

**ST. MARY’S COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
2023 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 2023 are as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Dr, Silvio Borrero Caldas	Member	6/30/2024
Lisa Colavito	Member, Secretary	12/31/2026
Frederick J. Stewart	Member	6/30/2024
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, Chair	12/31/2025
Brooke Turner	Member	6/30/2023
Curtis Brown	Member, Vice Chair	6/30/2024
Dale Moore	Member	6/30/2025
Theresa Mitchell	Member	12/31/2023
Leona Charles	Member	12/31/24
Lilyanne Ohanesian	Member	12/31/2025

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 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

The EDC met four (4) times in 2023 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 18, 2023
 - Presentation of FINAL 2022 CEDS Update CEDS Process Update
 - Presentation of Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) Installation Resilience Program Grant Scope of Work
 - Election of Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)
 - Approval of 2022 Annual Report
- April 19, 2023

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- CEDS Update
- Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund Project Updates
- July 19, 2023
 - CEDS Update
 - Presentation on Southern Maryland 2030 Workforce Development
 - Update on progress of Rural Maryland Economic Development fund projects
 - Presentation on proposed excise tax incentive
- October 18, 2023
 - CEDS Update
 - Presentation on Town of Leonardtown Initiatives

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, 4th 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 2023 on monitoring year one 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.

**2024 Meeting Calendar is as follows:

January 17, 2024
July 17, 2024

April 17, 2024
October 16, 2024

**Commissioner and citizen attendance are always welcome.

- 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

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- 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.