

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2013

Sheree Sample-Hughes, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Monday, December 9, 2013, at Great Hope Golf Course in Westover at 6:10 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston and Charles Fisher, Somerset County Commissioners; Madison Bunting, Bud Church, Merrill Lockfaw and James Purnell, Worcester County Commissioners; P.J. Purnell, City of Crisfield.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Judy Boggs and Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioners; Doug Taylor, Somerset County Administrator; Renee Stephens, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

Mr. Shockley had Mrs. Louise Gulyas' proxy. Mr. Taylor had Mr. Craig Mathies and Mr. Rex Simpkins' proxy. Mrs. Sample-Hughes had Mr. John Hall's proxy.

A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly and Brad Bellacicco.

Guests in attendance: Scott Warner, Mid-Shore Regional Council; Alan Hudson Hudson Farms.

On a motion from Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Boston, the minutes for the meeting of October 2, 2013, were approved as written.

Mr. Alan Hudson, Hudson Farms, spoke to the group about the impact of regulations and proposed regulations, such as the Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT), on poultry farmers and agriculture in the region

Old Business

2013 Citizenship Award

The members of the Tri-County Council presented the 2013 Citizenship Award to the Alan Hudson Family.

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Bellacicco reported that currently Shore Transit is over budget for the year. This is due in part to the increasing amount, currently 500-600, of medical transport trips per day which the staff has

been working on economizing by combining trips and using smaller vehicles. Purchase
December 9, 2013
Tri-County Council Minutes
Page 2

service for Origin to Destination (OTD) customers through outside vendors has increased to over \$100,000 per month. The goal is to reduce this to \$50,000 per month while still meeting the demands of the customers. Many of these customers are scheduled through their county health department and he will be meeting with health department representatives to discuss this issue in the coming weeks.

He has implemented a hiring freeze and is working to convert some buses to propane to cut costs. If additional measures are required then it is possible that some fixed routes will need to be cut or changed. As Sunday routes have a low ridership, some may be eliminated, which

would save about \$16,000 per month, or some Saturday routes may be combined. A Public Hearing has been scheduled for January 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center for input on any changes to service.

Mr. Bellacicco reported that, at the Maryland Transit Administration's request, he has begun working on the FY2015 budget at level funding. He has also started work on a 5 year Development Plan.

Mr. Bellacicco noted that Shore Transit is providing some special services to local governments such as using a trolley bus for holiday shopping in downtown Salisbury on November 30 and transportation to an energy facility in New Jersey for Wicomico County.

“Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event

Mrs. Sample-Hughes reported that the “Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2014, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis. The Tri-County Council is partnering with the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce and the Mid-Shore Regional Council for this event. The event already has several sponsors but more are needed. There will be bus transportation available from Salisbury to Annapolis on the day of the event. For additional information, contact Mrs. Eberly at the Tri-County Council office.

Regional Councils’ Luncheon at MACO

Mr. Pennington reported that the Tri-County Council, the Mid-Shore Regional Council and the Upper Shore Regional Council will be meeting for a joint lunch on Thursday, December 12 during the MACO conference. The Upper Shore Regional Council has arranged for a speaker and this is a great opportunity to discuss issues with members of the other councils.

New Business

FY13 Budget vs Actual

Mr. Pennington reported that a copy of the FY13 Budget vs Actual was included in the meeting

budget. The employer portion of the retirement benefit has slightly decreased this year and there is no increase in health insurance premiums through the state plan.

Election of 2014 Executive Board

The slate of candidates, as proposed by the Nominating Committee, for the 2014 Executive Board was distributed.

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

Mrs. Sample-Hughes noted that Wicomico County Council member, John Hall, has agreed to be nominated for Treasurer. On motion by Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Boston, the Tri-County Council unanimously nominated John Hall for Treasurer.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes asked if there were any other nominations from the floor and there were none. On a motion by Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Fisher, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the nominated slate of officers for the 2014 Executive Board members as presented.

Mr. Pennington thanked Mrs. Sample-Hughes for serving as the 2013 Tri-County Council Chair.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes asked the Tri-County Council members to continue to promote economic development and listen to what business and employers in the region need to grow and be successful.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington reported that on November 25 there was a fire in the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center building. The fire was in the office of an employee of a partner state agency on the ground floor and was quickly extinguished. There was no structural damage to the building. There was damage to the contents of the office and damage due to smoke and fire extinguisher residue in that area of the building. As this occurred the week of the Thanksgiving holiday, that area of the building was only closed for two business days. Our insurance company is handling the claim and has filed a claim with the state.

December 9, 2013
Tri-County Council Minutes
Page 4

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Purnell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.