

Northumberland County Economic Development Commission  
Meeting: May 20, 2025  
6-8 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Roll Call. In attendance were Commissioners: Dr. Karen Pica, Melissa Carter, Dan Corder, and Maurice Johnson; Staff: Drew Basye, Robert Bullard. John Kost, Heidi Wilkins-Corey, Planning District 5, David Woolard, Reedville Sanitation District.
3. Discovery Session: Mr. David Woolard

Mr. Woolard provided an overview of the county's sewage treatment systems and fielded questions from the Commission. Key highlights:

- a) Sewage Treatment Capacity
  - Regional Plant: Permitted for 200,000 GPD (currently ~100,000 GPD)
  - Calio Plant: Permitted for 60,000 GPD (currently ~30,000 GPD)
- b) Impact of Grant Funding
  - The \$850,000 grant allowed the conversion of part of the system to an EQ tank but did not increase permitted capacity.
  - The tank helps manage peak inflow, especially during rain events.
- c) Capacity and Growth Constraints
  - Calio is effectively at or near capacity when accounting for unconnected grinder pump owners and the laundromat (estimated at 15,000 GPD).
  - Only a handful of additional residential connections are possible without up-grades.
  - Approximately 175 connections exist, with 20–25 additional homes having paid for but not completed connections.
- d) Remediation and Nutrient Limits
  - No recent remediation required; nutrient discharge levels remain within permitted bounds.
- e) Private Systems and Development
  - Reedville has capacity for approx. 250 more homes under current usage patterns.
  - COVID-19 occupancy spikes had challenged infrastructure.
  - Growth, if unchecked, may soon surpass safe operational margins.
- f) Commercial Usage Concerns
  - The laundromat in Calio was identified as a "significant user," accounting for approximately 50% of the Calio plant's daily flow.
  - Discussion around the fairness of current fee structures and whether commercial users are adequately covering costs.
  - Concerns raised about the ability to support additional development given current capacity constraints and the laundromat's impact.
- g) Communication & Planning
  - Lack of infrastructure planning cited as a concern; coordination between departments and the Board of Supervisors may need strengthening.

4. Review of Meeting Minutes: April 2025. Mr. Corder motioned for approval of the April meeting minutes, Ms. Carter second, and the motion passed. Dr Pica fixed minutes on the shared folder.
5. Commissioners' Corner
  - a. District 1 – Mr. Corder –
    - i. “Rediscovered by Dawn,” a new gift/thrift store is opening.
    - ii. Callao Hometown Park Association is planning an amphitheater and building with upcoming fundraisers despite current funding limitations.
  - b. District 2 - Vacant
  - c. District 3 – Ms. Carter –
    - i. Reached out to HUD to investigate community block grant information.
    - ii. Provided updates on housing rehabilitation and rural development applications.
  - d. District 4 – Dr. Pica –
    - i. No updates.
  - e. District 5 – Mr. Johnson –
    - i. Spoke with Jennifer Bramlett of Chitter Chats. Concerns about outdated county business maps
    - ii. Provided a suggestion to collaborate regionally (e.g., River Realm)
    - iii. Discussion of education and fishery-related workforce development opportunities.
6. Executive Director Items.
  - a. American Junior Golf Association Tournament at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.
    - i. Do.Stay.Eat. Map updated with ICYCC location and AJGA Tournament
    - ii. Coordinating with County Admin on placement of banner
  - b. Northern Neck Tourism Brochures
    - i. Northern Neck Planning District Commission received 35k Northern Neck tourism brochures.
    - ii. Picked up 2,000, delivered 150 to Chamber of Commerce
    - iii. Will have for the Farmers Market
    - iv. Will have at the AJGA Tournament
    - v. Provided brochures to commissioners for distribution.
  - c. Business and Heritage Exposition
    - i. Drafted sample NOCO Information slides for review.
  - d. QR Code Analytics
    - i. QR Code was not designed with URL Tracking Parameters. Will update with that capability.

- ii. Do Stay Eat Stats show eighty-five views in the last 30 days, 3,013 in the last 12 months, 11,411 since November 2020.
  - e. Generic EDC email address? Working
  - f. The Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board held a Healthcare Talent Development meeting, to discuss key strategies and initiatives aimed at developing and supporting talent in the healthcare industry.
  - g. Bay Consortium Workforce and Miller
    - i. Miller's Services received two Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) checks from the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board!
    - ii. This was the first time partnering with Miller's Services
    - iii. Efforts in upskilling sixteen team members through complete training programs.
  - h. Summer Intern –
    - i. Created POI and coordinated with the candidate and their university.
    - ii. The candidate is interviewing with other agencies.
    - iii. Still interested but may not be available until July.
7. County Administrator Corner
- a. Provided an update on YMCA's Dino Dome construction.
  - b. YMCA expressed interest in having EDC presence at grand opening (June) ceremony.
8. Current Projects
- a. Golf Tournament (May 23): EDC to host a booth; coordination ongoing.
  - b. Farmers Market Event (May 21): Partnering with organizations (Premise Bank, YMCA, Makeup); booth setup confirmed. Businesses encouraged to tell their story and promote local entrepreneurship.
  - c. Business Info Sheet: Commission is compiling promotional material to distribute at events.
  - d. Intern Program: In coordination with a university; concerns over budget and timing raised.
  - e. Healthcare Services: Discussions about mobile healthcare services and community clinics for better access.
9. New Business –
- a. Crazy Crab Closure: Confirmed not reopening this season; potential economic impact discussed.

- b. Economic Activity in Reedville: New mixed-use property involving seafood sales and metalwork; discussion on potential grant support for a coffee roasting business.

10. Citizen Engagement. N/A

11. Adjournment. Dan motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Carter motioned for adjournment, Mr. Johnson second. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.