

**Economic Development Authority
of
Lancaster County, Virginia
at
Chesapeake Bank
Minutes – September 17, 2015**

Members Attending: Alex Fleet, Ed Pittman, Bill Pennell and Joe Curry. Jeff Szyperski and Jackie Barrack were absent. Mr. Fleet was the Chairman in Mr. Szyperski's absence.

Others Present: Frank Pleva, Executive Director, Dr. Elizabeth Crowther, Rappahannock Community College and Lead Northern Neck, Stuart Bunting, Lead Northern Neck, Bill Warren, Lead Northern Neck and Lisa Hull, Northern Neck Planning District Commission.

Mr. Fleet called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

\$5,000 Grant Request from Lead Northern Neck

Dr. Crowther stated that the Lead Northern Neck program has been going on for three years. She stated that each year about 25 people are chosen to participate and the goal is to develop leaders in the community that will help advance the economic and social well being of the Northern Neck. She stated that the counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Middlesex and Westmoreland have all had participants. She stated that the participants spend nine days together and the objective is to build connections and develop solutions for the region. She stated that the area is losing young families, the schools' census is declining and the middle class is decreasing and those are some of the issues that the Lead Northern Neck program addresses. She stated that economic development issues are best tackled after building up the community and having strong leadership.

Mr. Bunting stated that the Lead Northern Neck program is in its 4th year and it is a proven program. He stated that the graduates from the previous years are active in maintaining relationships with each other as well as with current classes.

Mr. Warren stated that the Lead Northern Neck program was an excellent program and had been modeled after the Lead Virginia program.

Dr. Crowther stated that the charge is \$500 per participant and most companies pay for their employees. She stated that the program receives about \$13,000 from various grants and the total budget is approximately \$22,000. She stated that they are coming to the Economic Development Authority for \$5,000 for the program this year.

Mr. Curry stated that he thought it was a wonderful program with people sharing ideas and it was good for the area.

Mr. Pennell stated that Lancaster County's Comprehensive Plan does not really contain an economic development plan and the Lead Northern Neck alumni could help with that issue in future Comprehensive Plan reviews.

Mr. Pennell stated that he thought it was the first time that the EDA had received a request for the Lead Northern Neck program and asked what had changed.

Dr. Crowther replied that most of the money to help run the program in the past was DuPont grants through Visions.

Mr. Pennell asked if the Lead Northern Neck request would become an annual one.

Dr. Crowther replied yes.

Mr. Pittman asked who the new coordinator for the program was.

Dr. Crowther replied the coordinator is Marilyn Warren.

Mr. Fleet asked how they followed-up on the alumni.

Mr. Bunting replied that the alumni are invited back to meet the new class and attend the graduation each year and the response has been very good. He stated that some of the alumni speak at subsequent sessions and contacts are encouraged.

Mr. Pennell made a motion to approve the \$5,000 grant request from Lead Northern Neck. Mr. Pittman seconded the motion. **VOTE: 4-0.**

Request to Use EDA-Funded Oyster-Related Activities as Partial Match for Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Grant for the Virginia Oyster Trail Project

Mrs. Hull stated that her title was the Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator for the Northern Neck Planning District Commission. She stated that a lot of what she does has to do with product development, trails, etc. She stated that she is also involved in the Northern Neck Loan Program, which will lend eligible small businesses money for their development.

Mr. Pleva stated that Mrs. Hull has a regional grant for which she needs a local match. He stated that no funds are being requested and as a courtesy to the EDA, he wanted to present it to them.

Mr. Pennell stated that he thought it was a great way to maximize their previous grants.

Mrs. Hull stated that she would like a letter from the Economic Development Authority concerning the matter. She stated that she would need more paperwork, like time sheets in the future.

Mr. Pennell made a motion to approve the request for the Economic Development Authority funded contributions for the Oyster Trail Program to be used as a match for future grants. Mr. Curry seconded the motion. **VOTE: 4-0.**

July 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Pennell made a motion to approve the July 16, 2015 minutes. Mr. Pittman seconded the motion. **VOTE: 4-0.**

Financial Report

Mr. Pleva stated that the bank balance was \$102,859.04 at the end of August. He stated that for their information, he had spoken with Bonnie Haynie, Lancaster County Treasurer, and the Poorhouse Tract account balance was \$352,890.67 as of two days ago.

Mr. Pennell asked if the County had caught up with its payments to the EDA.

Mr. Pleva replied that he would check with Mrs. Stevens.

Mr. Pleva stated that Robinson, Farmer, Cox was not charging the EDA this year for its audit per Paul Lee.

Adjournment

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Pittman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. **VOTE: 4-0.**

Attest: _____
Frank A. Pleva,
Executive Director