PRESENT
Mike Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Associates) Bruce England (SWN), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Doreen Smith (Town of Perryville), Mike Travers (Cecil Dance Center), Walter Buck (Citizen), Rupert Rossetti (Citizen), Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), Denise Davis (CCPL), Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), Dan Schnackenburger (County Council), Bob Palsgrove (Citizen), Danny De Marinis (UM Research Park), D’Ette Devine (CCPS), Mike Lara (ATK), Grove Miller (Citizen), Scott Holland (i-Lighting), Doris Mason (USRC), Lauren Johnsky (APG), Dr. Ken Lewis (Union Hospital).

STAFF
Lisa Webb (Economic Development Director), Joanne Richart-Young (Ag Coordinator), Sandy Turner (Tourism Coordinator), Susan O’Neill (Economic Development Manager), Jason Zang (Economic Development Coordinator), Robin McCann (Administrative Assistant), Jim Ford (SBTDC).

ABSENT
Paula Gilley (Citizen), Jeanne Miner (Town of Elkton), Woody Jackson (Jackson Marine Sales), Dr. Robert Gell (Town of Charlestown), Norman Gaither (NorArk Executive Group), Bruce England (SWN).

GUESTS
Scott Flanigan (DPW), Alan Sexton (SWN), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Linda McGuigan (EDIS) Carl Roberts (Citizen), Kathy Kunda (Citizen), Dan Blevins (Wilmapco), David Straus (Mccrone), Cheryl Mattix (Cecil Whig).

Call to Order & Welcome
Mike Ratchford called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. The Meeting Minutes for January 7, 201 were approved.

Chairman’s Report
Chairman Mike Ratchford discussed the following:
- Success of Cecil Night in Annapolis Event;
- State of the County Breakfast;
  - County Executives Strategic Plan
  - Positive reports on Cecil County issues
- New administration in Annapolis;
  - New view on the budget revenue
  - Newly assembled staff
- Wished EDC board member Paula Gilley a quick recovery.

Wilmapco Rt. 40 Visioning Project
Principal Planner Dan Blevins provided a brief update on the Wilmapco Rt. 40 Visioning Project. He provided the following:
- Overall goal;
- Anticipated growth;
- Driving needs;
- Bike and Pedestrian needs;
- Transit needs;
- Visioning process;
Overall process;
Future steps to implementation.

Director's Report
- Promotion of Toll Survey;
- Prospect Meetings (2 international companies);
- Bainbridge Update;
- MACo Winter Conference;
- ODEC presentation to Council;
- Bainbridge presentation to Council;
- MEDA Winter Conference;
- Cecil Night in Annapolis;
- Follow up with two municipalities;
- Follow up with Donaldson Brown Center;
- Updated Bond Rating information;
- Preparing FY16 Budget - due Feb 6th;
- Port of Baltimore and CSX Update;
- Presented Cecil impact at APG SPEA;
- Incubator Feasibility Study status report;
- Elected Officials – outreach;
- Manufacturing Authority, Higher Ed Advisory, Army Alliance, NMTC.

Economic Development Manager
- Attended MEDA conference in Annapolis;
- Supported Cecil Night in Annapolis;
- Liqui Box Rapid Response meeting;
- Continued to assist with the toll survey;
- Met with Town of Perryville to discuss economic development;
- Attended Cecil Leadership Institute alumni meeting;
- Met with three businesses to discuss Workforce Training Partnership program;
- Attended the State of the County breakfast;
- Working with County Attorney on contract for the Workforce Training Partnership;
- Met with Axcel for progress update on the Incubator Feasibility Study;
- Participated in Project Quarter meetings;
- Met with West Nottingham Academy representative;
- Received update from International division of Port of Baltimore;
- Toured available R & D/Manufacturing building;
- Prep work for Workforce Training Committee meeting.

Agriculture Coordinator
- A successful Cecil Night in Annapolis. Included a tour of both the Senate and House of Delegates, meetings with leaders in both chambers and a reception;
- Met and visited with new Maryland Secretary of Ag, Joe Bartenfelder;
- Prepared materials on Cecil County to Delegate Kevin Hornberger's office;
- Attended Cecil Soil Conservation Annual Banquet – honoring Dudey Hevelow as Cooperator of the Year;
- Horses from the Fair Hill Training Center were recipient of prestigious “Eclipse Award”;
- Working with MPT producer for the Third Series of Maryland Home and Harvest program;
- Exploring opportunity for ag-tourism signage in Cecil County through a SHA/MDA;
- Annual Maryland Ag Council “Taste of Maryland” to be held Feb. 5th in Glen Burnie;
● Continue assisting Ag business to increase efficiency in finances, production and marketing;
● Continue assisting local beef producer with process to expand his operation;
● Attended Maryland State Farm Bureau Convention.

**Tourism Coordinator**

● Continued work on the Cecil County Wedding Guide;
● Have secured up to $28,000 in sponsorship for the Bassmaster Elite and continue to seek additional sponsors;
● The Bassmaster Elite marketing committee has begun;
● Festival Committee for the Bassmaster Elite has begun to meet;
● Planning for six trade show booths;
● Winter /Spring ads began running via: Billboard, Print, and Radio;
● Tourism Committee finalized their 2015 Priorities:
  - Nature Brochure
  - Nature Photo Contest
  - Group farm tour itineraries
  - Partner Appreciation Breakfast - Sponsor is PNC Bank
  - Tourism Month - May

**Economic Development Coordinator**

● Compiled information for several prospects and attended one site tour;
● Attended Bassmaster Elite Festival Committee Meeting;
● Reported New and Expanding Businesses data to DBED upon request;
● Updated Cecil County's Brief Economic facts and provided this information to DBED;
● Toured available R&D/Manufacturing building;
● Attended MEDA Winter Conference, Cecil Night in Annapolis, and State of the County Breakfast;
● Updated social media outlets regularly to promote events and share news about Cecil County;
● Completed and proofread Office of Economic Development Newsletter for February;
● Met with Port of Baltimore officials in an effort to better understand Port operations, advantages, and how Cecil County can help/be involved.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Education/Workforce** – Denise Davis reported on the following:

● Cecil Night in Annapolis attendance;
● Workforce training development grants.

**Technology** – Danny DeMarinis reported on the following:

● Implementation process

**Land Use** – Rupert Rossetti reported on the following:

● Rt. 40 Visioning;
● Canton Railroad;
● Food Hub meeting scheduled for 2/12/15;
● Farm Bus Tours;
● Volunteer Cecil County database training.
Finance – Bob Palsgrove reported on the following:
- Met with County Attorney Jason Allison;
- Viable changes are being made to help the program become more successful.

Communications – JoAnn Dawson reported on the following:
- Production company is coming to her farm in April and May to work on videos;
- Working with Cecil College Marketing students on Branding.

Adjournment
Chairman Mike Ratchford adjourned the meeting at 9:10 am. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 8:00 am, Cecil College, Room TC208.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McCann
Administrative Assistant