

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2022

PRESENT

Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Danny DeMarinis (Mitre Corp), Bruce England (SWN), Maureen O'Shea Fitzgerald (OED Agribusiness Coordinator), Woody Jackson (Citizen), Dr. Jeffrey Lawson (CCPS), Sandy Maruchi-Turner (Tourism Manager), Steve Overbay (Acting Dir. of Admin), Michael Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Assoc.), Dr. Carl Roberts (BDC), Richard Starr (OED Coordinator), Mike Travers (Cecil Dancenter)

ABSENT

Joe DiNunzio (Artesian Water), Sandra Edwards (Acting Dir., OED), Jeff Emmons (Delmarva Power), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Sharon Kurfuerst (Christiana Care/Union), Bob Meffley (CC Council), Morgan Miller (CCPL), Robert Palsgrove (Citizen)

GUESTS

Debbie Brown (CC Chamber of Commerce), Michele Burch (Realtor), Bill Coutz (CC Council), Donna Culberson (CC Council), Scott Flanigan (CC DPW), Laura Hannan (FHNC), Harris Phone, Ed Jones (Northrop Grumman), Laura Metzler (CCPL), Mark Mortenson (Clene Nanomedicine), Becca Nappi (APG), John Ness (WCHC), Sharon Pelham (APGFCU), Jack Schammel (TEDCO), Jeff Sellers (SB Realty), Alan Sexton (SWN), Toni Sprengle (BDC), Scott Sturgill (The Peoples Bank), Maddy Voytek (MD Chamber of Commerce)

Call to Order & Welcome – Mike Ratchford

- Meeting called to order at 8:01 a.m.
- April 6, 2022, meeting minutes approved

Chairman's Report – Mike Ratchford

- Chamber hosted successful Legislative Breakfast
- Mark Mortenson is here with update on Clene Nanomedicine
- Maddie Voytek from MD Chamber of Commerce here with overview from Legislative Session

A Clene Nanomedicine Update was presented by Mark Mortenson, Chief Science Officer, Clene Nanomedicine, Inc.

- *Principal address in Principio Business Park, North East*
 - \$2M in improvements underway to achieve FDA licensure
 - Supply chain issues – hope to be in by August
 - Work in Human Studies -- Phase appropriate for manufacturing
- *Purchased building on Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton*
 - \$10's of millions in renovations/investment – final costs uncertain due to supply chain issues
 - Phase 1 Build Out: Offices, build own manufacturing devices – FDA compliant licensure
 - Expect fully designed by Sept. 2022, then start ordering process
 - Hope to be functional 2024 – demand for product
 - Possible 2025 - licensure process for validation year-long process
- *Phase 1: Safety Study*

- *Phase 2: Clinical Trials*
 - 8 yrs. ago began Phase One Safety Trials in Healthy People, then single dose in 3 different groups, multiple doses larger groups, FDA PERMISSION to go forward to Phase 2
 - Statisticians help design trials
 - Even if drug works -- If no substantial results at endpoint – then drug does not work
- *Finished Covid trials in Brazil – zinc silver materials*
 - Outbreak began April 2020
 - Product on shelf sold as dietary supplement in trials – positive results
 - Did registry trial in US, trial in Brazil – endpoint kept people out of hospitals
 - Unlocking data – statisticians involved
- *CNM Au8®– sold as dietary supplement version, not same as CNM Au8® (gold nanocrystals in suspension)*
 - Invented process -- Unique in patent world
 - Finished and reported Rescue ALS trial – open label extension – participants can continue with drug or placebo – 90% change over
 - Patients on placebo passed away, only lost 3 patients that were on drug
 - Positive outcome on patients that switched from placebo to drug
 - ALS aggressive disease – average life space 2-3 yrs. after diagnosis
 - Must supply drug to patients after trials are done for ongoing needs
 - Dozens on “Compassionate Use” – people who did not qualify for trials
 - Approaching 500 patients/year of exposure to drug – not a single adverse side effect
- *Closed out MS “Visionary” Trails*
 - Patients on disease modifying therapy – tamp down immune systems
 - Designed trial for 150 – enrollment half
 - Drug shows promise – gives patient function back
 - Plan unbinding MS Trial later this year
- *ALS Study*
 - Learned info from Australia trial
- *Phase 3 – Platform Trials – protocol approved by FDA – greater chance for patient to be on drug vs. placebo*
- *Clene Nanomedicine has 3 promising trials: Covid, MS, and ALS*
 - 100% confident will see favorable results; will learn great deal for future trials
 - Once Elkton facility up and running – 300-500 employees – will be making ALS product only
 - Plan to build another facility – will need 2,500-3,000 employees – MS larger population compared to ALS
 - Get middle and high schoolers involved – STEM, Science, and manufacturing careers
 - Translate into opportunities in manufacturing and stem/science careers
- *Parkinsons trial planned*
- *Anticipate Clene products will be used for every neurological disease – genetic or acquired*
- *Nanocrystals act like biological catalysts*

