

**Northumberland County Economic Development Commission**  
**Meeting: February 17, 2026**  
**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**1. Opening of Meeting Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present. In attendance were Commissioners: Maurice Johnson, Melissa Carter, Dr. Karen Pica, and Gregory Basye; Staff: Drew Basye, Robert Bullard, John Kost (Planning Commission)

**2. Agenda Review**

Commissioners reviewed the meeting agenda. Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

**3. Approval of Minutes: February 2026 Meeting**

Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the February 2026 meeting. Motion made and seconded to approve the January meeting minutes.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

**4. Commissioner's Corner**

- a. District 1 – Mr. Basye provided background as a fourth-generation local farmer.
- b. District 2 – Vacant
- c. District 3 – Ms. Carter – No updates
- d. District 4 – Dr. Pica – No updates
- e. District 5 – Mr. Johnson – No updates

**5. Executive Director's Report**

- a. Grant/Loan Updates: A status update was provided; new commissioner Mr. Basye was asked to review the documents before the Executive Director finalizes the document and forwards to the County Administrator.
- b. MapHub: ACH Payment request forwarded to the County Bookkeeper.
- c. Events
  - i. Apr – 9<sup>th</sup>: Job Fair, Northumberland High School.
  - ii. Aug – 9-13<sup>th</sup> Northern Neck Junior All-Star at Indian Creek
- d. Provided information on the Community Investment Training
  - i. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond sponsored.
  - ii. application for the 2027 cohort will be online when the next recruitment cycle begins on June 1, 2026.
  - iii. added to the interest list, for notification when the application opens.

## **6. County Administrator's Corner**

Discussion referenced the Little Wicomico River dredging project and coordination with regional partners and VMRC. A \$2.6 million VMRC emergency grant was awarded. Future efforts will focus on a jetty infrastructure study via federal funding requests.

## **7. Planning Commission Comments**

- a. Discussed how Callao is researching installing a cell tower.
- b. Discussed animal shelter options they are exploring.

## **8. Current Projects**

- a. Northumberland High School Career Fair
  - i. Thursday, April 9 from 1:00-3:00pm. Grades 8-12 will participate.
  - ii. Bay Consortium Workforce connecting with the same employers (and more) to get commitments?
  - iii. High School will connect with county EMT, fire, Sheriff, and VA Marine Police.
  - iv. JROTC team will connect with military recruiters.
  - v. High School will tackle logistics (gym set-up, signage, refreshments, etc.).
- b. VA 250 Mobile Museum planning and preparation
  - a. Executive Director meeting with Ms. Reilly, Hughlett's Tavern on Thursday to coordinate (Aug, Sept, Oct).
- c. Heritage Fair will be planned in conjunction with the VA 250 Mobile Museum
- d. Pillars of Community Growth Survey – Mr. Kost discussed the survey they are working on to obtain feedback from citizens pertaining to the Pillars in the Comprehensive Plan.
- e. Poor House Tract/ Dodlyt Road Analysis Discussed the approach for the Poor House Tract Analysis.

## **9. New Business**

- a. Digital Zoning Map – Requested status on the Planning Commissions Digital Zoning Map and the link was shared during the meeting (<https://northumberlandcova.interactivegis.com/map/>)
- b. Branding of products – investigate obtaining a grant for branding local seafood.
- c. Provide a list of grants that are opening soon and for what purpose.

## **10. Citizen Engagement**

No input

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.