

Accomack-Northampton
Economic Development Committee

MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2017

3:00 p.m.

Eastern Shore Community College

Members Present

Sara Baldwin, New Ravenna
Peter J. Bale, Wallops Island Regional Alliance
Joseph Betit, Citizen Representative
Ava Gabrielle-Wise, New Road Community Dev.
Fitz Godwin, Eastern Shore Public Library
Foundation
T.J. Johnson, Eastern Shore Community College
(alternate for Dr. Linda Thomas Glover)
Charles Kolakowski, Northampton County
Hon. Arthur Leonard, Town of Chincoteague
Robert Marsh, Eastern Shore of Virginia
Chamber of Commerce
Caroline Massey, NASA
Ron Matthews, Matthews & Co., CPAs
John Pavlik, Northampton County JIDA
Dr. Mark Reiter, Virginia Tech
Evelyn Shotwell, Chincoteague Chamber of
Commerce
Dr. Richard Snyder, VIMS

Members Absent

Sue Anglim, Eastern Shore Communications
Roland Bailey, A-NPDC
Peter J. Bale, Wallops Island Regional Alliance
Hon. Rob Bloxom, VA General Assembly
John Chandler, Bayshore Concrete
Tommy Clark, Don's Seafood Rest. & Tom's
Cove Aquafarms
Kevin Dennis, Perdue Farms
Wesley Edwards, Accomack County EDA
Hon. Donald Hart, A-NPDC
Hon. Lynwood Lewis, VA General Assembly
Dave Lumgair, Luminary Air Group
Andy Mason, Mason-Davis Realtors
Mike Mason, Accomack County
Elaine Meil, A-NPDC
Charlie Russell, WESR
Kevin Taylor, Tyson Foods, Inc.

Others present:

Pat Coady, Citizen
Curtis Smith, A-NPDC

Julie Wheatley, Accomack County

Call to Order

The Economic Development Committee was called to order at 3:05 PM. Chairman Marsh requested the Committee review the agenda and offer suggestions for any desired changes. No suggested changes to the agenda were offered.

Public Participation

Chairman Marsh provided members of the public in attendance the opportunity to provide comments. None in attendance offered to comment.

Organizational Business

Meeting Minutes

The draft meeting minutes from the September 28, 2017 were presented.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2017 meeting was made by Committee Member Snyder and seconded by Vice Chair Baldwin. The Committee approved the minutes by acclamation without revision.

Attendance Record

The attendance record for Fiscal Year 2018 was presented.

Membership Update

The Committee recognized Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover for her contributions to economic and workforce development on the Eastern Shore while serving as a Member and previous Chair of the Committee. It was noted that the Community College had selected Dr. Billy Greer to serve as interim president beginning in January, 2017.

Staff reported that John Chandler resigned from his membership and that Bayshore Concrete was not able to reappoint another to fill the seat at the current time. Committee Member Pavlik, Chair Marsh, and Vice Chair Baldwin volunteered to serve on a nominating subcommittee to identify new potential members.

A motion to establish a Nominating Subcommittee consisting of Committee Members Baldwin, Pavlik, and Marsh was made by Committee Member Massey and seconded by Committee Member Pavlik. The motion passed by acclamation.

A discussion ensued regarding attendance and the Committee by-laws. Staff provided an overview of the membership sections of the By-Laws. It was suggested that Staff provide a reminder to all Committee Members regarding the attendance and membership policies with emphasis on members being able to appoint alternates for meetings they cannot attend.

Staff Update

Projects/Initiatives

- *GO Virginia Update* – Staff presented an overview of the proposals selected by the Region 5 GO Virginia Council. Discussion ensued regarding the projects and the Committee’s role in developing future proposals for GO Virginia funding. It was agreed that if the program continues to be funded by the General Assembly, that the four industry sector subcommittees each consider identifying eligible projects in the region during their next meeting in Spring 2018. The full Committee could then consider any projects for endorsement during its next meeting in June 2018. Additionally, it was desired that discussions be held to identify ways that communication could be enhanced between the Region 5 GO Virginia Council and Eastern Shore stakeholders. The Committee requested that Staff hold an initial meeting with the Eastern Shore representatives on the Council to initiate the discussions and report back during the June 2018 Committee meeting.

