PRESENT
Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), Walter Buck (Citizen), Denise Davis (Cecil County Public Library), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Danny DeMarinis (URP), D’Ette Devine (CCPS), Bruce England (SWN), Norman Gaither (NorArk Executive Group), Paula Gilley (Citizen), Scott Holland (i-Lighting), Woody Jackson (Citizen), Grove Miller (Citizen), Robert Palsgrove (WSFS), Michael Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Associates), Dr. Carl Roberts (Chamber Government Relations), Rupert Rossetti (Citizen), Dan Schneckeburger (County Council), Alan Sexton, Lisa Webb (Director of Economic Development), Joanne Richart-Young (Ag Coordinator), Susan O’Neill (Economic Development Manager), Sandy Maruchi-Turner (Tourism), Jason Zang (Economic Development).

ABSENT
Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), Lauren Johnsky (APG), Michael Lara (Orbital ATK), Dr. Ken Lewis (UHCC), Doris Mason (USRC), Jeanne Minner (Town of Elkton), Mike Travers (Cecil Dance Center).

GUESTS
Alfred Wein (Director of Administration), Alan McCarthy (County Council), Mie Mie Strickler (Asian Pacific American Commissioner), Clyde VanDyke (Parks & Recreation), Ella Briones (Parks & Recreation), Christie Dougherty (Tourism).

Call to Order & Welcome
- Mike Ratchford called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
- Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Chairman’s Report – Mike Ratchford
- Dr. Ken Lewis will be retiring at the end of the year. A reception is being held on December 18th in the Chesapeake/Susquehanna conference center on the basement level of Union Hospital. All EDC Members are invited to attend.
- Minutes from EDC meeting on November 4, 2015 were approved.

A presentation on Bassmaster Elite was presented by Sandy Turner of Tourism.
- BassMaster Elite took place in August of this year.
- Had to raise money to complete a competitive host bid.
- Cecil raised funds for strong proposal and landed event.
- BassMaster Elite televised on ESPN2 and The Outdoor Channel.
- Brought top angling pros from USA, Australia and Japan to Cecil County, Maryland to compete; 107 out of 113 qualified.
- Cost approximately $185,000 to host BassMaster Elite event.
- Economic impact felt as early as August 2014 with Total Economic Impact for August 2015 Event estimated at $3.5M.
Received successful feedback from BASS Executive, sponsors, merchants, and media; only negative reported was lack of hotel accommodations in Cecil County.

A presentation on Calvert Regional Park was presented by Clyde Van Dyke:

- Park has great potential for drawing large scale Events/Tournaments to our County due to location
- Calvert Regional Park Hosted One-Day Girls Lacrosse Tournament
  - 50 Teams competed from as far North as Maine and as far West as Ohio
  - One-day Tournament generated over $16,000 in revenue to the park
  - Had Economic Impact of $250-$300,000 in Sales (Hotels, Restaurants, Wal-Mart, Convenience Store across from Park)
  - Next Tournaments Tentatively scheduled for June and July 2016
- Phase I consists of: Synthetic Turf Multi-Purpose Field, Seven Natural Grass Multi-Purpose Fields, Three Basketball Courts, One-Mile Walking Trail, Paved Parking Areas, and Concession Stand
- Park already considered great asset to community.
- June & July expected to be very busy months.
- August & September – plan to do work on fields; let fields rejuvenate.
- Fall expected to be busy again.
- Phase II: Pending funding, will include additional parking and up to four (4) natural grass fields.
- Phase III: Future plans for tennis courts and a State Park. There will be NO surface ground remaining. Property abuts Rising Sun High School.

Clyde asked the EDC Members for feedback and responded with the following:

- Plans are underway for numerous paved parking lots.
- The house on the property is currently being renovated. The future of the barn is uncertain at this time.
- Baseball/Softball fields are not practical in this economic climate nor with Ripken stadium so close. Instead, linear fields for other sports will be put in.
- We are making ourselves viable to host tournaments by becoming a member of TEAM Maryland. It was because the Park was built and available that we could receive the economic impact from the lacrosse tournament that we hosted; our information was provided to the tournament association by TEAM Maryland.
- The Park is also used by Cecil County youth in the Spring for Lacrosse and Soccer.

Dan Schneckenburger (County Council) commented that it is events like BassMaster and the ribbon cutting of Calvert Regional Park that show case the top elite in Cecil County. They demonstrate how the County can be successful and we need to continue these types of supportive events in 2016.

The Cecil Arena is used 7 days/week by youth and adults for lacrosse, soccer, and wiffle ball, and operates 7 am – 10 pm. It operates 5 days/week for after school and summer programs.

Questions were posed on:

- Should a study be conducted on the need for additional hotels in Cecil County and whether or not our infrastructure can support them when we are not hosting events/tournaments?
• Is there a group in charge pertaining to the quality of our fields at Calvert Regional Park or what should our signature event be?

