

Accomack-Northampton
Economic Development Committee

MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2017

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

Eastern Shore Community College

Members Present

Sue Anglim, Eastern Shore Communications
Roland Bailey, A-NPDC
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
Charles Kolakowski, Northampton County
Robert Marsh, Eastern Shore Chamber of
Commerce
Dr. Mark Reiter, Virginia Tech
Evelyn Shotwell, Chincoteague Chamber of
Commerce
Dr. Richard Snyder, VIMS

Members Absent

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. Arthur Leonard, Town of Chincoteague
Hon. Lynwood Lewis, VA General Assembly
Dave Lumgair, Luminary Air Group
Andy Mason, Mason-Davis Realtors
Mike Mason, Accomack County
Caroline Massey, NASA
Elaine Meil, A-NPDC
John Pavlik, Northampton County JIDA
Charlie Russell, WESR
Kevin Taylor, Tyson Foods, Inc.
Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, ESCC

Others present:

Kerry Allison, ESVA Tourism Commission
Kelly Bulin, ES Community Services Board
George Bryan, Hampton Roads Small Business
Development Center
Pat Coady, Citizen
Ken Dufty, Citizen
Jay Ford, Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper
Clarice MacGarvey, Town of Exmore
Ron May, Citizen
Bob Meyers, Citizen

Paul Muhly, Accomack County Board of Supervisors
Christina Murray, VA Cooperative Extension
Hon. George Proto, Town of Cape Charles
Barb Schwenk, A-NPDC
Curtis Smith, A-NPDC
Janet Sturgis, Citizen
Julie Wheatley, Accomack County
Joseph Witek, Citizen
Mike Ziegler, Citizen

Call to Order

The Economic Development Committee was called to order at 3:03 PM.

Organizational Business

Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2017 meeting was moved by Fitz Godwin and seconded by Richard Snyder. The Board approved the minutes by acclamation without revision.

Membership Update

The Committee recognized Mr. Kevin Taylor who was not in attendance but will be serving the remainder of Jarrod Goodman's term as representative for Tyson Foods.

Sara Baldwin and Joseph Betit nominated Mr. Ron Matthews to fill the vacant Foundational & Entrepreneurship Development at-large seat. Mr. Matthews was introduced and then described his professional experience as a CPA and supporter of start-up entrepreneurs.

A motion to approve the nomination of Ron Matthews as an EDC member filling the at-large Foundational & Entrepreneurship Development seat was made by Fitz Godwin and seconded by Richard Snyder. The Board approved the minutes by acclamation.

Staff Update

Projects/Initiatives

Building Collaborative Communities Project Update – Curt Smith presented an overview of outcomes from the completed project.

GO Virginia Update – Curt Smith presented the Region 5 scoring guidelines with discussion ensuing regarding potential projects for the Eastern Shore. Peter Bale indicated his intent to partner on a proposal for unmanned systems development at Wallops and in Hampton Roads and said they meet 95% of the GO Virginia criteria with established companies, the hangar, NASA, DOD commercial businesses, the runway, and airspace. It was reported that a similar proposal is under development focusing on York County.

A motion was made by Joe Betit, seconded by Richard Snyder and carried unanimously to write a letter of regional support for the project and have staff support the development of the proposal.

VA Economic Development Partnership Strategic Plan – Curt Smith presented a brief update of a recent strategic planning meeting held on the Shore to provide local economic development information to support the organization's new strategic plan.

CEDS/SET Regional Economic Development Plan Merger and Update

Staff presented an overview of the merged CEDS/SET Plan to the Committee. Executive summaries of varying lengths and levels of detail are also being developed. The merged plan will next be presented for public comment.

At the June 2017 meeting, staff informed the Committee about additional CEDS requirements regarding economic resiliency and solicited input from the Committee on suggested topics to explore. The EDC suggested six topics: Natural/Man-made hazards, Government shutdowns, Geographic isolation, Out-migration of residents, Aging demographics, and Overall state of the economy.

After reviewing the existing list, EDC members requested that the following additional topics be added: Stability of largest employers (i.e. Perdue, Tyson, Bayshore Concrete, etc.), Biological diseases (i.e. avian

flu, fish kills, etc.), and Healthcare. In addition, the Committee requested that the Delmarva Poultry Disease Task Force be added to the Responsive Economic Resilience Initiatives table.

Staff noted that the necessary next steps for the plan were to add public comments to the Plan in Appendix E following the public comment period.

The Committee reached accord to approve the draft plan with the suggested edits for public review. Staff will oversee a public review and comment process which will involve a press release announcing the availability of the draft plan online and at various locations around the Shore.

Industry Sector Roundtable Updates

Aerospace & Defense

None

Agribusiness & Food Processing

None

Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Visitor Industries

None

Foundational & Entrepreneurship Development

Joe Betit and Sara Baldwin reported on a recent visit to the Maryland Innovation Center and the Eastern Shore of Virginia's historically-strong economic ties to areas north of this region. They also shared how they are now focusing on developing fine-grained goals that they will use to select three projects to work on in the coming year. Each subcommittee will also be asked to select three projects to work on in the coming year. This subcommittee will share its goals with the others in case that is useful for them as well.

Pat Coady reported that a document is currently being developed that summarizes available loan sources for local businesses including A-NPDC, ANEC, USDA/SBDC, etc.

Curt Smith reported that he is beginning an inventory of all locally-made products to support a feasibility study for a regional marketplace.

Public Participation

Mr. Teeling commented on that the plan was light on education and not listed as an asset, but as a liability. He feels this is not accurate, as Northampton County schools have been improving and that better schools mean less out-migration and are good for business.

Suggestions for addressing education would be to include it in "Snapshots" as important to each sector. An additional comment was made that kids need to be taught entrepreneurship as well and that education needs to be balanced out in the full report. Also, a suggestion was provided to cut out the acronyms that make the report less useful to citizens. The executive summaries especially should help the public understand the work projects.

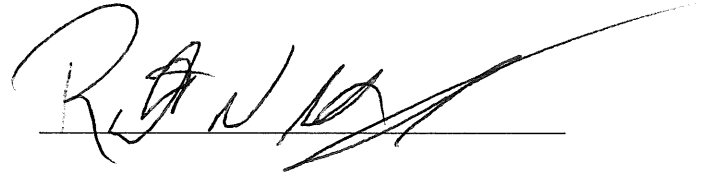
It was noted that educational systems must develop new and diverse programs, not just focus on sports and building maintenance.

Next Meeting Date

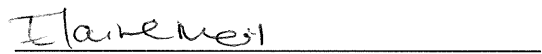
The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be scheduled for December via Doodle Poll.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robie Marsh', written over a horizontal line.

Robie Marsh, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Meil', written over a horizontal line.

Elaine Meil, Secretary