

**ST. MARY’S COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

**INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE OF THE GROUP**

The purpose of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) is to provide the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County with advice and assistance concerning the development and implementation of a comprehensive economic development strategy to guide the diversification of the County’s future economy.

Each member of the Board shall be appointed for a term of office of three years. Members of the St. Mary's County Economic Development Commission during 2024 are as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Dr. Silvio Borrero Caldas	Member	6/30/2027
Lisa Colavito	Member, Vice Chair	12/31/2026
Trisha R. Post	Member	12/31/2024
Christine Bergmark	Member	Ex-officio
Gerald E. Meyerman	Member	6/30/25
Rick Tarr	Member	Ex-officio
Elizabeth Torgerson	Member	12/31/2025 (Resigned)
Curtis Brown	Member, Chair	6/30/2027
Dale Moore	Member	6/30/2025
Leona Charles	Member, Secretary	12/31/2027
Mahree E. Annan	Member	12/31/2026
Nathan Evans	Member	12/31/2025
Kenneth Russell	Member	12/31/2025
Elldwinia English	Member	12/31/2027

The following shall be ex-officio members:

- one (1) member from the Naval Air Station Patuxent River
- one (1) member from the St. Mary’s County Chamber of Commerce

**ACTIVITIES IN 2024 CALENDAR YEAR**

The EDC met three (3) times in 2024 to discuss the progress of implementing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), and to learn about other initiatives of the Department.

**Topics Discussed by the Economic Development Commission**

- January 17, 2024
  - Presentation of Agriculture and Seafood Related CEDs Progress
  - Review of 2024 Meeting Schedule
  - Chesapeake Bay Ferry Study Update
  - Workforce Attraction/Awareness Campaign Recap
  - Tech Transfer CEDs Project Update
  - Election of Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)

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- Approval of 2023 Annual Report
- April 17, 2024
  - CEDS Updates
    - Workforce Development & Talent Attraction
    - Tech Transfer, Development & Innovation
    - Local Agriculture, Forestry, & Seafood
    - Rural Development & Quality of Place
- August 21, 2024
  - CEDS Update
    - Local Agriculture, Forestry, & Seafood
    - Rural Development & Quality of Place
- October 16, 2024
  - Canceled-Lack of Quorum

**PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES**

The EDC’s primary mission is to help develop the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), monitor progress, and update the CEDS when necessary. The first CEDS was approved in 2017, with an update due five years later, in 2022. The 2017 CEDS was a very comprehensive document that was drafted by several outside consultants. The 2022 update did not require an in-depth dive. The consultant, 4<sup>th</sup> Economy, reviewed the preliminary work of the County’s Economic Development Commission (EDC) related to economic resilience and new initiatives and conducted stakeholder meetings to include focus groups to validate and refine the work of the EDC related to the economic development environment and the resilience solutions in identified areas. The consultant met with the DED team to understand identified new initiatives and review updated economic data and incorporate that data and information into the final report. The consultant advised on and submitted an action plan for DED to achieve its economic development resiliency solutions. The firm incorporated economic resiliency throughout the plan to reduce vulnerabilities in identified areas, compiled and organized existing new initiatives, incorporated new data from Select USA, and produced a final CEDS document. The EDC received the final update to the CEDS on January 18, 2023, and focused calendar year 2024 on monitoring year two initiatives to implement the 2022 Update.

**PLANS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

- The Commission will continue to meet on a quarterly basis the third Wednesday of the month.

\*\*2025 Meeting Calendar is as follows:

January 15, 2025  
July 16, 2025

April 16, 2025  
October 15, 2025

\*\*Commissioner and citizen attendance are always welcome.

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- The Commission will continue to provide feedback concerning the implementation of a comprehensive economic development strategy and share industry specific updates to guide the diversification and increase resiliency of the County’s economy.

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

- The Commission will continue to promote and discuss initiatives, projects, and programs as they relate to the St. Mary’s County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.