

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2012

Craig Mathies, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, June 21, 2012, in the Henson Center at University of Maryland Eastern Shore at 6:05 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston and Charles Fisher, Somerset County Commissioners; Bob Culver and Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County Council; Madison Bunting, Merrill Lockfaw and James Purnell, Worcester County Commissioners; Shanie Shields, Salisbury City Council; Tracey Cottman, Pocomoke City Council.

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

Mr. Gerald Mason had Mrs. Louise Gulyas' and Mr. Bud Church's voting proxies. Mrs. Shanie Shields had Mrs. Laura Mithchell's voting proxy. A quorum was present.

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

Guests in attendance: Jim Edward, Shawn Garvin, Linda Miller, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Royden Powell, Maryland Department of Agriculture.

On a motion from Mrs. Sample-Hughes, seconded by Mr. Boston, the minutes for the meeting of March 15, 2012, were approved as written.

### **Update on Chesapeake Bay Restoration**

Mr. Shawn Garvin with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), discussed water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. In the past, the EPA was working to get pollutants out of the water and now they are trying to stop pollutants before they get in the water. In 2010, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) strategy planning went into effect and Maryland's strategy was received in March 2012. By 2017, 60% of the practices outlined in the strategy should be enacted and 100% of the practices by 2025. Two year goals are in place to keep track of progress toward the 2025 goal. Water quality is the determining factor for future decisions.

### **Old Business**

#### **Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center Update**

Mr. Pennington reported that work on the building and the front parking area has been completed

except for a few punch list items which should be completed shortly.  
June 21, 2012  
Tri-County Council Minutes  
Page 2

He encouraged all the Tri-County Council members to come see the building.

### **Shore Transit Update**

Mr. Johnson reported that as of April 30, operating expenses are at 84.75% of budget. Fuel prices declining some have helped. There have been 339,000 riders through April 30 and he is projecting 407,000 for the year.

Mr. Johnson reported that Shore Transit has applied for a \$407,000 grant to purchase 6 buses and a van with a lift. An application was also made to the Maryland Bikeways Program for \$7,000 for bike racks for on the buses and at stops.

There were 2,892 riders that used the shuttle bus during the three day Wicomico County Tourism Pork in the Park event.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has approved the awarding of the Shore Transit maintenance facility and bus yard contract to Harkins Construction. The Tri-County Council attorney is currently reviewing the construction contract.

### **LSWA 5 Year Plan**

Mr. Morris reported that 190 people have completed training programs this year and another 20 will finish by June 30.

Mr. Morris reported that Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) guidelines require Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) to develop 5 Year Plans in accordance with state criteria. LSWA has developed such a plan. It is available for review on the Tri-County Council website and is subject to public comments.

### **Grand Opening of TCC Multi-Purpose Center**

Mr. Pennington reported that the Grand Opening of the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center will be held on Monday, June 25. The Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. with Senator Ben Cardin as the Keynote Speaker. The Business Afterhours is scheduled for 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Local businesses from all three counties will be providing the food and beverages.

### **New Business**

#### **Budget Amendment for FY12**

Mr. Pennington explained that the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development's (DBED) grant requires that all budget line items be plus or minus 10% of the budgeted amount. We are making some adjustments to our budget to meet this requirement.

On a motion from Mr. Purnell, seconded by Mr. Lockfaw, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to accept the changes to the FY12 DBED budget as presented.

### **Draft Budget for FY13**

Mrs. Kerchner reported that the draft FY13 budget was included in the meeting packet for review. The final amounts of the transit and workforce grants have not yet come in. The final budget should be ready for the Tri-County Council meeting in September.

### **Line of Credit**

Mr. Pennington reported that currently the Tri-County Council has a \$300,000 line of credit with Hebron Savings Bank. It is normally used at the beginning of the fiscal year, when the new grants have not yet been finalized, to pay day-to-day operating expenses. The funds are paid back when grant funds for the new year are received. The line of credit cannot be accessed without the agreement of the Tri-County Council Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair.

Mr. Pennington noted that \$300,000 has not been enough in the past and asked the Tri-County Council to approve an increase to \$500,000.

Following discussion, on a motion from Mr. Lockfaw, seconded by Ms. Cottman, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to increase the line of credit from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

### **Tawes Crab and Clam Bake**

Mr. Pennington noted that the Tri-County Council is again partnering with Somerset County Economic Development Commission, Worcester County Economic Development, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and Maryland Broadband for a tent at the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake on July 18 in Crisfield. We have some tickets available. Contact Mrs. Eberly if you need one.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Boston, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.