

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**February 5, 2025**

## **PRESENT**

Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Danny DeMarinis (NEMD URP), Sandra Edwards (OED Director), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Ed Jones (Northrop Grumman), Dr. Jeffrey Lawson (CCPS), Sandy Maruchi-Turner (Tourism Mgr.), Michael Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Assoc.)

## **ABSENT**

Ariel Balog (Ag Industry Coordinator), Kristina Brown (Delmarva Power), Joe DiNunzio (Artesian Water), Amy DiPietro (MRA), Woody Jackson (Citizen), Ted Jones (Cecil College), Kimberly Justus (SWN), Robert Palsgrove (Citizen), Carl Roberts (BDC), Mike Travers (Cecil Dancenter)

## **GUESTS**

Randy Baynes (DPL), Stacey Brown (SWN), Christy Dryer (Cecil College), Scott Flanigan (CCDPW), Kim Joyce (Cecil College), Mary Kane (MD Chamber of Comm), Abbi Ludwig (MD Chamber of Comm), Megan McRay (CC Chamber of Commerce), Kelly McVeigh (Cecil College), Jen Peterson (BDC), Dan Schneckenburger (CC Director of Admin.), Maura Van Syckle (SBDC), Rachel Wright (CCPL)

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

- Meeting called to order at 8:11 am
- January 2025 meeting minutes approved
- Chamber hosted State of the County Breakfast – tremendous numbers, excellent job by County Executive

## **Chairman's Report – Mike Ratchford**

- Congratulations to Chamber for successful Cecil Day & Night in Annapolis
- Congratulations to Rachel Wright for being appointed Executive Director, CCPL

## **Director's Report – Sandra Edwards**

- State budget – impact on economic development and legislative session
  - Biggest Item: Sunsetting of Enterprise Zone (EZ) on July 1, 2025
  - Cecil County viamently opposed – huge business attraction and expansion tool
  - Prepared white paper for Administration
- Two OED vacancies:
  - Business Development Specialist position has closed; requesting interviews
  - Deputy Director position open through February 9<sup>th</sup>
- Feb. 12 - Economic Development Day in Annapolis (MEDA)
- March 1 - Micro Ag Grants – application deadline
- March 1 – Rooted in Our Community event – will have vendors and farm market type setup, 2 speakers downstairs
- Economic Development Strategic Plan still working on RFP
- Feb. 6 – Economic Development Internal Budget meeting
- Tourism Update:

- Participating in Tourism Day in Annapolis
- Attending National Park Service Chesapeake Gateways workshop - Dorchester
- Winter/Spring is travel season, Tourism plans:
  - Joint booth with Eastern Shore DMOs in Annapolis - Taste of Eastern Shore
  - Philadelphia Fishing Show – Cecil County booth
- Tourism Presentation – Cecil Leadership – Elkton Station

***A 2025 Competitiveness Redbook presentation was given by Abbi Ludwig, Vice President of Marketing & Communities, and Mary Kane, President and CEO, both with the MD Chamber of Commerce***

- Mary Kane gave a brief overview of items that may impact the upcoming legislative session and State of MD \$3M budget deficit.
- Abbi Ludwig continued the presentation on the State of Maryland 2025 Competitiveness REDBOOK.
- Hard copies of this document should be available soon. You can also view the REDBOOK by going online at: <https://www.mdchamber.org/advocacy/competitiveness/>
- A copy of Mary and Abbi's presentation is attached

***Others:***

***Cecil College – Dr. Mary Bolt***

- Cecil Leadership Institute (CLI) coming up
- Gala in April to support student scholarships

***Administration – Dan Schneckenburger***

- In budget process, difficult because of mandates just in, need to submit by April 1

**REMINDER: March EDC Meeting will be VIRTUAL**

***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Springel  
Administrative Assistant