

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 2, 2020**

**PRESENT**

Christie Dryer for Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), Danny DeMarinis (URP), Joe DiNunzio (Artesian Water), Sandra Edwards (CC OED Manager), Bruce England (SWN), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Dr. Jeffrey Lawson (CCPS), Sandy Maruchi-Turner (Tourism Manager), Chris Moyer (CC OED Director), Maureen O'Shea (CC Agribusiness Coordinator), Robert Palsgrove (WSFS), Michael Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Assoc.), Dr. Carl Roberts (BDC), Richard Starr (CC OED Coordinator), Dr. Rich Szumel (Union Hospital), Mike Travers (Cecil Dancenter)

**ABSENT**

Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Woody Jackson (Citizen), Michael Lara (Northrop Grumman), Bob Meffley (CC Council), Morgan Miller (CCPL)

**GUESTS**

Debbie Brown (CC Chamber of Commerce), Bill Coutz (CC Council), Wick Dudley (CC Board of Realtors), Alan McCarthy (CC Executive), Sharon Pelham (APGFCU), Brigitte Peters (Dept. of Commerce), Jack Schammel (TEDCO), Alan Sexton (SWN), Scott Sturgill (Quest End Capital), Sen. Ben Cardin (U.S. Senate)

**Call to Order & Welcome – Mike Ratchford**

- Meeting called to order at 8:00 am
- Minutes from July 1, 2020 meeting approved

**Chairman's Report – Mike Ratchford**

- Thank Sen. Cardin for taking time to speak to EDC. Sen. Cardin has served as youngest elected Speaker of House of Delegates, US House of Representatives for 20 years, in the Senate since 2006, as well as various committees
- Maryland moves to Stage 3 Friday at 5:00 pm – Reflection of Marylanders acting responsibly
- Thank you to Brigitte Peters for keeping us updated with emails on what's going on in Maryland
- Last meeting for Chris Moyer as Director of Office of Economic Development
  - Cecil County fortunate to have Chris Moyer and his strategic vision, people skills
  - Has moved County forward in job growth, GDP and wage growth
  - Signature achievements: Medline, Amazon, Smithfield, Great Wolf Lodge (in conjunction with Town of Perryville), as well as helping Cecil businesses with loans/grants
  - EDC sending Chris a clock for his efforts and time served on the Commission

**Director's Report – Chris Moyer**

- Cecil is a special place and it's because of the people
- Cecil can grow growth corridor and still be beautiful, rural
- Would like to thank the OED team and EDC
- New position will be Sr. Manager, Location Strategies at Evergreen Advisors HQ, Columbia, MD
- Sandra Edwards will be Acting Director until position filled after new administration takes over
- OED Team will continue to do great work they have always done

### ***A presentation on COVID was given by Senator Ben Cardin, U.S. Senate***

- Congratulate Chris Moyer on a great 3 years – well done
- Acknowledge Team Maryland -- work closely with Counties, State, and local offices
- Bainbridge has been priority for long time, getting DOD to do the right thing – provide partnership with Bainbridge
  - Senators Cardin and Van Hollen will continue to do all they can to help on Economic Development
- COVID-19 made everything more challenging
- Pushing Tele-Health – will provide greater access to people in County
- Two major issues when Congress returns:
  - Need to pass appropriations bills so federal partnership can continue uninterrupted
  - Get budget enacted by end of month
- Congress passed CARES ACT in March -- \$2.3 trillion
- COVID-19 has had major impact on health and State and local government economies
  - Provided funds for state and local governments, CBD block grant funds, school systems, unemployment insurance, health care providers direct funds for COVID-19 (Marshall Plan on Healthcare)
  - Thought by now pandemic would be under control, economy back to normal – Not so
  - Need to do more – testing, production of testing equipment and PPE, help State and local governments with essential services, schools – CARES ACT did not provide revenues lost by State and local governments
- Mid May – House passed Heroes Act \$915B for State and local government relief; Senate did not
  - Provides hazard pay for front line workers, unemployment insurance needs to be extended (President trying to do thru Executive Order), US postal services, elections, protection against evictions and foreclosures
- Sen. Cardin and others created new tools for CARES ACT – programs very successful \$500B in PPP loans issued (payroll and other expenses); EIDL program (loans and grants to small businesses for capital to carry thru pandemic); hospitality industry
  - Thought needed to last 8 weeks – but pandemic has lasted longer
  - Need second round of PPP (target businesses with greatest loss of revenue, priority to smaller of small businesses); have \$100B still available
  - EIDL – taking applications – direct loans from SBA to small businesses
    - Want SBA to increase maximum loan amount to \$2M instead of \$150K
- Need to focus on Small Business Community – this is Life and Death for them – they are backbone of community
- Things we learned from COVID and preparations needed for future
  - Take care of immediate issues of public health, economic survival, family survival
  - Telehealth in best interest of country
  - Connectivity (broadband) issues – so everyone has access to internet
  - Infrastructure needs updating – water & transportation infrastructure
    - Creates jobs, makes for more modern & competitive community

### ***Union Hospital – Update from Dr. Rich Szumel***

- Cecil County down to 1-3 patients in house, none in ICU, and low positivity testing rate
- Preparing for worse for fall – please get flu shot

**CCPS – Dr. Jeff Lawson**

- Bringing back 800 students next Tuesday; ran conditioning program for kids during summer
- Telecommute options for employees with health issues
- Hope to increase number of students returning face-to-face over time
- Students all have technology if not in school
- Community divided as to school reopening
- School of Technology more aggressive – face-to-face target programs coming back next week – must complete hands on requirement

**Small Business Update – Mike Travers**

- Thank you to Sen. Cardin for pushing for PPP – been a life line for small businesses
- Small businesses don't want a handout, rather appreciate a helping hand to get through

**County Executive Update – Dr. Alan McCarthy**

- Thank Chris Moyer for his hard work – has been instrumental in Cecil County's success
- Wish Cecil County every advantage for moving forward

**Cecil County Chamber of Commerce Update – Debbie Brown**

- Hosted successful live Golf Tournament last week
- Next live networking event Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at Woody's Tiki Tent
- Community wanting to connect but in safe environment

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Workforce Update – Bruce England**

- Education workforce training people led the State for getting people working
- 4,000 people less employed today than before pandemic – Cecil in better shape than many in the State
- Want to applaud business community for contributing resources

**Education Update (Cecil College) – Christie Dryer for Dr. Mary Bolt**

- Primarily online; certain medical and trades programs meeting in person

**Technical Subcommittee – Danny DeMarinis**

- Ready Set Grow scheduled for November 2020 – rescheduled for March 2021 (Virtual), Focus will be on Cecil County

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

**Our next EDC meeting will be October 7, 2020. Details to follow.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Springel  
Administrative Assistant