

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
Economic Development Committee

MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2016

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Accomac, VA

Members Present

Peter J. Bale, Wallops Island Regional Alliance
Robert S. Bloxom, Jr., State Delegate
Robert S. Bloxom, Sr., Bloxom Auto Supply
John Chandler, Bayshore Concrete
Ralph Dodd, Ralph Dodd and Associates
Wesley Edwards, Accomack County EDA
Jarrod Goodman, Tyson Foods, Inc.
Bel Holden (for Kevin Dennis), Perdue Farms
Arthur Leonard, Town of Chincoteague
Lynwood Lewis, State Senator
Robert Marsh, Merrill Lynch
Andy Mason, Mason-Davis Realtors
Caroline Massey, NASA
Charlie Russell, WESLEYR
Amy Shockley (for Linda Thomas-Glover), ESCC

Members Absent

Tommy Clark, Don's Seafood Restaurant and
Tom's Cove Aquafarms
Ava Gabrielle-Wise, New Road Community
Development
Genevieve Walker-Switzer, T&W Block

Others present:

Joseph Betit, Citizen
Caroline Bott, A-NPDC
Pat Coady, Citizen
Elaine Meil, A-NPDC
Curtis Smith, A-NPDC

Call to Order

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, the Committee Secretary asked for a volunteer to serve as chair pro tempore of the meeting. Pat Coady volunteered.

The Economic Development Committee was called to order at 1:10 PM.

Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2015 meeting was moved by Andy Mason and seconded by Wesley Edwards. The Board passed the minutes by acclamation without revision.

Information Items

CEDS Update: Staff reported that the CEDS rewrite will need to be complete by Dec 30, 2017. It is anticipated that the majority of the Committee's work over the course of the year will be to integrate the CEDS and SET plans. It is expected that most of the info/data pulled together for the SET plan will suffice for the required CEDS update, although there may be opportunities where some new relevant data may be added. The majority of this rewrite will be working with Committee members to comb through the CEDS projects and determine which get moved into the merged plan and how.

SET Update: Staff reported that the SET plan received the high-quality designation from the Southern Rural Development Center and was awarded a \$5,000 seed grant. Staff asked that the Committee consider designating the grant as match for the Building Collaborative Communities grant. Staff also updated the Committee on recent SET related activities including: two entrepreneurial workshops; meetings with the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Tourism Focus Group; and attendance at the Delmarva Public Innovators meeting.

BCC Update: Staff briefed the Committee on the new Building Collaborative Communities grant through the VDHC. The goals of the project are to: 1) Develop an implementation plan for a Regional Small Business Incubator and Community Commercial Kitchen; 2) Develop a strategic vision plan for a Regional Aquatic Workforce Development Center and Curriculum; and 3) Create a Regional Small Business Resource Index. Grant activities will be directed by stakeholders' committees. As part of the grant, an e-newsletter was developed to share economic development news and information as it relates to the ESVA. Two issues have been published to date. Future issues will be sent to interested parties on a regular basis as well as posted on the A-NPDC's website and Facebook page.

GO Virginia Update: Staff reported that the Eastern Shore will be part of the Hampton Roads GO Virginia planning region and will hold three seats on the regional board. A-NPDC Commissioners Donald Hart and Roland Bailey have been appointed to the board and Caroline Massey, from NASA, is expected to fill the third seat. It is anticipated that the Eastern Shore will forward one to two projects per year to the board for funding consideration. The project identification and prioritization process is still being developed. Senator Lewis stressed that regional cooperation is vital to project success.

Working Waterfronts: Staff reported that Working Waterfronts have been a focus of the A-NPDC for the last five years. The Virginia Working Waterfronts Plan is available for review on the A-NPDC website and further updates will be shared in future meetings.

Organizational Business

Staff led a discussion about proposed bylaw changes. The committee voted to adopt the bylaws as discussed in the meeting (see attached). A motion was made by John Chandler and seconded by Wesley Edwards. The motion carried. In addition, a policy will be presented for adoption at the next meeting to allow for remote attendance at future meetings.

Nominees and/or volunteers were solicited for appointment to a Nominating Committee. Wesley Edwards and Andy Mason volunteered. The Committee decided that the remaining member should be from Northampton County and asked staff to invite Ava Gabrielle-Wise to be on the committee. A motion was made by Pat Coady and seconded by Charlie Russell to appoint Wesley Edwards, Andy Mason, and Ava Gabrielle-Wise to the Nominating Committee. The motion carried.

Discussion/Next Steps

Staff recommended that the \$5,000 seed grant award from the SET High Quality Plan designation be earmarked for the Small Business Index and as match for the Building Collaborative Communities grant. Wesley Edwards made a motion to approve the recommendation and Arthur Leonard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pat Coady shared information about Shore Growth Ventures, LLC. The group, formed by Pat, JT Holland, and Ron Matthews, plans to issue micro-loans on the Shore. They have invested in one business to date

and plan to go public and will be looking for additional investors in the near future. They are focused on the potential capacity of locals to invest in and on the Shore. In addition to financial support, the group hopes to provide entrepreneurs with a support network of professional resources (financial literacy, marketing, etc.).

Delegate Rob Bloxom shared information about the Wallops Build Out project and possible collaboration with Maryland for funding. Elaine Meil suggested that the Committee make a recommendation to the A-NPDC to support the project as a GO Virginia priority from the Eastern Shore. Caroline Massey made the motion and Wesley Edwards seconded the motion that the Committee endorse the conversation that the Wallops Build Out project is a high priority for GO Virginia funding. The motion carried.

Next Meeting Date

The committee asked that the next meeting be scheduled via Doodle Poll. The anticipated timeframe is late January to early February.

Committee members Robert Bloxom, Sr. and Ralph Dodd, whose terms will expire in January 2017, were recognized and thanked for their service.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.