

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2019

PRESENT

Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Sandra Edwards (CCOED Manager), Bruce England (SWN), Paula Gilley (Citizen), Woody Jackson (Citizen), Dr. Jeffrey Lawson (CCPS), Sandy Maruchi-Turner (Tourism Manager), Morgan Miller (CCPL), Maureen O'Shea (CC Agribusiness Coordinator), Robert Palsgrove (WSFS), Michael Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Assoc.), Dr. Carl Roberts (Roberts Consulting), Richard Starr (CCOED Coordinator), Dr. Rich Szumel (Union Hospital), Mike Travers (Cecil Dancer)

ABSENT

Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), Danny DeMarinis (URP), Michael Lara (Northrop Grumman), Bob Meffley (CC Council), Grove Miller (Citizen), Chris Moyer (CCOED Director), Rupert Rossetti (FHI)

GUESTS

Debbie Brown (CC Chamber of Commerce), Steve Cassard (BDC), Joe DiNunzio (Artesian), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Scott Flanigan (CCDPW), Kelly Keeton (CCPS), Stacey Lambert (Building Healthy Military Communities), Jen Lyall (CCPIO), Alan McCarthy (CC Executive), Laura Metzler (CCPL), Chris Mink (Cecil College), Sharon Pelham (APGFCU), Jack Schammel (TEDCO), Alan Sexton (SWN), Toni Sprenkle (BDC), David Strouss (McCrone), Scott Sturgill (Quest End Capital), Chris Ann Szep (Cecil College), Katie Tabeling (Cecil Whig)

Call to Order & Welcome – Mike Ratchford

- Meeting called to order at 8:20 am.
- November 6, 2019 meeting minutes approved

Chairman's Report – Mike Ratchford

- Cecil Night in Annapolis – January 9, 2020
 - Will be held at Miller Building – important event for County
 - Register on Cecil County Chamber of Commerce website; only fee for bus transportation
 - Will hear from Speaker of the House Jones, soon to be elected House of Senate Ferguson, Delegate Kaiser
- County has sustained bond rating – good sign of good fiscal management

Economic Development Update – Richard Starr

- Continue to work with at least three manufacturers considering starting up or moving to Cecil County
 - One High tech and other two more traditional manufacturers
- Focused on working with small businesses – get in Enterprise Zone applications, job incentive paperwork
- Office of Economic Development (OED) notified by Rural Maryland Council they won award for Outstanding Economic Development – to be recognized at Rural Impact Awards during RMS Annual Meeting on December 11th
 - Bring in new businesses in appropriate areas

- Teamwork between County and Towns
- Chris Moyer receiving an award for Top 50 Economic Development Professionals in North America
- Continuing to promote workforce training partnership grants to small businesses
 - If any businesses are interested in training in specific skill set – pay up to 50% cost of training

An update on Bainbridge was presented by Dr. Carl Roberts, BDC Chair; Steve Cassard, BDC Executive Director; and Toni Sprenkle, BDC Project Coordinator

- Introductions:
 - Carl Roberts – second term as BDC Chair
 - Steve Cassard – BDC Executive Director
 - Toni Sprenkle – BDC Project Coordinator
- Web of Relationships:
 - Town of Perryville, State of MD, Cecil County, and MTPM
- History of BDC:
 - Established 1999 through legislation
 - Mission: Implement sustainable plan for former Bainbridge Naval Training Center to accelerate site into productive use
 - Governed by 15-member Board of Directors, 9 voting and 6 Ex-Officio
 - Staffed by Executive Director and Project Coordinator
- Status at April 2016 Meeting w/EDC:
 - Navy discussions – Leads to OEA Grant
 - Prospects – Bottling Facility
 - Site Activities – Barnhart & Cecil College
 - Infrastructure
 - Tome School – USDA RBEG Study
- Recent Activities:
 - Solution w/Navy – Have struck Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement for cleanup of 400 acres (Phase I)
 - Transite material discovered when tearing down structures on property
 - Materials to be buried on site and capped
 - Environmental Specialist to be onsite
 - Navy to assess rest of acreage (Phase II and beyond)
 - Developer and Contract Purchaser
 - Phase I to be 3.6M sq. ft.
 - Town of Port Deposit Planning & Zoning
 - Infrastructure – County and State providing funding; hope to be fully operational in 18-24 months
 - Tome School – Preservation Easement; belongs to BDC not State
- Upcoming Events:
 - December 2019 – ACM surface scan begins; Requests for infrastructure grant funds
 - March 2020 – ACM surface scan complete
 - May 2020 – Begin site development
 - January 2021 – WWTP completion
 - September 2021 – 400-acre pad sites completed
- How Can EDC Help?

- Support Bainbridge as prime development location
- Support infrastructure improvements
- Encourage positive community outlook

Subcommittee Reports:

Education/Workforce – Bruce England

- Manufacturing accounts for 27% of Cecil County’s GDP; 5,000 employees in Cecil
- Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN) and CCPS had meetings with manufacturers
- Received info that will allow us to obtain grant to train manufacturing workers and assess needs of manufacturing workforce and future training needs
- CCPS and School of Tech looking at adding new program at School of Tech in 2021
- CLI starts January 2020 – encourage to think about people who could be future leaders

Communications – JoAnn Dawson

- Cecil County Tourism won “Best Destination Guide 2019” award from the Maryland Tourism Coalition

County Executive Comments – Dr. Alan McCarthy

- BDC more important than people realize - Thank Carl, Steve, and Toni for moving Bainbridge forward.
- Special recognition to Scott Flanigan pertaining to WWTP at Port Deposit
- Bainbridge will provide Cecil, Harford, and middle Maryland national recognition.
- Recognize Vince Fiorelli of Chesapeake Utilities for providing a major gas trunk line down the Rt. 40 corridor, without which we would not be seeing development we see happening now.

Summary

We wish everyone a Happy Holiday season! See you in the New Year!

The report will be available via OED website.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 am.

Our next EDC meeting will be on January 8, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Cecil College, Room TC208, North East, MD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Springel
Administrative Assistant