

Delaware CEDS

*a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for the State of Delaware*



Delaware CEDS – a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office
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KENT REGION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

October 26, 2005

7:00–9:00 p.m.

PolyTech Adult Education Conference Center, Woodside

Committee Members Present: Debra Singletary, Mark Pugh, Steve Thompson, Dan Wolfensberger, Sara Keifer, Mike Coverdale, Steve Speed, Ed Perez, Janice Dewey

CEDS Support Staff: David Edgell (facilitator), Troy Mix, Bernard Dworsky, Cori Gaul

Number of Public Participants Present: 1

Troy Mix, University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration (IPA) staff, opened the meeting by introducing members of the committee, public, and IPA staff. He proceeded to review the work completed at the previous meeting and discussed how that information would be used during tonight's meeting.

Facilitator David Edgell began the first objective of the meeting by leading the committee in a discussion about a draft vision statement that was developed from the information the committee had generated at the previous meeting. The committee made several changes and came to a consensus on the following vision statement for Kent County:

While capitalizing on and preserving its small-town, agricultural, and historic characteristics and its status as the home to major government and higher-education facilities, Kent County will, through

- infrastructure improvements
- a diverse and qualified workforce
- unified public and private stakeholders

support an economy that fosters and maintains a diverse set of industries providing residents with quality jobs.

The committee then moved on to edit draft goals, based on the information they generated at their last meeting. They made changes to these goals and added a sixth goal, relating to infrastructure and transportation. After editing the goals as a group on a flipchart, the committee members were asked to vote on the three goals that are most important to Kent County. The goals for the region, along with the voting results in parentheses, are listed below:

1. Maintain and attract a diverse business and industrial base in Kent County. (9)
2. Maintain and foster the development of a workforce with the resources to maintain high-paying jobs. (9)
3. Ensure that economic-development activities respect those characteristics that make Kent County a unique place to live and work. (1)

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4. Provide Kent County residents with access to a sound and affordable housing stock. (0)
5. Enable the creation of active unified public- and private-sector partnerships. (1)
6. Provide Kent County with adequate infrastructure and transportation resources to support economic development. (7)

The committee then worked to develop objectives based on these goals. Groups of three members were each assigned two goals to find and for which to list objectives. The groups worked to define the objectives that would be included under each goal and placed these objectives on flipcharts throughout the meeting room. At the conclusion of this process, David Edgell reviewed the results with all attendants.

Troy Mix concluded the meeting by announcing future CEDS meeting times and locations. The next Kent County meeting is tentatively planned for November 16th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Delaware State University. Due to committee members' conflicting schedules, alternative times are being researched. He also stated that the next State Committee meeting will be held November 2nd from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the DelTech facility in Georgetown. Bernard Dworsky commented that regional committee members are encouraged to attend State Committee meetings and that the County Chairpersons were fulfilling their responsibility to represent the county at the state level.
