolis Update – County Executive Tari Moore

- County Executive Tari Moore provided a brief update on Annapolis Legislation.

Director's Report

- Participated in the Maryland Transportation Authority Board presentation on Toll Impact
- Met with Perryville Outlets' Management Firm
- Co-hosted the Additive Manufacturing Symposium
- Provided 2 County Tours to prospects

- Port Deposit Enterprise Zone finalization
- USDA Representative meeting
- Connecting Bainbridge Prospects with Development Team
- Attended WIB Meeting
- Participated in CLI Presentations
- Participating in Global Cities Initiative (Export/Trade)
- Met with several mayors on economic outlook
- Met with Chamber President to discuss engagement activities
- FY16 Council Budget Hearing
- Attended MEDA Annual Conference
- Attended the School of Technology Tour

Economic Development Manager

- Coordinated & participated in meeting with Axcel regarding Phase I of Incubator Feasibility study
- Visited 2 businesses to discuss the Workforce Training Partnership Program (WTPP)
- Closed out 1st WTPP
- Continued to assist with the toll survey
- Attended the Business Engagement Committee
- Attended the CBRP meeting
- Attended meeting with SHA, MDE, DBED, Cecil County Planning, and property owner to discuss future development
- Assisted with EZ expansion application
- Attend Maryland Economic Development Association Annual Conference
- Working with existing business for EZ tax credit
- Responded to several small business & entrepreneurs' inquiries for financing
- Coordinated and participated in meeting with W.E.S. and SWN
- Met with USDA representative

Agriculture Coordinator

- Attended Rural Maryland Council Executive Board Meeting
- Visited DuPont farm for update on farm settlements (MALPF, etc.)
- Coordinated meeting with USDA representative to discuss grants and programs
- Visited local CSA, Colchester Farm
- Update of Scenic Byway interpretive signs grant for Mount Harmon
- Attended Maryland Ag Council Annual meeting and first quarterly meeting at MDA in Annapolis
- Participated in Rural Maryland Foundation meeting by Conference call
- Attended Cecil County veterinarian's Open House at new practice facility in Unionville, PA (they have 4 Cecil County residents working there)
- Attended Cecil County Chamber breakfast with Legislative Delegation for an overview Session
- Presented Cecil County Agriculture information to current Cecil Leadership Class
- Coordinated Beer, Wine and Spirits! Workshop – June 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Cecil County Administration Building

Tourism Coordinator

- Attended Partner Appreciation Breakfast Awards - Tourism Business of the Year at Minihanes; Tourism Project of the Year at Turkey Point Vineyard Tasting Room; Tourism Project of the Year First Fridays; Economic Impact Award Downtown Elkton; County Executive and County Council Tourism Award for Bill Hughes; Cecil Brunch Club; Tourism Volunteer of the Year for Dave Kilby, and Bassmaster Committee.
- May is Tourism Month - E-blast with May activities
- Bassmaster planning continues

- MD Lottery launched their Bass scratch off
- Photo contest winners selected
- Continue to develop the Nature brochure continues

Economic Development Coordinator

- Attended classes for Cecil Leadership Institute
- Took part in a prospect visit that included a tour of several Cecil County sites
- Attended Bassmaster Marketing Committee Meeting
- Attended Hatem Bridge Toll Study meeting
- Provided additional information to Broadband Task Force regarding broadband availability in Cecil County
- Coordinated correspondence to property owners on possible future infrastructure
- Participated in Cecil County Young Professionals Network service project at Conowingo Park
- Coordinated with Communications Subcommittee and other groups to complete CGI scripts
- Attended MEDA Conference
- Compiled demographic information for possible grant opportunity (Bassmaster)
- Updated social media outlets regularly to promote events and share news about Cecil County
- Developing May 2015 OED Newsletter

Subcommittee Reports

Education/Workforce – No report.

Technology – Norman Gaither reported on the following:

- Presentation at the June 3, 2015 EDC Meeting;
- Feasibility Study continues to move forward.

Land Use – No report.

Finance – Bob Palsgrove reported on the following:

- Incubator Program financing.

Communications – No report.

Adjournment

Chairman Mike Ratchford adjourned the meeting at 9:10 am. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 8:00 am, Cecil College.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McCann
Administrative Assistant