

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
Economic Development Committee

MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2017

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Eastern Shore Community College

Members Present

Sara Baldwin, New Ravenna
Peter J. Bale, Wallops Island Regional Alliance
Joseph Betit, Citizen Representative
Josh Bundick for Caroline Massey, NASA
Elaine Meil, A-NPDC
Fitz Godwin – Eastern Shore Public Library
Foundation
Donald Hart, A-NPDC
Charles Kolakowski, Northampton County
Arthur Leonard, Town of Chincoteague
Dave Lumgair, Luminary Air Group
Robert Marsh, Eastern Shore Chamber of
Commerce
John Pavlik, JIDA
Mark Reiter, Virginia Tech
Evelyn Shotwell, Chincoteague Chamber of
Commerce
Richard Snyder, VIMS
Linda Thomas-Glover, ESCC

Members Absent

Sue Anglim, The Palace
Roland Bailey, A-NPDC
John Chandler, Bayshore Concrete
Tommy Clark, Don's Seafood Rest. & Tom's
Cove Aquafarms
Kevin Dennis, Perdue Farms
Wesley Edwards, Accomack County EDA
Ava Gabrielle-Wise, New Road Community Dev.
Jarrod Goodman, Tyson Foods, Inc.
Andy Mason, Mason-Davis Realtors
Charlie Russell, WESR

Others present:

Kerry Allison, Eastern Shore Tourism Commission
George Ayres, Citizen
Caroline Bott, A-NPDC
Brenda Holden, Citizen
Clarice MacGarvey, Town of Exmore
Bedford Rogers, Citizen
Curtis Smith, A-NPDC

Call to Order

The Economic Development Committee was called to order at 3:05 PM.

Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2017 meeting was moved by Arthur Leonard and seconded by John Pavlik. The Board approved the minutes by acclamation without revision.

Organizational Business

- The Committee reviewed the FY17 Committee Attendance Record
- Nick Pascaretti resigned his position as Director of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority as well as his seat on the EDC. Committee members Sara Baldwin and Joseph Betit, representing the Foundational and Entrepreneurship Subcommittee, offered to identify

potential nominees to fill the vacancy. They will present their recommendations at the next EDC meeting.

CEDS/SET Regional Economic Development Plans Merger and Update

- Staff presented the Committee with the draft industry sector action plans and discussed additions to each plan. **A motion was made by Sara Baldwin and seconded by John Pavlik to approve the action plans for inclusion in the merged regional economic development plan. The motion carried unanimously.**
- Staff informed the Committee about the additional CEDS requirements regarding economic resiliency and solicited input from the Committee on suggested topics to explore. Natural hazards are the primary focus of the current hazard mitigation plan, in addition government shutdowns, geographic isolation, out migration, aging demographics, and the economy were also suggested for consideration.
- Over the summer, staff will be completing the draft CEDS plan for review by the Committee at their next meeting in September.

Building Collaborative Communities Grant Update

- Staff updated the Committee on project activities and the pending request for an extension of the grant.
- Staff showed the Committee examples of a data dashboard (<http://nrvrc.org/datadashboard/>) and asked for suggestions as they begin to develop similar information on the small business resource index page on the A-NPDC website.
- On June 28 at 5:30 PM there will be a community meeting at Indiantown Park in Eastville for individuals interested in developing a multi-use community center at the Northampton County Community Facilities Building (mostly recently known as the Northampton County Middle School in Machipongo).

GO Virginia Update

- Staff updated the Committee on the GO Virginia Initiative. The Region 5 GO Virginia Council meet on June 6 in Norfolk. Local representative Roland “Butch” Bailey was expected to be in attendance at the meeting.
- The Council is currently developing a Regional Growth & Diversification Plan that will identify the region’s economic opportunities, needs, and challenges, while taking into account existing business strength, leading industry clusters, workforce considerations, and new emerging opportunities that will lead to higher paying jobs in the region. Once the plan is in place, regions can begin to identify projects for potential funding.
- It was shared at the EDC meeting that NASA officials hosted several of the GO Virginia Board Members at the Wallops Flight Facility earlier this spring.
- Following a review of the project criteria and funding amounts, Staff requested that any member aware of any potential projects on the Eastern Shore that may be competitive for program funding contact them for assistance in developing a proposal.

Other Matters

Staff briefed the Committee on the following legislation passed in the 2016 VA General Assembly Session:

- HB 1970: **Economic revitalization zones**; counties may establish by ordinance. Grants counties authority to create economic revitalization zones. The zones shall be for the purpose of

providing incentives to private entities to purchase real property and interests in real property to assemble parcels suitable for economic development.

- VA General Assembly HB 2055: **Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority.** Establishes the Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority, consisting of the 12 counties within the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and Accomack-Northampton planning districts, if approved by the respective governing bodies. The Authority is created for the purpose of serving as a regional economic development body and represents a partnership of the Commonwealth, the planning districts, and the 12 counties of the coastal region.

Staff also shared information on a study currently being conducted by George Mason University to analyze the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of conserved lands in Accomack and Northampton Counties. The completed study is expected to be available later this summer.

Public Participation

- Kerry Allison informed the Committee about another piece of legislation passed by the General Assembly (SB1578) related to economic development. The legislation enables local governments to adopt ordinances requiring people to register if they want to offer their property for short-term rentals (ie. Airbnb). Registries would give local governments information needed to regulate and tax the rentals (ie. transient occupancy taxes).

Next Meeting Date

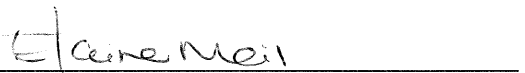
The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll in September.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.



Robie Marsh, Chairman



Elaine Meil, Secretary