PRESENT
Mike Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Associates), Bruce England (SWN), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Doreen Smith (Town of Perryville), Rupert Rossetti (Citizen), Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), Denise Davis (CCPL), Dan Schneckenburger (County Council), Bob Palsgrove (WSFS), Paula Gilley (Citizen), Norman Gaither (NorArk Executive Group),

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 (SBDC).

ABSENT
Jeanne Miner (Town of Elkton), Woody Jackson (Jackson Marine Sales), Dr. Robert Gell (Town of Charlestown), Mike Travers (Cecil Dance Center), Walter Buck (Citizen), Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), Danny De Marinis (UMRP), D’Ette Devine (CCPS), Mike Lara (ATK), Grove Miller (Citizen), Scott Holland (i-Lighting), Lauren Johnsky (APG), Dr. Ken Lewis (Union Hospital), Doris Mason (USRC).

GUESTS
Alan Sexton (SWN), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Linda McGuigan (EDIS) Carl Roberts (Chamber Government Relations), Kathy Kunda (Citizen), Cheryl Mattix (Cecil Whig), Linda McGuigan (EDiS), Tammy Edwards (DBED).

Call to Order & Welcome
Mike Ratchford called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. The Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2015 were approved.

Chairman’s Report
Chairman Mike Ratchford discussed the following:
- Maryland Economic Development programs;
- Cecil County Public Library nominated as Cecil County Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Non-Profit Partner;
- Welcomed back EDC Board Member Paula Gilley
- Reminded EDC Board Members to return their Ethics forms to Human Resources by April 30, 2015.

Director’s Report
- Legislation / Bill Review;
- Bond Rating Updates / Meetings;
- Toll Survey Responses reviewed w/Council;
- State / County Business Friendly / Competitiveness responses;
- Bainbridge & Utility needs updated;
- NMTC Visionary Awards (2 from Cecil awarded);
- Canton Rail / CSX Rail meeting;
- Meetings w/ North East & Port Deposit;
- Broker updates;
- WIB - Ec Competitiveness Update;
- MEDA Award to Mike Ratchford - more to follow;
- Prospect Activity - see attached.

**Economic Development Manager**
- Visited 6 businesses regarding the Workforce Training Partnership (WTPG) program;
- Processed two WTPG applications;
- Met with Perryville Town Administrator;
- Continued to assist with the toll survey;
- Attended ribbon cutting for new, small business located in Perryville Outlets;
- Met with County attorney and Finance Committee chair to discuss revolving loan fund;
- Attended a two day IEDC course in Baltimore;
- Attended several meetings: Business Engagement, CBRP & Cecil County Chamber;
- Follow-up with DHCD regarding revolving loan fund and CDBG funds;
- Meeting with WES;
- Attended the NMTC Visionary awards;
- Researched information for prospect.

**Agriculture Coordinator**
- Over 600 people, including Governor Hogan and Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary of Agriculture, attended the annual Maryland Agriculture Council "Taste of Maryland Event";
- Coordinated and conducted statewide AMPS (Agriculture Marketing Professionals) meeting in Annapolis to discuss ag concerns / challenges, ongoing Legislative Session and proposed legislation;
- Coordinated and attended public informational / exploratory meeting regarding Food Hubs;
- Coordinating public meeting to explore opportunity for ag-tourism signage in Cecil County;
- Attended "Women in Ag" Conference in Dover;
- Assisted with coordination of and attended Cecil County Young Farmers' Legislative Breakfast. Attendees included Delegates Kevin Hornberger, Teresa Reilly, Andrew Cassilly, Jeff Ghrist, Mary O'Keefe (for U.S. Congressman Andy Harris) County Council President Robert Hodge, MD Farm Bureau Executive Director, Valerie Connelly and Mike Dawson, Register of Wills;
- Coordination with two Cecil County businesses to increase efficiency, savings, and manufacturing jobs;
- Working with MPT for the Third Series of Maryland Home and Harvest program.

**Tourism Coordinator**
- Cecil Tourism "hits the road" during the winter travel season;
- Part of organizing committee for Maryland Tourism Day 2015;
- Part of presentation to Eastern Shore Delegation during Tourism Day in Annapolis;
- Chaired the SMI booth at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg;
- Festival Committee for Bassmaster Elite underway;
- Marketing Committee for Bassmaster Elite underway;
- Gave tourism presentation at the North East Chamber;
- Exhibited at the Philadelphia Inquirer Travel Show in Valley Forge;
- Exhibited at the Greater Philadelphia Outdoor Show in Oaks, PA;

**Economic Development Coordinator**
- Assisted Broadband Task Force by furthering research relating to broadband connectivity in Cecil County;
- Attended Bassmaster Elite Festival Committee and Marketing Committee Meetings;
- Attended "Meet the Minihanes" with North East Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals;
- Reviewed and proofread content for regional marketing publication "Eastern Shore Economic Development";
• Secured space and delivered advertisements in several industry publications;
• Attended ribbon cutting ceremony for Git Lit Scents, a new small business located in Perryville Outlet Center;
• Updated social media outlets regularly to promote events and share news about Cecil County;
• Completed and proofread Office of Economic Development Newsletter for March.

Subcommittee Reports
Education/Workforce – Denise Davis reported on the following:
• Summer youth job fair on Saturday, March 7th, 9:00 – 12:00 pm;
• Cecil County Workforce Region began 32 years ago.

Technology – Norman Gaither reported on the following:
• Phase 1 RFP continues;
• Plans to present to the EDC on June 3, 2015;
• Researching patents in Maryland.

Land Use – Rupert Rossetti reported on the following:
• CSX update regarding the towns;
• Ag update regarding CSX;
• Wilmapco Visioning meeting reminder;
• Ten year old beautification report along the Rt. 40 corridor;
• Ag/Tourism Food Hub update.

Finance – Bob Palsgrove reported on the following:
• Met with County Attorney Jason Allison regarding the County Revolving Loan Fund financing risks;
• How to market the feasibility of the Revolving Loan Fund.

Communications – JoAnn Dawson reported on the following:
• Continue working with Cecil College Marketing students on Branding;
• Upcoming video on TLC, Thursday, March 12th at 9:00 pm.

Adjournment
Chairman Mike Ratchford adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 8:00 am, Donaldson Brown Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McCann
Administrative Assistant