

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2011

Louise Gulyas, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, December 8, 2011, at the Holiday Inn in Ocean City at 6:10 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston and Craig Mathies, Somerset County Commissioners; Bob Culver, Wicomico County Council; Jim Bunting, Bud Church, Merrill Lockfaw and Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioners; Senator Jim Mathias; Dennis Williams, Town of Princess Anne Commissioner; Laura Mitchell, City of Salisbury Council; Don Malloy, Pocomoke City Council.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Doug Taylor, Somerset County; Gerald Mason, Worcester County; Renee Stephens, Maryland Dept of Business and Economic Development.

Mr. Doug Taylor had Mr. Charles Fisher's voting proxy. Mr. Merrill Lockfaw had Mr. Jim Purnell's voting proxy. A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly, Barry Brittingham, John Donegan, Riggan Johnson, Milton Morris and Patricia Tiger.

Guests in attendance: Russell Blake, Pocomoke City; Bill Hickman, Debbie Hickman; Sarah Bunch, BEACON at Salisbury University; Bill Badger, Worcester County EDC.

On a motion from Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Shockley, the minutes for the meeting of September 22, 2011, were approved as written.

Old Business

Tri-County Multi-Purpose Center Update

Mr. Donegan reported that the renovation will be completed shortly and occupancy could begin as early as December 15. The two offices in Snow Hill are scheduled to move the first week in January. The One Stop Job Market is scheduled to move the third week of January.

As part of the front parking lot project, the fountain will be drained and filled in to become a bio retention area. The contractor has gotten a determination that the bio retention area will not need a liner. This is a savings of \$80,000 on the project. The parking lot's first coat of asphalt will be going down this month rather than as projected in the spring due to an asphalt plant staying open late for a road project.

The RFP for the Shore Transit maintenance facility is almost complete and will be going out in a

few weeks. Bidders will have 45 days to respond.
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Shore Transit Update

Mr. Johnson reported that for the first quarter of FY12, Shore Transit is on budget.

Shore Transit staff is currently working on the FY13 Transportation Plan which is due to Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) shortly and making plans for the move to the new facility.

Mr. Johnson reported that the \$1 Saturday program, which ran for six months, increased ridership by 6,000 riders for the period. As this program has been successful in increasing ridership, the Tri-County Council members expressed interest in continuing it. Following discussion, on a motion from Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Culver, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to continue to have \$1bus rides on Saturdays.

Lower Shore Visioning

Ms. Sarah Bunch from BEACON at Salisbury University, stated that in the past visioning has been done for several years at a time for the individual counties but now the visioning is being done for the region. This is a collaborative effort by Salisbury University, Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tri-County Council. The final visioning meeting will be held next week. BEACON has begun working on compiling the committee reports into a single document, a draft of which will be presented at the Economic Forecast Meeting on January 19.

New Business

2011 Citizenship Award

Mrs. Gulyas announced that the 2011 Citizenship Award was being presented posthumously to Bob Hawkins. Accepting the award on behalf of the Hawkins family was Debbie and Bill Hickman, his daughter and son-in-law.

“Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event

Mrs. Gulyas noted that the “Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis. Planning is well underway but some additional sponsors are still needed.

TCCLES and Mid-Shore Regional Council Lunch

Mr. Pennington reported that the Tri-County Council and the Mid-Shore Regional Council have arranged a joint lunch for their members on January 5 during the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) conference at the Hyatt in Cambridge. The MACO lunch ticket will get you in but please let us know if you are planning to attend so that MACO can plan the set up accordingly. This is an informal event with no agenda, just a chance to get together and talk.

State Ethics Commission

Mr. Pennington reported that the Tri-County Council has been contacted by the State Ethics Commission. Tri-County Council members are required to file a disclosure statement and several members are not in compliance. Filing information is in the meeting packet.

Election of 2012 Executive Board

Mrs. Gulyas reported that the Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of officers for 2012.

Craig Mathies	Chair
Sheree Sample-Hughes	1 st Vice Chair
Jim Purnell	2 nd Vice Chair
Jerry Boston	3 rd Vice Chair
Rick Pollitt	Secretary
Merrill Lockfaw	Treasurer
Senator Jim Mathias	At-Large
Louise Gulyas	Immediate Past Chair (Non-Voting)

She asked if there were any nominations from the floor and there were none. Mr. Shockley made a motion to close the nominations, which was seconded by Mr. Boston.

On a motion from Mr. Church, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the nominated slate of officers for 2012.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Shockley, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.