

Northumberland County Economic Development Commission
Meeting: November 18, 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, and Maurice Johnson; Staff: Drew Basye, John Kost, Planning Commission.
3. Agenda Review. Mr. Johnson motioned for approval of the agenda, Ms. Carter second and the motion was approved.
4. Review of Meeting Minutes: October 2025 – Mr. Johnson motioned for approval of the agenda, Ms. Carter second and the motion was approved.
5. Commissioners' Corner
 - a. District 1 – Mr. Corder – not present.
 - b. District 2 - Vacant
 - c. District 3 – Ms. Carter –
 - i. Visited Triple-V Winery on Sunday November 16th. It was their last day open.
 - d. District 4 – Dr. Pica –
 - i. At the most recent board meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a conditional use permit for a landscaping business within the district.
 - e. District 5 – Mr. Johnson –
 - i. Met with two gentlemen who were interested in procuring the campground off Sunnybank Road. The discussion focused on how EDC can assist them. They were introduced to the county's Commissioner of Revenue to further inquire on the status of the campground
 - ii. Stated that Omega Protein is hosting a meeting at their facility on November 21, 2026, at 0930. The purpose for the meeting is to give the company an opportunity to provide facts around their company, what they do, the environmental impacts of their activities (both menhaden fishing and sustainable fish farming) and the economic impacts of their business to our communities and counties.
 - iii. Completed the sales tax analysis identifying how much revenue comes into the county from the sales tax.
6. Executive Director Items
7. Executive Director Items (provided to Assistant County Administrator and Chairperson prior to meeting)
 - a) Analytics – Analytics are working on the YouTube site for County meetings, and includes the ability to identify unique views. The site currently requires a Gmail

account, used for the Do.Stay.Eat Map. Working with IT to see if this can be made available for all EDC regardless of email account type.

- b) Chesapeake Campground Meeting – Met with two individuals who expressed interest in the campground. Recommended they check with county tax office and VDH (to ask about the condition of the septic). Both gentlemen are real estate investors. Provided the EDC 2025 Status presentation and a copy of the Northumberland County Information Sheet.
- c) GIS Map – Planning Commission launched the GIS web site. Commissioners were asked to review at their convenience.
- d) Strategic Plan Update – Drafted a SWOT and updated county data statistics. Commissioners were asked to please review at their convenience. Planning Commission received feedback from DEQ and DOF but are still waiting for VDOT’s review of their Comprehensive Plan. Once the Comprehensive Plan is completed, EDC will be postured to complete the Strategic Plan. The goal is to have the draft strategic plan submitted to Planning Commission for review and comment in February.
- e) Main Street Initiative – Completed the “Memorandum to the County Administrator - Main Street Initiative Support” and the “Northumberland County Main Street Resolution”. The Memorandum requests County Administrator support of the main street initiative and request forwarding to the Board of Supervisors. The resolution, to be signed by the Board of Supervisors authorizes EDC to apply for entrance into the Tier 1 phase of the Virginia Main Street Program. The Main Street initiative is identified in the Comprehensive Plan. The goal is to have the resolution approved before the end of 2025.

8. County Administrator Corner

- a) County still working with the Northern Lake Planning Commission and VIMS on JPA for dredging up the jetties. The board passed a resolution of support to help strengthen our cause when we get the JPA in hand and move forward on the grant application to try to secure the funding to be able to go with that. So that's pretty much the update on that right now.
- b) Budget request forms have been emailed out in the past two days to everybody. The county changed their budget guidance a little bit this year. The county is requesting more detail on savings.
- c) Mr. Kost, Planning Commission, reported they are waiting for feedback from the State on the comprehensive plan. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality provided feedback and said it is one of the best plans we have ever read. Also waiting for VDOT response, and then it will go to the Board of Supervisors.

9. Current Projects

- a) Discussed ongoing efforts related to Main Street and the Northern 250 initiative, including exploring potential grant opportunities and promotional materials for local businesses. Some materials had already been distributed.
- b) Plans for the June Heritage Business Expo remain in place, with the possibility of soliciting volunteers to support the event.
- c) No career-related activities with the school were planned at this time, though interest remained in pursuing shared initiatives as time and staffing allowed. Volunteers were expected to be sought for these efforts.
- d) Updates on the strategic plan and NNK250 were acknowledged as previously discussed.

10. New Business - None

11. Citizen Engagement – Little Wicomico Jetty and Dredging Initiative

- a) The Economic Development Commission received a presentation on the Little Wicomico River dredging and jetty repair initiative, outlining the severe shoaling of the federally authorized navigation channel at Smith Point and the resulting economic and public safety impacts. Discussion highlighted the project's importance to local marinas, commercial watermen, aquaculture operations, tourism, marine service businesses, waterfront property values, and emergency response access, as well as its broader effect on the County's tax base and visitor economy. Commissioners noted that the Northern Neck Planning District Commission is leading project planning and grant applications, with funding identified as the primary challenge. Following discussion, the Commission unanimously approved a motion to provide a statement of support recognizing the project's economic significance for use in applicable state and federal grant applications.

12. Adjournment. Mr. Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Carter second. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.