

Tri-County Council
for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland
Serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2019

Larry Dodd, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at the Washington Inn & Tavern in Princess Anne, MD at 6:00 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Charles Laird, Randy Laird, and Eldon Willing, Somerset County Commissioners; John Cannon, Larry Dodd, and Josh Hastings, Wicomico County Council; Joe Mitrecic, Worcester County Commissioners; Dennis Williams, Princess Anne; Doug Gosnell, Sharptown; Esther Troast, Pocomoke City; Delegate Wayne Hartman, and Delegate Charles Otto, and Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Senator Addie Eckardt, Doug Taylor, Somerset County Administrator; and Laura Hurley, Wicomico County Administrator.

Proxy Ballots were submitted for Craig Mathies and Rex Simpkins. A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Greg Padgham, Brad Bellacicco, John Donegan, Dione Shaw, and Becca Webster.

Guests in attendance: Mindie Burgoyne, Maryland Dept. of Commerce, Memo Diriker, Salisbury University; Melissa Kelly, Senator Van Hollen's Office, Scott Warner, Mid-Shore Regional Council, and Weston Young, Wicomico County.

Larry Dodd thanked everyone for attending and introductions followed. Mr. Dodd asked for a motion to approve the March 20, 2019, Tri-County Council minutes as submitted. On a motion from John Cannon, seconded by Doug Gosnell, the minutes were approved.

Dr. Memo Diriker spoke briefly about the history and purpose of CEDS for the Lower Shore from 2003 to present. He advised meetings with stakeholders throughout the region were held from December through May to gather information about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth, and threats to the regional economy. He explained the new CEDS would be supported by an interactive strategic dashboard that will allow readers to query deeper into a number of economically important datasets as they review the document. The new CEDS has a focus on marketing and resiliency planning.

Mr. Dodd asked about the involvement of Emergency Management in the planning of the CEDS, noting that the strategy should not be "if" but "when" natural disasters occur. Memo concurred, adding that resiliency planning also focuses on events like a large company leaving the area. EDA recognizes that non-natural catastrophic events impact the economy and a strategic plan to buffer their impact should be a component of the plan.

Senator Carozza asked if the plan would address health care issues and the increased senior population in the area. This can be seen as a challenge and an opportunity.

Old Business

A. Shore Transit – Brad Bellacicco

- Funding: FTA/MTA FY19 are almost spent, \$61K in Preventive Maintenance (PM) funds left. FY20 Annual Transportation Plan (budget) feedback from MTA is to expect the same funding including the PM & Mobility and Operations grants. Final numbers by the 2nd week of July. Department of Human Services (DHS) Grant paperwork at DHS Procurement \$1,665,629. To remain within budget, service cuts are in place and more in October depending on funding. Plan in place to reach the required new minimum wage targets.
- Routes: Increase in ridership especially to and from Ocean City for seasonal jobs. MPO funded a study on increasing ridership. Meeting with BEACON next week.
- Vehicles: Revenue fleet at forty-two; FY19 Capital 2 medium buses purchase pending approval of the new statewide contract. FY20 expecting three small medium buses and three small buses. Also asking for \$1 million for three small and three medium buses from FTA nationwide grant. This requires a Resolution to allocate \$200K for matching this grant.
- Staff: Currently eighty-nine employees, of which fifty-five are drivers (four in training). Three new dispatchers were hired, but then quit after one or two days last month. A new dispatcher started Monday, and is still here on day three. A new mechanic starts on Monday, and they are still trying to find two to four more drivers and a dispatcher.
- Facility: Since the contractor's visit, there has been no problems with the bus wash.

Draft FY20 Budget - John Donegan:

Mr. Donegan presented the Final Draft FY20 Budget for Tri-County Council. A motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Joe Mitrecic and seconded by Josh Hastings. Motion carried and budget approved.

New Business:

Chairman Larry Dodd welcomed Councilwoman Esther Troast to the Tri-County Council Board, appointed by Pocomoke City to replace Councilman George Tasker. Ms. Troast gave a brief background, advising she served on the Tri-County Council in the past, and looked forward to working with everyone again.

Status of RMPIF- Greg Padgham:

Tri-County Council is finalizing FY19 end of year reporting and applying for funding of \$411,000 again in FY20. The focus this year will be on economic development projects and developing a regional branding tool that promotes the entire region. First steps are the color brochure CEDS and a new logo for the Lower Eastern Shore, which is separate from the Tri-County Council logo. Focus this year will be on updating and expanding the Tri-County Council website, in addition to having the CEDS and interactive dashboards, the website will dynamically change to feature economic indicators, showcase local communities, local businesses and business owners, and link to related resource websites. Feature content will come from contributors across the Lower Eastern Shore. The first phase of developing the website should last approximate one year, with a total of three phases planned.

Eastern Shore Business Summit – Becca Webster

Becca Webster, Lower Shore Workforce Director, provided a handout. The purpose of this event is to provide leaders of the Delmarva Business Community insight on current issues, concerns and opportunities that impact their companies. The Eastern Shore Workforce Team in collaboration with Salisbury University and Eastern Shore SHRM is hosting the free all-day event on August 8, 2019, at Salisbury University. Registration begins July 1st. Ms. Webster gave a synopsis of the current agenda and stated that the Workforce Team is currently looking for a keynote speaker.

- Kelly M. Schulz was suggested (wealth of knowledge)
- DORS DLLR Salisbury University Eastern Shore SHRM

Youth Programs – Becca Webster

The Workforce Director provided a brief overview and status update

Out-of-School Youth Program Procurement: The estimated amount available to award for Program Year 2019 is \$600,000. LSWA intends to select more than one sub-grantee, with no single award expected to exceed \$250,000.

Summer Youth Employment Programs: The SYEP programs are funded by two state grants totaling \$192,170. The two state grants are separate from WIOA funds, and each program creates partnerships with local businesses and non-profits to provide work experience opportunities for area youth.

Youth Program Manager: The Workforce Director announced that the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland is seeking a Youth Program Manager for its' workforce division. The job description can be found under procurement on the Tri-County Council website. (www.lowershore.org)

TCC Regional Water and Sewer Committee Restructuring - Call for membership – Greg Padgham

Mr. Padgham advised the Water and Sewer Committee is being reinvigorated and restructured to address the concerns of the residents throughout the Lower Eastern Shore. The Executive Committee will meet on June 27, 2019 to set the agenda and membership for the larger Infrastructure Committee of twenty to thirty people from across the Lower Eastern Shore. USDA's Regional Office has contacted the Tri-County Council and is interested in hosting a Water and Sewer Summit on the Lower Eastern Shore later in the summer. The efforts of the Water and Sewer Committee will strategically identify the needs throughout the area, and plan for infrastructure development to remedy those problematic areas.

Resolution No. 19-02 – Brad Bellacicco

Mr. Bellacicco introduced Resolution No. 19-02 to the board for a vote to approve TCC Shore Transit Division to obtain \$1,000,000 grant funding under the Federal Transit Administration's FY19 Bus and Bus Facility Grant to purchase needed replacement buses.

On a motion from Joe Mitrecic and seconded by Charles Otto, the resolution was approved, and signed by Mr. Larry Dodd, Chair, on June 19, 2019.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.