

MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2008
Old Northumberland Courthouse
Heathsville

Welcome: Call to Order.

Chairman Lee Allain called the March 18 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; Melissa Bunns, District III; and Joseph Madej, Executive Director.

Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the January 15 and February 19, 2008 meetings were approved as mailed.

Executive Directors Report:

- Project Progress
 - Mid-Bay Marine Center
 - A meeting to obtain cooperation from VIMS is scheduled for April 28. Invitees: Christopher Newport, VT, RCC, Rob Wittman, Richard Stuart, Albert Pollard, Dept Nat Resources, EPA, Ches Bay Foundation and five from Northumberland.
 - Incorporation papers have been submitted to Virginia State Corporation Commission. Application will then be made to the IRS for 501(C)3 status
 - A request for \$ 6.5 million appropriation has been submitted to U.S. Senator Jim Webb
 - Meeting held with Jeff Corbin Asst. Secretary of Natural Resources on 3/10.
 - Chairman Allain has had many phone conversations including Jeff Lope, EPA; Bill Portlock, CBF; Gary Anderson, VIMS and Katie Register, Longwood's Hull Spring Farms Project; Dr. Daniel LaVista: Executive Director state Council of Higher Education for Virginia
 - T-SYSTEMS corp.
 - A MiniLoan of \$5000 was executed on February 29th.
 - Loan requests have been denied from: Small Business Administration, Virginia Community Capital, Business Finance Group Inc. and First Advantage Federal Credit Union.
 - Loans are still being considered by: Bank of Lancaster and the Center for Innovative Technology, Herndon Va...
 - A loan guarantee of 75% is available from the Virginia Department of Business Asst. who remains available to meet with the Bank of Lancaster to explain how the loan guarantee will work
 - Commissioner Hanley contacted two potential business partners who agreed to visit T-SYSTEMS' web site to evaluate their possible interest.
- New Business / Project Opportunities
 - A business woman in Callao has expressed a desire to build and manage a hotel and diner to be located in Callao but requires help in obtaining financing.
 - The video dealing with the economic development aspects of historic preservation will be passed around to members of the Commission.
- Local Business Contacts / Support
 - Visits to Businesses: "Bank of Essex, Callao" & "Callao Rooms & Apartments"
 - Request to rezone 1.2 acre parcel in Glebe Point from Business to Residential:
 - Executive Director on behalf of the Economic Development Commission recommended to the Planning Commission on February 21 that the Planning Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors denial of the request for

rezoning because a hotel/restaurant is more economically beneficial to the County than 28 condominiums. It was suggested that the Executive Director prepare a written draft of a recommendation from the Economic Development Commission.

- The Planning Commission tabled their decision until the March 20th meeting.
- Liaison Highlights
 - RCC and Tech Center obtained and executed a contract to teach Navy instructors marine trades for them to teach third world residents.
 - The video Weary Shoreline will be presented at the Library on March 20th @ 9am. Also on Public Television on March 19th @ 10pm.
 - The Executive Director reported the quarterly activities of The Commission to the Board of Supervisors on March 13.
- Metrics Highlights
 - Employment: Northumberland County's January unemployment rate of 7.2% is shown on the included chart of unemployment data from January 2007 to January 2008. Also shown is the average for Virginia (3.8%) and the United States (5.4%). Northumberland County's unemployment rate for January 2008 (7.2%) was higher than December's 4.4% and also higher than the rate for January 2007 (6.3%).
 - Building Permits: Included in the portfolio is a summary which tabulates the number of homes permitted and construction costs for the month of February and Year-to-Date. For February 2008, the number of homes (14) is more than the number of homes (12) permitted a year ago. The estimated value of these 14 homes is \$5.4 million; the estimated value of the 12 for February 2007 was \$5 million. The estimated cost year-to-date is \$14 million.
- Progress of Annual Objectives

Six annual objective goals for year 2008 were agreed-to in principal. A written copy was to be emailed to the Economic Development Commission members subsequent to the meeting. The following list of six goals was emailed to the Economic Development Commission members the evening of March 18th:

1. Obtain initial funding/tangible support for the Mid-Bay Marine Center.
2. Get Grant approved for another sewer system in Northumberland Co that provides support to either the Reedville harbor area or the residential development area adjacent to the new schools.
3. Win a first Grant through the new Grants Administrator.
4. Start construction of a Name Brand hotel/motel in Northumberland Co.
5. Establish an Economic Development Commission web page as part of the County web site.
6. Conduct at least one community economic development event

- News Articles

An article entitled Restoring the Native Oyster was written by Mark Bryer and appeared on March 13th.

Upcoming Activities

- 3/20 Video Weary Shorelines shown at the library @ 9am
- 3/20 Northumberland County Planning Commission monthly meeting
- 4/7 Vision 2048 "Better Models for Development" Committee monthly meeting
- 4/9 Migrant and Seasonal Workers Council monthly meeting
- 4/18 Northern Neck Middle Peninsula Telemedicine
- 4/17 Board of Supervisors monthly meeting
- 4/21 Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership quarterly meeting
- 4/28 Mid-Bay Marine Center meeting at VIMS

Commissioners' Reports

Andrews-Construction is continuing by the cabinet builder in Burgess.

Bunns

Why not do the web site immediately?

Shouldn't the Executive Director visit the First Baptist Child Care Center?

Chairman's Comments- the Tavern Restaurant will reopen soon.

Adjournment: 8:24 pm

Next Meeting: April 15, 2008

Minutes recorded by: Joseph J. Madej, Executive Director