Regional Economic Development Plan

Updated Regional Action Plans

Staff recapped the four industry sector subcommittee meetings and presented a brief overview of proposed updates and edits to the four regional action plans. The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft action plans with emphasis on new goal proposed for Art as economic driver in the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, & Visitor Industries Action Plan. Additional discussion was held regarding a revised objective in the Foundational & Entrepreneurship Development Action Plan creating an ad-hoc “Think Tank” subcommittee that is to be tasked with regional data analysis and strategic thinking with

regards to development and measurement of progress for goals and objectives. Committee Members Wise and Betit volunteered to participate in the initial meeting of the Think Tank group.

Committee Member Pavlik moved that the four-draft industry sector action plans be approved without amendment for inclusion in the regional economic development plan. Seconded by Committee Member Leonard, the motion passed unanimously without any further discussion.

Public Comment Recap

Staff reviewed the public comment process and outcomes. The one public comment was reviewed and staff suggested responses to be provided. The Committee agreed to include the comment with responsive actions in the appendix of the draft plan.

Regional Economic Development Plan Adoption

Staff reported that initial feedback from the US Economic Development Administration indicated that the draft plan satisfactorily met the requirements for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and that approval of the plan would maintain the region's designation as an Economic Development District for the next five years. Staff indicated that the plan would need to be indicated annually at a minimum over the next five years to maintain its approved status. Discussion ensued regarding regular maintenance of the plan and it was agreed that Staff would be allowed to update items that did not alter the overall vision of the plan or the content of the items that lead to the development of the goals and objectives. Allowable regular updates would include updates to data and other continually changing items such as the Committee Roster.

Committee Member Betit made a motion that the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Economic Development Plan be adopted as presented. Committee Member Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Industry Sector Roundtable Updates

Aerospace & Defense

Caroline Massey reported that research is currently being scoped to support coastal resilience in and around the Chincoteague Inlet area. Discussion ensued regarding a potential regional goal regarding establishing the region as a living laboratory where research could be advanced to where it can become an increasingly important economic driver. It was suggested as a first step that regional marketing materials promoting land, sea, and air-based research be developed following the model used for Langley Air Force Base and focusing on connecting researchers with local markets. It was noted that recent development of the \$25M unmanned systems runway and hangar at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport and the deep-water port in development are important advancements to support the living laboratory concept. Discussion ensued regarding challenges being experienced by ODU, ESCC, and NASA to get local participation in STEM programs and assistance was needed to help get the word out locally. Committee Member Wise suggested that state funding through the VA Department of Housing and Community Development could be used to develop the marketing materials and that Committee Members could tour agriculture and aquaculture research facilities around the Commonwealth to learn about VDHCD-funded projects. Chairman Marsh stated that the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce could assist with promoting the programs. Discussion ensued regarding a need for a four-year program at ODU for engineer technicians. Committee Member Betit indicated that a Coastal Engineering certificate exists at ODU and could help supplement a four-year program.

Caroline

Agribusiness & Food Processing

None

Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Visitor Industries

None

Foundational & Entrepreneurship Development

Committee Member Betit reported that an incubator office organization system, Hot Desks, is being pursued. The Hot Desk location would be accessible at any affiliated location all through Delmarva.

Committee Member Betit reported that a recent Hackathon for the high school robotics competition was a success.

Next Meeting Date

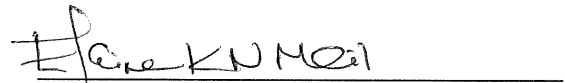
Staff will schedule two meetings for 2018 in June and December and distribute the schedule to the Committee in the near future.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM.



Robie Marsh, Chairman



Elaine Meil, Secretary