

MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2008
(Revised December 31, 2008)
Old Northumberland Courthouse
Heathsville

Welcome: Call to Order.

Chairman Lee Allain called the July 15th meeting of the Northumberland County Economic Development Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: William Kling, Vice Chairman/District II, Kathleen M. Hanley, Secretary; C. Bruce Andrews/District V; John A. Hendrickson/District IV; Melissa Bunns, District III; Susan Christopher, Ambassador; Kenneth Eades, County Administrator and Joseph Madej, Executive Director.

Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the June 17, 2008 meetings were approved as mailed. Motion by Kling, second by Hendrickson. Vote, unanimous.

Executive Directors Report:

- Project Progress
 - Mid-Bay Marine Center
 - The Commission will continue to support the oyster hatchery. Present oyster hatchery capacity on the east coast is limiting the number of oysters which can be placed in the water. The contract for the hatchery feasibility study has been placed by the Planning District Commission.
 - Incorporation has been completed with the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Dr. Greg Haugan will be asked to confer with County Administrator Eades and development an opinion on applying to the IRS for 501(C) 3 status.
 - T-SYSTEMS corp.
 - The Executive Director contacted Kent Ware of USDA, Doug Jenkins of Bank of Lancaster, Melvin Ball of Richmond Economic Development Corporation, Andy Keller of SBA, Mike O'Neil of SBA, Steve Hagwood of CCDI Portsmouth, Monique Herrell of Center for Community Capital, Candy Newman of Community Express Loans, Claudette Henderson of Northern Neck Micro-enterprise Program and Joy Corprew of the Rappahannock Region Small Business Development Center
 - The Executive Director also personally spoke with the former owner of the McDonalds on behalf of T-SYSTEMS.
 - The Executive Director suggested that George call 1st Capital Bank who has been airing "financing available" adds on T.V. The executive director also contacted James Minor, Branch Manager of EVB bank in Heathsville who invited a meeting with George Thompson to review his business plan.
- New Business / Project Opportunities
 - Farmer's Market Pavilion has been approved but is to be formally announced by Congress Wittman. Carol Seymour discussed with The Commission the responsibilities of The Commission in getting the Pavilion built and operating. A copy of the grant request will be sent to each commissioner.
 - Opportunities exist for new business related to expanded fish farming: filleting plant, manufacture of organic fish food, fertilizer packaging using fish droppings.
 - The video dealing with the economic development aspects of historic preservation is still being passed around to members of the Commission.
- Local Business Contacts / Support
 - Fish Farm: The fish farm will begin expanding and hiring to increase fish production. Initial

deliveries will be of live fish to Richmond. Commissioner Hanley and the owner visited the closed-down Kelly Seafood facility which is a short distance from the ponds.

- Visits to Business: “M-Teq” & “Banes Northern Neck Upholstery”
- Liaison Highlights:
 - On July 7th the Executive Director attended a quarterly meeting of the Northumberland/Lancaster Virginia Cooperative Extension Leadership Council. Some of the initiatives are the same as ours, such as; are workforce housing and financial literacy.
 - A draft of the text on a plaque for Tonya Creasy and internet pricing (there is no supplier in Northumberland County) was reviewed and several suggestions were made. Also suggested was that Supervisor Long be queried as to his source for plaques and Tonya Creasy queried about Adult Education Center graduation ceremonies.
- Metrics Highlights
 - Employment: Northumberland County’s May unemployment rate of 5.6% is shown on the included chart of unemployment data from May 2007 to May 2008. Also shown is the average for Virginia (3.8%) and the United States (5.2%). Northumberland County’s unemployment rate for May 2008(5.6%) was higher than May 2007(4.1) and higher than the rate for April 2008(5.4%).
 - Building Permits: Included in the portfolio is a summary which tabulates the number of homes permitted and construction costs for the month of June and Year-to-Date. For June 2008, the number of homes (9) is less than the number of homes (13) permitted a year ago. The estimated value of these 9 homes is \$5.1 million; the estimated value of the 13 for June 2007 was \$11.1 million. The estimated cost year-to-date is \$29.5 million versus \$39.9 million a year ago.
- News Articles
 - An old news article “Feeding the Masses” points that the demand for Tilapia far exceeds the supply. The Northumberland County fish farm is mentioned.
- Progress of Annual Objectives
 - A grant for construction of the Farmers Market Pavilion will soon be officially announced.
- Upcoming Activities
 - 7/16 Northern Neck Migrant and Seasonal Workers Council monthly meeting
 - 7/17 Northumberland County Planning Commission monthly meeting (work session)
 - 7/21 Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership quarterly meeting
 - 8/4 Vision 2048 “Better Models for Development” Committee monthly meeting
 - 8/6 Public Health System Assessment meeting
 - 8/11 Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Telemedicine Consortium quarterly meeting
 - 8/14 Board of Supervisors monthly meeting

Ambassador Program Report:

Distribution sites are being replenished as the supply of brochures gets low.

A “kids market” program is being planned for Northumberland’s 3rd grade.

Commissioners’ Reports:

Kling-Migrant Workers Council meeting will be held tomorrow morning.

County Administrator’s Comments:

A grant has been requested for a feasibility study for a sewer system in Heathsville.

Chairman’s Comments:

VIMS will do some of the work on the oyster hatchery feasibility study.

Adjournment: 9:15 pm

Next Meeting: August 19, 2008

Minutes recorded by: Joseph J. Madej, Executive Director