Clyde commented that hardly any natural grass fields are left in Maryland. With Rising Sun High School next to Calvert Regional Park, it gives Cecil County an advantage when being looked at by TEAM Maryland. Likewise, when the Lacrosse Tournament was held at Calvert Regional Park, 15-20 coaches came to Cecil County. These types of big events will expose and give our own athletes opportunities.

Director’s Report – Lisa Webb
- Presented to Maryland Contractor’s Network
- Bainbridge Prospect meetings
- Participated in MEDA’s Rural Economic Development Summit in Salisbury
- 2016 Cecil Leadership Institute Planning
- Presented Bassmaster Economic Impact to Council
- FY17 Budget preparation

Department Update – Susan O’Neill
- Attended EAGB Annual Meeting
- Hosted the NMTC CYAH event
- Met and followed up with a manufacturer seeking assistance
- Facilitated conference call between manufacturer and VOLT program administrator
- Attend Cecil County Chamber Legislative Luncheon
- Met with a manufacturer regarding Workforce Training Partnership program
- Met with the Cecil Business Resource Partnership group
- Attended Town of Elkton & Elkton Alliance Business Appreciation event
- Met with a manufacturer and received an update on new product
- Provided local property owner with requested information
- Facilitated conference call with Finance Chair and Baltimore County rep regarding finance programs

Agriculture Coordinator – Joanne Richart-Young
- Attended Chamber Government Relations meeting with guests Senators Hershey and Norman
- Held planning meeting for 2016 Annie’s Class
- Researching reduction/consolidation options for 2016 Annie’s Class
- Attended Chamber Government Relations meeting with guests Delegates Hornberger and Jacobs
- MPT’s Maryland Farm & Harvest series continues (www.mpt.org/programs/farm)
- Attended Maryland Rural Counties Coalition Economic Summit in Annapolis – 2016 Legislative Session
- Attended AMPS meeting with counterparts from around the state
- Attended Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Team meeting
- Attended Mount Harmon Bull & Oyster Roast & Northview Stallion Station Annual Open

Tourism Update - Sandy Turner
- Committee reviewed and rated 7 potential sites for a visitor center & office
Survey completed and summary report developed of sites
Chairing North East Chamber’s Nominating Committee and By Laws Committee
Developed holiday radio ad partnership
Planning late winter/early spring marketing
Collecting changes for visitor guide and 2016 calendar; email changes to sturner@ccgov.org
Attended Chesapeake Country Scenic Byways meeting
Made presentation to Council about economic and press impact of Bassmaster Elite
Wrote press release about tourism project awards

Tourism Office is looking for potential locations for their office. If anyone knows of a site that is in a prominent tourist location, please call our office at 410-996-6299.

Coordinator Update - Jason Zang
Delivered advertisements to industry publications
Provided site assistance to several prospects, ranging from small businesses to large manufacturers
Followed up with brokers relating to active prospects
Attended Cecil Chamber’s Legislative Preview Luncheon
Attended RESI Economic Outlook Conference at Towson University
Attended North East Chamber of Commerce luncheon
Began work on Office of Economic Development Newsletter for December

Subcommittee Reports:
Education/Workforce – Denise Davis/D’Ette Devine
School Board has been working with County Executive and Council on the Gilpin Project (part of CIP). Have schematic design to replace old school – new school will face middle school to create a campus feel. Plan will also increase parking at Cecil County Public Library.

Technology – Norman Gaither
Final Report on Incubator Feasibility Study is available – looking for feedback.

Land Use – Rupert Rossetti
Meeting on Friday to discuss the Maryland Strategic Plan and how it compares with Cecil County’s Strategic Plan for next year.

Finance – Bob Palsgrove
Looking at how to structure revolving loan funds.

Communications – JoAnn Dawson
Nothing new to report. There will be a Live Nativity put on by the 4H Club at Tailwinds Farms.

Council Report - Dan Schneckenburger, Alan McCarthy
Rezoning request on property in North East, auto salvage, backs up to CSX. Looks to be a very good opportunity for Economic Development.
Revenue Projections currently tracking at a small surplus; real estate and income revenues indicate a good economy in Cecil County.

**2015 Important Upcoming Events**

- Dec. 10th  NMTC CYAH  5-7pm @ Hurricane Grill
- Dec 18th  Dr Lewis Retirement & Economic Development Presentation
- Dec. 25th  Office Closed

*Save the date: Cecil Night in Annapolis January 14, 2016!*

**Summary**

- For Committee Chairs, there will be a brief budget meeting following this meeting.
- Cecil Night in Annapolis is January 14th from 6-8 pm with a special program from 3-5 pm in the Senate Office Building that we are hoping will be attended by several Senate leaders. Hope everyone will participate!
- Like to congratulate Mie Mie Joe Strickler as she has been elected to serve on the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.
- Wish everyone Happy Holidays!!

The report will be made available via OED website.

**Adjournment**

Mike Ratchford adjourned the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

*Our next EDC meeting will be on January 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at Cecil College, Room TC208.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Springel
Administrative Assistant