

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2010

David MacLeod, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, September 16, 2010, at the Holiday Inn in Salisbury, Maryland at 6:10 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: James Ring, Somerset County Commissioners; John Cannon, Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County Council; Linda Busick, Bud Church, Louise Gulyas, Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioners; Delegate Rudolph Cane; Delegate Norman Conway; Delegate Carolyn Elmore; Dennis Williams, Town of Princess Anne.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Renee Stephens, MD Dept of Business and Economic Development.

A quorum was present.

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

Guests in attendance: Scott Warner, Mid-Shore Regional Council; Charles Cawley, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency Maryland; Lisa Fitzgerald and Jack Tarburton, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

On a motion from Mrs. Gulyas, seconded by Mrs. Sample-Hughes, the minutes for the meeting of June 17, 2010, were approved as written.

USDA Presentations

Mr. Tarburton gave the Tri-County Council an overview of the programs, including grants and loans, available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development.

Mr. Cawley gave the Tri-County Council an overview of the programs available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency.

Old Business

New Facility Update

Mr. Donegan reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the building renovation for areas not occupied by Shore Transit, will be posted in a few weeks. Renovation is expected to take about six months and is being planned to begin in November. The RFP for the renovations to

the Shore Transit occupied area is under review by Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and September 16, 2010
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will be posted once MTA has approved. The RFP for the site work and the Shore Transit maintenance facility will follow.

Mr. Donegan is planning to have the site prepped over the winter so it is ready for concrete and asphalt when the weather warms in the spring.

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Johnson reported that grants have been received from MTA for \$3 million for operating expenses and \$965,000 for capital improvements. Funding for FY11 was flat. Ridership for FY10 has dropped off. The capital purchases will include 6 buses, 2-way radios, GPS units, tires and maintenance equipment.

Mr. Johnson reported that a public hearing is scheduled for September 23. Topics will include:

- 5311F grant – 50/50 grant program for transporting passengers from Ocean City to Salisbury to Baltimore to access other transportation
- Expansion of deviated Fixed Route program
- Reduction of some Saturday routes due to low ridership
- Ride for free the first Saturday of the month starting in November

Mr. Johnson stated that Greyhound has buses coming in several times a day from both Wilmington and Norfolk and one bus per day goes to downtown Baltimore.

2009-2010 Budget Review

Mrs. Kerchner reported that the year-end Budget Review for FY10 was included in the meeting packet.

2011 Budget Approval

Mrs. Kerchner reported that the FY11 Budget was included in the meeting packet for review and approval. On a motion from Mr. Shockley, seconded by Mrs. Busick, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the FY11 Budget as presented.

PAX River Visit

Mr. MacLeod reminded the Tri-County Council that the visit to Patuxent River Naval Air Station is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22. The bus will leave the One Stop Job Market in Salisbury at 7:30 am, the boat will leave Hooper's Island at 9:30 am and we will arrive at Pax River about 10:15 am. We will return to Hooper's Island about 4:00 pm and will be back to Salisbury about 6:00 pm. There will be about 60 people from the mid and lower shore on the trip.

New Business

Regional Councils' Joint Meeting

Mr. Pennington explained that in prior years we have held a joint meeting with either one or both of the other Eastern Shore regional councils. Due to budget constraints the Upper Shore did not participate last year. This year both we and the Mid-Shore Regional Council have concerns about the cost. Following discussion, the Tri-County Council decided to eliminate the joint meeting this year. They did suggest that a joint meeting during the Maryland Association of Counties meeting in January be investigated as this would be less costly as most of the Tri-County Council members attend this event.

Maryland Broadband Board Representation

Mr. MacLeod stated that the Tri-County Council is a member of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC) and has a seat on the Board. For the last two years Mr. Pennington has been the Tri-County Council representative. MDBC is having its annual meeting this fall and is requesting information about who will be the Tri-County Council representative for the coming year. On a motion from Mrs. Gulyas, seconded by Mr. Ring, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Pennington as the Tri-County Council's representative on the MDBC Board for the coming year.

Mr. Shockley stated that there would be an announcement by the State in regards to Broadband funding on September 17 at 10:00 am. MDBC is now working along Route 113 in Worcester County laying fiber from Pocomoke to Selbyville. Bloosurf, the company who acquired Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative, received a grant for \$3.2 million to provide last mile service.

Other Business

There was no other business.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Shockley, seconded by Mrs. Gulyas, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.