

**Worcester County Economic Development Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

The Worcester County Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) met on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at Sunset Grille, 12933 Sunset Avenue, West Ocean City, MD 21842. Staff present: Kathryn Gordon, Interim Director, Kathy Shubert, Administrative Assistant. EDAB members present: Robert Fisher, Natoshia Owens, Ralph Shockley, William Sparrow, Thomas Terry. Commissioner present: Chip Bertino.

**Call to order:** Bob Fisher

**Minutes:** Billy Sparrow motioned to approve the October 17, 2018 minutes. Ralph Shockley seconded the motion.

**Director's Report:**

1. STEP UP – The focus this year for Ms. Mete and Ms. Gordon is on increasing the number of college students approaching graduation to submit internship applications. The application process has been moved from February to December, to allow students more time to submit an application when they are home from college during winter break. The interviews will be held in February for student placement. Ms. Mete is also planning on mixing up the camp sessions to the following levels: 1<sup>st</sup> level will be for first time campers who have never been there before, 2<sup>nd</sup> level for those who have attended previously. Ms. Mete will be visiting schools to talk about the program, and encourage participation. They are also working on getting transportation worked out with Hertrich in Pocomoke.
2. 2019 Southern Delmarva Economic Forecast Recap – The Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Lower Shore Economic Forecast at Salisbury University took place on Friday. Ms. Gordon and five other economic development directors from Delmarva presented their, 'Future Plans for the Southern Delmarva Economy.' Ms. Gordon was proud to speak about Worcester County and how each municipality has had a new business open in 2018. She focused on what Worcester has to offer, the successes and challenges, the workforce, and most importantly that we are a community that works together and strives to succeed at a local and regional level. Dawn Veatch spoke about the expansion plans at Salisbury Airport and how they are moving along with their goals. Overall it was a very positive forecast and Ms. Gordon was proud to hear about the successes from her colleagues.
3. New Property in Pocomoke - Ms. Gordon spoke to a gentleman today who purchased a building in Pocomoke, on US Route 113, and is looking for her help in getting tenants. The 11,000 square foot building has three separate units with gas available. The owner states the rent is affordable for a startup business and the building is located in the Enterprise Zone. The owner is flexible if one business is interested in occupying the

whole space. Kathryn connected the owner to people in the state and pushed the information out to the chambers as well.

Billy Sparrow asked for help in an effort to move Pocomoke City forward and to make it great again. Kathryn said she remains in contact with Dan Brandewie and Bobby Cowger on how WCED can assist the town in development plans and business opportunities. Natoisha Owens suggested that developing a strategic plan and community involvement could turn things around. Tom Terry volunteered to run an economic development analysis meeting to assess strengths and weaknesses and to determine how to capitalize on what they already have.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Billy Sparrow and seconded by Natoshia Owens.