King and Queen County
Economic Development Authority
Minutes
March 5th, 2026

A regular meeting of the King and Queen County Economic Development Authority was held March 5th, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the second-floor conference room in the Court and Administration Building, 242 Allen's Circle, King and Queen Court House, VA 23085.

Members Present: George Longest, Melinda Coleman, Joseph McGuire, Jesse Holmes

Staff Present: Kelly Evko, Vivian Seay, Tina Ammons, Resa Wilson, Dr. Carter

Call To Order

Chairman Longest called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Melinda Coleman and seconded by Joseph McGuire to approve the February 2026 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Citizens Comments

No comments were received.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Ammons provided copies of the February 2026 financial report. Ms. Ammons noted that the checking account balance is increasing, crediting HUB33 for performing well. Chairman Longest asked for recommendations regarding the surplus funds. The recommendation was to move a portion of the funds into the investment account.

Chairman Longest made a motion to move $40,000 from the checking account into the investment account. Melinda Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

No Chairman's report.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

EDA Scholarship Award Presentation

Two scholarship winners were selected by a workgroup using individual scoring sheets. The recipients were Mariia Smolina, owner of Art & Stitchery, and Stacey Richardson, owner of Planter's Grove. Both owners received a $1,500 scholarship to work with a marketing company who partnered with the EDA. The two firms partnered with the EDA: Consociate Media and Petite Taway. Art & Stitchery will work with Petite Taway, and Planter's Grove will work with Consociate Media.

Chairman Longest congratulated both winners. Certificates will be presented on March 6th at HUB33 since the winners could not attend the meeting in person but was able to do so virtually.

Bridging Communities- Director Julie Ellis: Update on Operations and Education Programs for Students

Julie Ellis provided an overview of Bridging Communities, the regional career and technical center located in New Kent County. Participating school divisions include Charles City, New Kent, West Point, Middlesex, King William, and King & Queen. Most programs are two-year programs, with nursing and emergency medical services being one-year programs. Programs are open to juniors and seniors, with one-year programs for seniors only. King and Queen currently sends 18 students. The programs are hands-on and relevant to each specialty area. EDA members expressed they were not aware of how extensive the programs are or how they support economic development. Chairman Longest noted that as an EDA, we could be helpful to these programs.

Local Update - School Division

Dr. Carter, School Superintendent, provided the following update:

a. Last Saturday, April 28th, 11 schools participated in an All-Day drone competition held at the old King and Queen Elementary School. This was the first drone competition to be held by King and Queen.
b. Spring Break is from March 30th through April 3rd.
c. An indoor track student is going to States. One student placed 5th in the States for wrestling.
d. Read Across America was happening this week.
e. School Board and Dr. Carter attended the Art show at Hollyfield Manor in King William. J. Davis was a judge. King and Queen won 3rd place for the Middle School category.
f. Chairman Longest thanked Dr. Carter for the report. Dr. Carter thanked the EDA for having her and for their support.

Update from County Administrator

Vivian Seay, County Administrator, provided the following update:

a. Budget workshop has been the main focus lately.
b. CID workshop will be in May. This will be a 2-part budget: Operating and Capital Projects. The Board would like to get a better handle on the ongoing and the future projects of the County.
c. Working towards a Capital Improvement program for the County.

Update from Community Programming and Tourism

Erin Lazar provided the following updates:

a. Bay Transit has been successful with 369 rides since King and Queen has gotten its own dedicated bus.
b. Images & Art was the Business Spotlight of the Month.
c. May 16th, 2026 from 10 am to 2 pm will be VA 250 celebration on the Courthouse Green.
d. Hub 33 has had a new membership.

Update from Kelly Evko, Director of Economic Development

a) There is an Agrotourism Conference in Virginia Beach on March 18th. Stacey Richardson will be attending.
b) Would like to work on a possible budget for the EDA at an upcoming meeting. Possibly the May meeting.
c) GOVA Economic Development Summit will be on April 21st at the Mary Washington Dahlgren Campus. King and Queen County EDA is a Bronze Sponsor for the event. This would be a beneficial if anyone would like to attend. The CEO from Rappahannock Electric will be speaking at the summit.
d) VA Internships is a helpful resource for businesses in the County. They work with businesses but also provide funds up to $75,000 for the workforce. Partners and representatives from the schools were given a tour of Fulcrum.
e) Planning on attending the Career Day at Central High School which will be on March 27th from 12pm to 3pm.
f) Planning on attending the VEDA Conference.
g) Startup VA can help with entrepreneurship. It is a free online educational tool. They are able to use the new branding images on the King and Queen County EDA's page.
h) VEDP site training will be held next Thursday. This will show how to get our current and new sites onto the VEDP website. There is also Business Ready Sites training in the works as well.

EDA Mission Statement Discussion

Kelly Evko noted the absence of an EDA mission statement, which is needed for projects and grant applications. This was not set or discussed during any of the strategic planning events. After brief discussion, consensus was for anyone with a possible mission statement suggestion to submit it to Kelly Evko within the next week. Ms. Evko will compile them. Resa Wilson will develop an anonymous survey to be sent out to the EDA members and staff for all to vote for their favorite. Chairman Longest emphasized the task is time sensitive and we need to get this accomplished as soon as possible.

Old Business

a. Member Marketplace Site Discussion
    a. Chairman Longest reviewed the website and was impressed.

New Business

a. EDA own Properties Discussion- Site links for review
    a. Chairman Longest brought up that some of the properties owned by the EDA did not make the Timmons list while another did barely make it. The EDA needs something more definite for the properties it owns and have a plan for them for the future. The plan could be trying to sell, rezone or something else. The EDA needs to show the Board of Supervisors we have a direction we are trying to go and show we are making an effort to accomplish it. Kelly Evko mentions the EDA needs to decide what information is needed to help facilitate the discussion but also help in making the decision.

b. Update on Timmons Project
    a. Discussion deferred until May when more resources will be available and time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m. to the April 2nd, 2026 meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Courts and Administration Building, 242 Allen's Circle, King and Queen Court House, VA 23085.

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Jesse Holmes, Secretary