



Economic Development Commission - Jul 15 2026 Minutes

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Chesapeake Building Commissioners Conference Room, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, MD

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

Members present:

Curtis Brown

Dr. Asif U Dowla

Mark Harris

Matthew Burgan

Richard Tarr

Leona Charles

Jacob Keller

Dr. Dale L. Moore

Members not present

Nicholas Hooper

Dr. Rupan Talukder

Dr. Silvio Borrero Caldas

Lisa Colavito

St. Mary's County Economic Development Staff present

Cindy Greb, Director

Kellie Hinkle, Deputy Director

B. Welcome new member, Mark Harris

3. PRESENTATIONS

Southern Maryland Navy Alliance

Dr. Dale L. Moore and James Bolin, Executive Vice President, presented the EDC with information on the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) and the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission (MATC).

The SMNA is a non-profit private organization dedicated to increasing awareness, fostering collaborations and building partnerships with other Department of Defense affiliates, industry partners, nonprofits, and academic institutions that advance U.S. Naval Aviation at the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland.

The SMNA focuses on advocating for policy, programs, and fiscal resources that enhance the strategic importance and long-term viability for the installation components and surrounding community. This will help meet the Department of Defense and Joint warfare mission capabilities and readiness requirements globally while sustaining and growing the economic viability of the region.

The MATC was created to promote innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities, including the integration of space, aeronautics, and aviation industries into the economy of the State. Initially the MATC will develop a strategic plan with the goal to create designated aerospace and technology zones in the State.

[SMNA MATC July 2026 EDC Mtg - update 9 July 2026.pdf](#) 

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes

[Economic Development Commission - Apr 15 2026 - Minutes - Public - DRAFT - 041526.docx](#) 

I move to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2026 Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Moved by: Curtis Brown; seconded by: Asif Dowlah

Motion Carries

B. Resolution/By-law Updates

John Houser, Deputy County Attorney, informed the Commission that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted on July 14, 2026 to approve a Resolution to Amend Membership of the EDC. Current membership will not change, however when terms renew or expire, voting members will be appointed to fill industry/sector positions consisting of:

- (1) One (1) representative of the defense/commercialization of defense technologies industries;
- (2) One (1) representative of the unmanned and autonomous systems industries;
- (3) One (1) representative of the advanced manufacturing industries;
- (4) One (1) representative of the aviation and aircraft modification industries;
- (5) One (1) representative of the agriculture and aquaculture industries;
- (6) One (1) representative of the tourism industry;
- (7) One (1) representative of the small business community;
- (8) One (1) representative of the institutions of higher learning;
- (9) Three (3) other representatives with experience and knowledge relevant to the

economic development of St. Mary's County.

As well as the following non-voting ex officio members:

(1) One (1) designee from Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Patuxent River;
and

(2) One (1) designee from the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County may designate one (1) alternative with experience and knowledge relevant to the economic development of St. Mary's County to sit on the Economic Development Commission in the absence of any voting member.

[EDC - Resolution Amending Membership - APPROVED by CSMC - 071426.pdf](#) 

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Housing Solutions Discussion

Matt Burgan outlined his St. Mary's County 2030 Prosperity Strategy which he drafted compiling concerns from citizens of how St. Mary's County is approaching growth and also articulating the need for smart intentional growth. Mr. Burgan is actively seeing input to strengthen this document.

The EDC would like to see this information included in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Cindy Greb announced that as part of the approved FY27 Budget, the CEDS will begin an update and/or rewrite.

[M Burgan - THE ST. MARY'S 2030 PROSPERITY STRATEGY - White Paper - 071326.pdf](#) 

I move to review the St. Mary's County 2030 Prosperity Strategy and provide input to Mr. Burgan for further discussion at the October 2026 EDC Meeting.

Moved by: Curtis Brown; seconded by: Dr Dale Moore

Motion Carries

B. DED Program Updates

Ms. Greb announced that the Commissioners approved the FY27 Budget which includes funding to update the CEDS.

The St. Mary's 2050 Comprehensive Plan is at the Planning Commission Public Hearing stage. Once the Planning Commission has discussed and implemented it's input, the Plan will be forwarded to the Commissioners where a new Public Hearing process will start.

Staff attended the Housing Symposium hosted at St. Mary's College. This event included over 120 attendees from community stakeholders, academia, intuitional, County Government, realtors.

The Governor has created an Economic Competitiveness Sub Cabinet. In June, St. Mary's County was invited to share recommendations of how Maryland can become even more competitive and how our County can help Maryland become stronger. Highlights included our ecosystem and assets, there is no reason we can not become the State's

Hub for autonomy (Lighthouse Sector designation).

DED has process two Property Tax Incentive Agreements in the past months. Platform Aerospace is expanding into an additional 80,000 sqft. space adding about 200 jobs. MAXXPR plans to add 30-35 jobs to a renovated fast food restaurant that was sitting vacant.

Kellie Hinkle updated the EDC about participation in the SelectUSA Investment Summit, partnering with the Maryland Department of Commerce and other Maryland jurisdictions to participate in the highest profile event in the United States to facilitate business investment by connecting investors, companies, economic development organizations, and industry experts.

Ms. Greb announced the following Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) were renewed to continue partnerships with the Small Business Development Center and Visit St. Mary's. St. Mary's County also renewed it's Partnership Intermediary Agreement with Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) for 10 years.

105,000 attendees for the Air Show held at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Ms. Hinkle shared that the NHRA Nationals were held at Maryland International Raceway in Budds Creek. DED partnered with Visit St. Mary's to host a driver meet and greet event at the Barns at New Market which was well attended.

Ms. Greb shared that the Foreign Liaison Officer Program is doing well, organically growing stronger.

Ms. Hinkle announced the redesignation of the existing Opportunity Zones Program. DED is seeking nominations to present to the Governor for tax incentives to bushiness who are investing Capital Gains into opportunity funds in designated areas, St. Mary's County has 4 eligible areas through census tracks. Currently, DED is recommending 2 of those census tracks to move forward to the Governor.

Ms. Greb updated the EDC that the Navy will be releasing the updated ACUIZ and Noise Contours Study soon, which will include additional buffers. An Open House will be hosted at the Frank Knox Building on August 4th from 430 - 630, a RealID will be required to attend.

C. Sector Updates
No updates.

D. Next EDC Meeting will be on October 21, 2026 in person in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (video & audio)

6. ADJOURN

I move to adjourn the July 15, 2026 Economic Development Commission Meeting.

Moved by: Curtis Brown; seconded by: Dr Dale Moore

Motion Carries