

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2012

Craig Mathies, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, at Petite Fleur in Princess Anne at 6:05 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston, Somerset County Commissioners; Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County Council; Merrill Lockfaw, Worcester County Commissioners; Jay Parker, Town of Princess Anne; Laura Mitchell, Salisbury City Council; Delegate Norman Conway; Delegate Charles Otto.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Doug Taylor, Somerset County; Wayne Strausburg, Wicomico County.

Mr. Wayne Strausburg had Mr. Rick Pollitt's voting proxy.

A quorum was not present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly and Riggin Johnson.

Guests in attendance: Denean Jones-Ward and Sister Cecelia McManus, Seton Center Catholic Charities; Brad Bellacicco, Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Ray Hoy, Wor-Wic Community College; Miguel Mitchell.

As a quorum was not present, the approval of the minutes for the meeting of September 20, 2012, was tabled until the next meeting.

Old Business

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Johnson introduced Mr. Brad Bellacicco, who has accepted the position of Shore Transit's Deputy Transit Director, and will be starting on January 7.

Mr. Johnson reported that Harkins Construction, who is the contractor for the maintenance facility, is currently one to two weeks ahead of schedule. If the weather continues to be mild, the fueling station will be completed by the end of January.

Shore Transit was at 23% of budget for the first quarter of FY13. Ridership is at the same level as the first quarter of FY12.

Mr. Johnson reported that he received a suggestion that Shore Transit have \$1 rides on Christmas Eve and free rides on New Year's Eve. He felt this would be good for community relations and asked that the Tri-County Council to approve it.

As a quorum of Tri-County Council members was not present and due to the fact that the matter at hand could not be tabled until the next meeting, it was determined that the Executive Board, of which a quorum was present, could vote on the matter. On a motion from Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Lockfaw, , the Tri-County Council Executive Board unanimously voted to approve Shore Transit having \$1 rides on Christmas Eve and free rides on New Year's Eve.

Lower Shore Visioning

Dr. Ray Hoy, discussed the Lower Shore Visioning, which was a concept of BEACON at Salisbury University, the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the Tri-County Council and Wor-Wic Community College. There were 72 participants who looked at six elements, demographic trends, environment, infrastructure, technology, education and workforce, and business and economic development, which impact the region. Depending upon their area of expertise or interest, participants were divided into six groups to further analyze what steps are needed to help the lower shore succeed. The participants the following action items: railroad, natural gas, water/sewer, energy generation, last mile broadband coverage, telework, access to capital, education/workforce training and environment.

BEACON is working to compile the information collected from the meetings and should have a final report completed soon.

New Business

2012 Citizenship Award

Mr. Mathies announced that the 2012 Citizenship Award was being presented to Seton Center Catholic Charities. Accepting the award on behalf of the Seton Center was Denean Jones-Ward and Sister Cecelia McManus.

FY12 Budget vs Actual

Mr. Pennington reported that included in the meeting packet is a comparison of the FY12 Budget to actual expenses incurred for review. He asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Regional Councils' Luncheon at MACO

Mr. Pennington announced that the Tri-County Council, Mid-Shore Regional Council and Tri-

County Council for Southern Maryland will be having a joint lunch on Thursday, January 3 during
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the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) Winter Conference in Cambridge. There is no agenda for the meeting, just a chance for conversation between members of the Councils.

“Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event

Mr. Pennington reported for Mrs. Gulyas that the planning for the “Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event is underway. The event will be held on February 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis. At this time we have 14 sponsors that have committed. Invitations will be sent to General Assembly members the first week of the session. We will have the usual Eastern Shore food available along with some new offerings. We have made arrangements for a block of rooms and if you need information on this, contact Mrs. Eberly. We will again be running a bus from Salisbury to Annapolis that evening. Let us know if you would like to take the bus.

Election of 2013 Executive Board

Mr. Mathies noted that as a quorum is not present the election will have to be tabled. He asked Mr. Pennington will make arrangements for a meeting during the MACO Winter Conference. The only item of business at this meeting will be the election.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Boston, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.