A Legislative Wrap Up was presented by Maddy Voytek, Government Affairs Associates, Maryland Chamber of Commerce

- Session started virtual then in person since February (1 Chamber stayed virtual)
- Next session may be in person provided pandemic does not mutate; some want hybrid sessions
- Will have new Governor, Senators, and Delegates next year
- Obvious Speaker and President different relationship – not communicating

- Paid Family Medical Leave passed – modeled after unemployment
 - Baseline is 12 weeks of paid leave, 24 weeks max – for serious medical conditions (personal or family member)
 - Regulations left up to Secretary of Labor – can change every 2 years
 - Amount can change up to 75% of contribution or as low as 25% of contribution
 - Payroll Deduction Cap set at 0.75% -- can change depending on fund need
 - Payroll Tax – paid by employee and employer (unless less than 15 employees)
 - Contributions start in 2023; leave can be taken in 2025
 - Expect to create questions/issues for years to come
- Redistricting Congressional maps had to be redone – new map slightly better
 - Not what Hogan Commission liked; map went into effect – campaigning began
 - Stress for employers – establish relationships with elected officials
- Positive – Gov. Hogan passed Retirement Tax Bill – over 65+, \$100K or less income
- Business personal property tax exemptions cap increased
- Nothing major on Workers Comp or Unemployment fronts
- Child Care – increasing access and availability to get people back to work
 - Scholarships to attend Day Care; waiting period removed
 - Funds established for day cares to increase number of seats, make improvements to facilities

Office of Economic Development Update – Richard Starr, Economic Development Coordinator

- Bainbridge Flag Raising - momentous occasion for Cecil County and economic growth in region. Governor Hogan, Sec. Mike Gill, County Executive and Council attended.
- Certified Cecil Grown Program – marketing program to provide Cecil's ag producers with marketing materials (17 farmers signed up)
- Enterprise Zone Expansion Application for Northrop Grumman submitted to Department of Commerce in mid-April, hoping approval in June
- MEDA's Annual Conference, Cambridge – OED/Tourism won Economic Development Marketing – Small Community Award for Tourism's *Winter Nights, Cecil Lights* campaign.
 - Congratulate Sandy Turner and staff
- May 18 – Economic Development Summit 2022- Rose Barn at Rosewood Farms
 - 8:00-11:30am – Contact OED if did not receive invite
- May 9-10 - Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond visiting County
- Fielding prospect inquiries – lots of interest in land
- Working on 3 marketing videos for business attraction and expansion
 - May be reaching out for existing video clips and/or access approval to your business for a video shoot

Administration Update – Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration

- Budget deliberations underway with County Council – vote on June 7
- Federal funding requests for multitude of projects
- Excited to hear update on Clene – investing in community with school system and college; continuing to grow in Cecil
- Acting Director of Administration role extended 4 months; Sandra Edwards extended as Acting Director, OED
- Bohemia State Park opened in County – Lt. Rutherford attended ribbon cutting
- Excited about Prospecting – lots of interest in County

- Bainbridge – happy for progress being made there

Good of the Cause:

Council Update – Bill Coutz

- Budget deliberations – should have budget passed within time constraints
- Glad to have Director Overbay extended for another 4 months

Workforce Update – Alan Sexton

- SWN hosting Cecil County Job Fair – May 12, 12-4pm, Singerly Fire Hall
 - 60 employers registered -- Spread word – hoping for good turnout

College Update – Dr. Mary Bolt

- May 14 – Cecil College Foundation Gala
 - Largest fundraising effort for scholarship and program support
- May 15 – In-person Graduation
- Bio Production Technology degree and certificate seeing interest

CCPS Update – Dr. Jeff Lawson

- 27 days left in school year

Chamber Update - Debbie Brown

- June 22 – Candidates Forum, Milburn Stone Theater

Communications Update – JoAnn Dawson

- Cream of the Crop Premier at Milburn Stone Theater, North East - May 20-21
- Trailer can be viewed on fairwindsstables.com or GBM films

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Next EDC Meeting will be on June 1, 2022; may be an in-person meeting. Details to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Springel
Administrative Assistant