

Tri-County Council

For the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland
Serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties

Executive Board Meeting Minutes July 19, 2012

Sheree Sample-Hughes, 1st Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland Executive Board to order on Thursday, April 19, 2012, at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 6:25 p.m.

Voting Member in attendance: Jerry Boston, Somerset County; Rick Pollitt, Wicomico County; Senator Jim Mathias.

A quorum was present.

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

On a motion by Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Pollitt, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on April 19, 2012, were approved as written.

Old Business

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Johnson reported that ridership for FY12 is estimated to be up 3-5% which is over 400,000 rides. As of May 31, Shore Transit was at 93% of budget with 92% being the target number. June expenses and revenue has not yet been finalized but preliminary figure look to be within budget.

Mr. Johnson reported that a bus stop had been added in Germantown, near Newark in Worcester County, on a 90 day trial basis. Shore Transit transported about 80 riders to cooling centers in Wicomico County during a three day heat wave in early July.

In June the *Daily Times* ran an interview of a Shore Transit passenger, who uses the service on a regular basis, and is very happy with the service. The article also had a picture of her beside a bus.

Mr. Johnson stated that Harkins Construction was awarded the construction contract for the maintenance facility, bus road and bus lot. Work began on clearing the site on June 29. The maintenance facility will be 11,000 square feet and there will also be a fuel depot with three tanks. Both the fuel depot and the maintenance facility will have a backup power generator. The maintenance facility design includes a bus wash but it cannot be made operational until the property has been hooked up to city water and sewer.

Shore Transit, in conjunction with the mid and upper shore transit providers, is developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a vendor to do bus advertisement sales for about 125 buses.

Facility Grand Opening

Mr. Pennington reported that about 200 people attended the ribbon cutting on June 25. Other than the downpour just as the program was to start, the event went very well. Local and state dignitaries and representatives from our funding sources were impressed and pleased with the facility. The Business After Hours that evening was attended by about 65 people.

Mr. Pennington reviewed the building construction budget to date which showed that the project is under budget. He also noted that all local contractors were used for the project.

Regional Visioning

Mr. Pennington reported that as a result of the Regional Visioning a local group is investigating starting an angel investment fund to help local entrepreneurs start or expand a business. This group is discussing including mid and upper shore investors and entrepreneurs also.

There is also an interest in developing a Technology Transfer initiative. Some of the colleges on the peninsula are developing a course on Technology Transfer for the fall semester. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee incorporated this initiative as a goal in the 2012 CEDS.

New Business

Patuxent River Naval Air Station Visit

Mr. Pennington reported that Patuxent River Naval Air Station has extended an invitation to the Tri-County Council and the Mid-Shore Regional Council to tour the facility. Following discussion, the Executive Board decided to accept the invitation and asked Mr. Pennington to make arrangements for a visit in late September or early October.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington asked the Executive Board if they were interested in supporting a legislative event in Annapolis during the legislative session. Following discussion, they decided that it was a beneficial event that they wanted to continue to support.

Mr. Pennington noted that the Tri-County Council will again have an exhibit booth at the MACO conference in Ocean City in August.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Pollitt, seconded by Mr. Boston, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.