

St. Mary's County Economic Development Commission
Commissioner's Meeting Room, Chesapeake Bldg.
41770 Baldrige St., Leonardtown, Maryland
Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The July 23, 2025 Meeting of the Economic Development Commission was called to order at 6:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members in attendance were:

Curtis Brown
Brandie Edelen
Jacob Keller
Kenneth Russell
Lisa Colavito
Dr. Dale Moore
Leona Charles
Mark Robinson
Dr. Rupan Talukder
Richard Tarr

Guests in attendance included:

Chris Kaselemis, Director, St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development
Kellie Hinkle, Deputy Director, St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development
Sydney Garner, Agriculture & Seafood Manager, St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development
Lee Greely, Economic Development Specialist, St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development
Liz Mildenstein, Executive Director, Visit St. Mary's MD

Members not in attendance

Dr. Christine Bergmark
Dr. Asif U Dowl
Dr. Silvio Borrero-Caldas
Nicholas Hooper
Kenneth Russell

III. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes

Curtis Brown motioned to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2025, seconded by Lisa Colavito.

Yea: Curtis Brown, Brandie Edelen, Jacob Keller, Kenneth Russell, Lisa Colavito, Dr. Dale Moore, Leona Charles, Mark Robinson, Dr. Rupan Talukder, Richard Tarr

IV. Presentations

None.

V. New Business

A. Announcements

Chris Kaselemis, Director of St. Mary's County DED, informed the Commission that St. Mary's County Citizen Academy is seeking applications from interested citizens to attend the 10 week session to learn how County Government works.

The St. Mary's County Tech Handbook with over 200 local business resources included has been reprinted and is ready for distribution.

Mr. Kaselemis also announced that he is retiring and his last day with St. Mary's County Government will be July 31, 2025.

B. CEDS Related Updates - Workforce Development Initiatives

Lee Greely presented the Board with information on Workforce Development Initiatives that are supported through DED as outlined in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Topics included:

- Working with education and training partners to help focus efforts
- Strengthening existing and developing new internship, apprenticeship, and mentorship programs
- Ensure there is a pipeline of talent for all local businesses

C. Visit St. Mary's MD Update

Liz Mildenstein provided information to the Board on Visit St. Mary's MD which is the official destination marketing/management organization (DMO) for St. Mary's County. Their focus is on attraction development, marketing, and supporting tourism partners in their mission to deliver unique visitor experiences. Visit St. Mary's MD has a current 10-year agreement with the County that is revised annually.

D. Introduce Agriculture & Seafood Division Manager

Chris Kaselemis introduced the Board the Sydney Garner who was newly hired as the Agriculture & Seafood Division Manager. Ms. Garner formerly served as the Charles County Agriculture & Rural Development Manager.

E. Present Agriculture & Seafood Product Brand

Sydney Garner revealed the new agriCoast Brand that was identified as a goal of the CEDS to identify St. Mary's County products grown by a local farmer or produced by a cottage food business. The purpose of creating a Brand is to unify identity, strengthen market presence, support economic growth, educate and engage, and build long-term support. Staff is currently

focusing on Phase 1 which includes producer and retail/restaurant sign up, utilization of brand promotion local products, and general awareness of brand goals for industry professionals. Phase 2 will follow with creating a website and social media to connect consumers on where to buy local and using agriCoast to promote wholesale and local procurement.

VI. Public Comments

Dr. Dale Moore highlighted the pillars of the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission

- have a system in place to identify research and development opportunities
- workforce development
- leverage public-private partnerships
- develop brand

Lisa Colavito mentioned to the Board about the workforce development, Non-Profit Institute Small Business Development Center, Kids and Teen College, personal enrichment, and Makers Space at the College of Southern Maryland updates which can be found on their website or Facebook pages.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Curtis Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Leona Charles

Yea: Curtis Brown, Brandie Edelen, Jacob Keller, Kenneth Russell, Lisa Colavito, Dr. Dale Moore, Leona Charles, Mark Robinson, Dr. Rupan Talukder, Richard Tarr

Minutes taken by Lisa Ledman, DED.

Approved October 15, 2025