



**CALVERT COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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Board of Commissioners
Christopher J. Gadway
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Kelly D. McConkey
Steven R. Weems

**MINUTES
February 9, 2022
Virtual ZOOM Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony DeStefano, Stacey Hann-Ruff, Lisa Height-Gross, Larry Jaworski, Carrie Polk, Scott Russey, Kasia Sweeney, Commissioner Earl Hance

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Benton, Gwyn Novak*, Kevin Phillips*, Stephen Riffin

GUESTS PRESENT: Edsel Brown – Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce, Angella Hunter – Soil Conservation, Judy Mackall – Planning & Zoning, Angella Walters Small – College of Southern Maryland, Steven Wall – Maryland Department of Commerce

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Oberg, Hilary Dailey, Kathy MacAdams, Savannah Manning

***Excused Absence**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Larry Jaworski.

II. CALL FOR AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With a call for agenda revisions being made by Jaworski, and none being received, a **motion** was made by Tony DeStefano to approve the agenda as submitted. The **motion** was seconded by Carrie Polk, and carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2021, MEETING

On a **motion** by Jaworski, seconded by Polk and carried, the minutes from the December 8, 2021, meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of Julie Oberg, Director of Economic Development

Jaworski shared that the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) appointed Julie Oberg as Director of the Department of Economic Development, effective January 17, 2022. Oberg shared that she most recently served as Deputy Secretary for the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Prior to her tenure as Deputy Secretary, Oberg served an additional 10 years with MDA as Director of Communication and Public Information Officer and served as Director of Communications for the Maryland Department of the Environment. Oberg also brings a strong private sector business background. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park. As the Director of Economic Development, Oberg will oversee programs, activities and services

designed to attract, retain and expand strong, healthy and dynamic businesses, as well as agricultural and tourism initiatives that will complement Calvert County.

B. New EDAC Members

Kathy MacAdams shared that the BOCC approved and appointed three new EDAC Members: Susan Coumans, Vice President of M&T Bank; Michelle Goodwin, who recently concluded a 23-year career as Vice President of Advocacy and Community Engagement at College of Southern Maryland, and now serves as a consultant at GS Proctor & Associates; and Wesley Reed, owner of Reed Enterprises & Associates. Reed also works as a fire and rescue instructor at the University of Maryland and as a heavy apparatus director in Anne Arundel County. Their orientation is scheduled for March 10, 2022, and they will attend the EDAC's regular meeting on April 13, 2022. One vacancy remains on the EDAC.

C. ARPA Funding

MacAdams shared that Calvert County has received \$600,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding, and will receive an additional installment of \$600,000 at a later date. This money must be allocated by December 31, 2024. Please forward any suggestions on how to spend these funds to MacAdams.

D. EDAC Portal

Savannah Manning shared that the members-only EDAC portal is up to date with the latest member roster, the 2022 meeting schedule and more information. A brief demonstration was given on how to navigate the portal. Any questions or suggestions for the portal should be forwarded to Manning.

V. PRESENTATION – Edsel Brown

Edsel Brown, newly appointed Chair of the Board of Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce (SMMCOC), shared a presentation about the goals and direction of the SMMCOC.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2022 Job Fair

MacAdams reported that, in order to not compete with other local job fairs, together with limited success with in-person job fairs, the 2022 job fair has been indefinitely postponed. A survey was sent to the businesses that participated in the August 2021 job fair; the results indicated the majority of respondents were satisfied with their experience.

B. Future Business Leaders of America Competition - Update

MacAdams shared that, due to low turnout, the Future Business Leaders of America competition at Huntingtown High School has been postponed. More information will be provided as received.

C. Financial Disclosure Form Reminder

Manning provided a reminder that Financial Disclosure forms have been sent out by the BOCC and are due by March 31, 2022. A copy of the form is also available on the EDAC portal.

D. Member Engagement and Subcommittees (Update from January 2022 email)

Oberg reported on feedback received from the survey sent to EDAC members in December. Based on responses, the subcommittees are being shifted in order to optimize member engagement. The reorganization and re-invigoration of subcommittees is as follows:

- Workforce – Focus will be on brainstorming solutions for workforce issues across all industry sectors, promotion of job fairs and other resources, reporting on existing conditions “on the ground,” sharing best practices from other regions and providing feedback and advising Economic Development and the BOCC on findings.
- Small Business Support –The main objective will be to help assess the needs and challenges facing small businesses including start-ups, entrepreneurs, sole proprietorships, home-based and locally owned businesses with 10 or fewer employees. They will also brainstorm what resources, programs and outreach efforts could be deployed to assist these business owners and provide feedback and advise Economic Development and BOCC on their findings.
- Nominating – The nominating committee will continue to meet annually to make recommendations for EDAC’s chair and vice chair to present to the full EDAC membership.
- Zoning – The Zoning Subcommittee will continue to meet as needed to recommend and prepare EDAC responses on text amendments, zoning changes or master plan updates.

Each subcommittee will have a lead member who will work with staff to schedule any meetings or initiatives the group would like to tackle and each subcommittee will report back to the full EDAC. If you are interested in being a member or leader of one of the above subcommittees, please contact Danita Boonchaisri or MacAdams.

VII. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Commissioner Hance shared that the BOCC disagrees with the special event fees the county is charging the Tiki Bar for their opening weekend. The owners are exploring the possibility of hiring contracted security workers as opposed to county employed police officers.

MacAdams shared that the Calvert County Department of Economic Development, in coordination with the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce and the Calvert County Health Department, have organized a KN95 face mask distribution drive for local businesses. Calvert County-based businesses must register online to receive masks in increments of 20 for use by employees or customers. Businesses do not need to be a member of the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce to receive masks. Masks will be provided for free on a first-come, first-served basis. Business owners are encouraged to pre-order enough masks to support their staff and customers for a three-week period. Businesses must pre-order masks online at www.CalvertChamber.org or by calling the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce at 410-535-2577. Unscheduled pickups cannot be accommodated. Mask distribution will occur on Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m., beginning Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022, at the following locations:

- Northeast Community Center
 - 4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach
- Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center
 - 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick
- Southern Community Center
 - 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended, and no comment was taken.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2022, with location to be determined.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, a **motion** to adjourn was made Jaworski at 9:51 a.m. The **motion** was seconded by Scott Russey, and carried.