

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR THE LOWER EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND
SERVING SOMERSET, WICOMICO AND WORCESTER COUNTIES

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2010

David MacLeod, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, March 18, 2010, at the Delmarva Discovery Center in Pocomoke, Maryland at 6:40 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: James East, Mike McCready, James Ring and Paul Ward Somerset County Commissioners; Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County Council; Linda Busick, Louise Gulyas, Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioners; Dennis Williams, Princess Anne Town Council; Gary Comegys, Salisbury City Council; Bob Hawkins, Pocomoke City Council. A quorum was present.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Sam Boston, Somerset County Administrator;

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly, John Donegan, Kristen Kerchner and Riggan Johnson.

Guests in attendance: Scott Warner, Mid-Shore Regional Council; Keith Iott, Iott Architecture & Engineering; Brad Hastings, Becker Morgan Group; Devon Dodson, Maryland Energy Administration.

On a motion from Mrs. Busick, seconded by Mr. Shockley, the minutes for the meeting of December 10, 2009, were approved as written.

Maryland Energy Administration's Energy Package

Devon Dodson informed the Tri-County Council about some of the Maryland Energy Administration's programs. He discussed Project Sunburst which makes grant funds available to governments and low interest loans available for businesses and industries to make buildings energy efficient.

There is legislation pending that will mandate that 20% of the energy used by the state be from renewable sources. On April 12 the Maryland Energy Administration and the Department of Natural Resources will be meeting in Ocean City to discuss wind options.

Old Business

Tri-County Multi-Purpose Center Update

Mr. Keith Iott from Iott Architecture & Engineering discussed the drawing for the space in the building other than for Shore Transit. The building is full and space design approvals have been

received from all the agencies. The rent is \$16 per square foot. The roof will be entirely
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replaced. The roof bid package will be going out in a few weeks and the construction bid package will be going out in a few months.

Mr. Brad Hastings from the Becker Morgan Group discussed the drawings for the Shore Transit portion of the building, the maintenance facility and the layout of the grounds.

Taste of the Eastern Shore Legislative Event

Mrs. Gulyas reported that the Taste of the Eastern Shore Legislative Event, despite being moved back one week due to the snow storm, was attended by 188 people. There were 16 sponsors which contributed \$10,000 to the cost of the event.

2010 Legislative Agenda

As the 2010 Legislative session is still going on, Chair MacLeod asked if there were any other issues that the Tri-County Council member feel need to be addressed. There were no issues.

New Business

Budget for FY11

Mrs. Kerchner stated that this is the first draft of the FY11 budget. The amount of funding from both the Maryland Transit Administration and the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation will not be finalized until closer to the beginning of the fiscal year. This draft budget reflects flat funding from both of these agencies. We are anticipating a 25% increase in healthcare costs. The contribution to the Maryland State Retirement Plan will increase from 8% to 11%.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington reported that requests have been received for letters of support. Bloo Surf has requested a letter in support of their broadband project. On a motion from Mrs. Busick, seconded by Mr. Shockley, the Tri-County Council voted 9 in favor and 3 opposed to give Bloo Surf a letter of support for their project. Somerset County has requested a letter of support be sent to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for oyster restoration. On a motion from Mrs. Gulyas, seconded by Mr. Shockley, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to send a letter in support of the oyster restoration project to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Pennington reported that Chair MacLeod has asked that a quarterly newsletter reporting on Tri-County Council activities be implemented. A draft of the newsletter was distributed for comments. The newsletter will be for external distribution and will be going out soon.

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Mr. Pennington noted that he will be attending the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Conference in Philadelphia where he will be part of the group that will be demonstrating the Geo-Dash project to a regional audience and EDA officials.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mrs. Gulyas, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.