

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2013

Sheree Sample-Hughes, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 2:40 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston and Craig Mathies, Somerset County Commissioners; Rick Pollitt, Wicomico County Executive; Bob Culver and John Hall, Wicomico County Council; Jim Bunting, Bud Church, Louise Gulyas and Merrill Lockfaw, Worcester County Commissioners; Senator Jim Mathias; Delegate Norman Conway.

A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly, Brad Bellacicco, John Donegan, and Kristen Kerchner.

Guests in attendance: Scott Warner, Mid-Shore Regional Council.

On a motion from Mr. Lockfaw, seconded by Mr. Boston, the minutes for the meeting of March 27, 2013, were approved as written.

Old Business

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Bellacicco reported that all Shore Transit operations have now been moved to the new facility. Thanks to great support from Technical Services there were very few disruptions for employees and customers. There was some confusion from passengers the first few days as they were getting used to the new location. The mobility department has been working the bus loading area to answer questions and get passengers to the correct bus.

Mr. Pollitt thanked Mr. Bellacicco and Shore Transit for proving a trolley and driver for a tour of local businesses that was held by Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) a few weeks ago.

Draft FY14 Budget

Mrs. Kerchner reported that an updated draft of the FY14 Budget was included in the meeting packet for review. She has been making updates as final grant figures come in. The sequester will be impacting Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) funding for LSWA during the first quarter of FY14. The Healthcare Tax Credit (HCTC) program, which is run by the Tri-County Council for DLLR, will be adding Ohio to the states served. Confirmed grant figures have

not yet been received from the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), the Department of
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Human Resources (DHR) or DLLR for HCTC. A final budget should be ready for the Tri-County Council meeting in September.

Aerospace Study

Mr. Pennington reported that another draft of the Aerospace Feasibility Study was received in mid-May. The Aerospace Study Committee had some questions and concerns about the content of the draft so it was returned to the vendor for revision. The vendor will be meeting with the Aerospace Study Committee on June 28 to present the final version of the study.

Lower Shore Tourism Alliance

Speaking for Senator Mathias, Mr. Pennington reported that the Tri-County Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) references the importance of tourism in the region. As such, the Tri-County Council, at their meeting on March 27, voted to form a tourism committee and Senator Jim Mathias has agreed to be the committee chair. Tourism professionals from the region met a few weeks ago and discussed ways that they can work together as a benefit to the entire region. They are considering ways to increase visitors to the area for rocket launches at Wallops Island and a regional visitors' guide website. They have decided to call themselves the Lower Shore Tourism Alliance and will be meeting again in the fall.

New Business

Tawes Crab and Clam Bake

Mr. Pennington reported that we are again partnering with Somerset County Economic Development Commission, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and Maryland Broadband Cooperative for a tent at the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake on Wednesday, July 17.

Other Business

Mrs. Sample-Hughes asked the Tri-County Council members if there were any topics that they would be interested in having a speaker on at a future Tri-County Council meeting. Suggested topics were: Affordable Healthcare Act, solar farms and what employers are looking for in employees.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes noted that for the last few years the Tri-County Council has arranged for a tour of places such as Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Wallops Island Flight Facility and Dover Air Force Base. She asked the members if they would be interested in an Economic Development Tour of some businesses in the region. Following discussion, the members decided they would like to visit some businesses in Somerset and Worcester counties. They

then directed Mr. Pennington to contact the economic development directors for these counties and for suggestions of sites.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes reported that currently Salisbury University is the GED test site for the lower shore and they no longer want to do this. The GED test is only administered electronically at approved sites. Chesapeake College, which is the GED class provider for Wicomico County, is also an approved test site. At the request of DLLR, the Tri-County Council has initiated discussions with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Somerset County Schools and Wor-Wic Community College to determine a new testing site.

Mr. Pennington noted that the Tri-County Council, the Mid-Shore Regional Council and the Upper Shore Regional Council will be meeting for a joint lunch on Friday, August 16 during the Maryland Association of Counties conference in Ocean City.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Culver, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.