

# **Tri-County Council**

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2006

Mike McCready, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, at The Fountains in Salisbury, Maryland at 10:05 a.m.

Members in attendance: Sam Boston, James Ring, Rex Simpkins, Paul Ward, Somerset County Commissioners; John Cannon, Joe Holloway, David MacLeod, Bill McCain, Stevie Prettyman, Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County Council; Judy Boggs, Linda Busick, Bud Church, Louise Gulyas, James Purnell, Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioners; Rick Pollitt, Wicomico County Executive; Delegate Page Elmore; Charles Massey, County Administrator, Somerset County; Ted Shea, Administrative Director, Wicomico County; Gerald Mason, Chief Administrative Officer, Worcester County; Doug Gosnell, Sharptown Councilman; Mike Pennington, Tri-County Council Executive Director; and Kristie Eberly, Tri-County Council Office Manager. A quorum was present.

The following guests were also in attendance: Rob Harris, Tri-County Council Operations & Programs Director; Percy J. Purnell, City of Crisfield Mayor; Carl Anderton, Jr., Town of Delmar Commissioner; Renee Stephens, DBED; Bailey E. Fine, Senator-Elect Ben Cardin's Office; Marion Keenan, Coastal Hospice; Dan Barufaldi, Ocean City Chamber of Commerce; Vanessa Orlando, Rural Maryland Council; Derek Bland, Board Chair, LSWA; Chip Dashiell; Tony Sarbanes; Brad Bellacicco, Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce; Jay Parker, Town of Princess Anne; Tom Cetola; John Hickman, SBDC at Salisbury University; Patrick Mitchell, Maryland Broadband Cooperative.

On a motion from Mr. Shockley, seconded by Mr. Purnell the minutes to the previous meeting of September 14, 2006, were approved as written.

## **Old Business**

### **TCC Divisional Updates**

Mr. Pennington reported that he has been working with MTA on finding property to purchase for the transit operations facility. MTA has budgeted for the purchase of land for this year. MTA was originally looking for 4 to 5 acres but is now looking for 8 to 10 acres in the Salisbury area. The size of the property has changed as they want adequate room for expansion. This would also give us the needed space to be able to relocate the One Stop Job Market to the same location.

Mr. Pennington introduced Rob Harris. He has accepted the position of Operations and Programs Director and will start work for the Tri-County Council on December 18.

Mr. Pennington also introduced Derek Bland of CMG Studios in Salisbury. Mr. Bland is the new Chair of the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance Board.

## **Committee Updates**

### **GIS Committee**

Mr. Pennington distributed the quarterly report of the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative's (ESRGC) activities. He noted that the GIS Committee will be meeting with the Mid-Shore Regional Council's GIS Committee on Monday, December 18 at Salisbury University.

### **Regional Healthcare Committee**

Mrs. Gulyas reported that the Regional Healthcare Committee has formed a Nursing Issues Focus Group to see what can be done to help alleviate the nursing shortage. The Nursing Issues Focus Group identified the limited amount of clinical space and time available for students, difficulty in attracting nurses to teach because of the difference in pay, the higher credit hour cost for nursing students but they pay the same tuition as other students and the need for an Allied Health building with adequate space to expand as issues that need to be addressed. As the Nursing Issues Focus Group continued their discussions they also noted that in addition to registered nurses there is also a tremendous need for physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, certified nursing assistants and geriatric nursing assistants. Group members are currently gathering information on the training and licensure requirements for these occupations to better understand their training needs. The Nursing Issues Focus Group has also decided to change their name to the Healthcare Workforce Issues Focus Group as nursing is not the only workforce shortage they wish to concentrate their effort on.

### **Telecommunications Committee**

Mr. Shockley introduced Patrick Mitchell, Operations Director for the Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MdBC). He reported that MdBC's progress has been running on schedule with phase 2 contracts, which are for Salisbury to the Bay Bridge and going up Route 213 to Elkton, to be signed by January, the MOU with the State Highway Administration has been completed and the MOU to put fiber across the Bay Bridge is in progress. The W.L. Gore Project is underway with construction being complete in late February. Also work is progressing outside the gate at Wallops Island and work will resume inside the gate in January.

### **Education Committee**

Mr. Pennington reported that it was suggested at the last Tri-County Council meeting that a

education committee be formed to assist in addressing the educational issues affecting all levels of education in the region. He contacted the counties' Board of Education and both Somerset and Worcester said that there are already other groups addressing this issue and another committee was not needed. Wicomico is interested in and will support anything we would like to do to help them.

Following discussion, Mrs. Boggs made a motion to not take any action at this time but to reassess the situation in six months. Mrs. Gulyas seconded the motion and is passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **Legislative Reception**

Mrs. Gulyas reported that the 2007 Legislative Reception will be held on February 8 at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis. The Tri-County Council meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. and the Legislative Reception will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Gulyas reported that the Legislative Reception Committee would like to suggest that the Tri-County Council add more space to the event and ask local businesses or organizations to exhibit for a fee. This could help offset the cost of the event along with giving some of our local businesses additional exposure. Following discussion, the Tri-County Council decided to add some additional exhibit space for local businesses and organizations.

### **2007 Legislative Agenda**

Mr. Pennington noted that the Tri-County Council needs to start developing its 2007 Legislative Agenda. He asked that Legislative Agenda items be given to Executive Board members. The Executive Board will discuss the suggestions and determine the 2007 Legislative Agenda at their January meeting.

### **TCC Representative on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

Mr. Pennington noted that the Tri-County Council needs a new representative for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as the previous representative was not re-elected. He asked that Executive Board members be ready to act on this at the January meeting.

### **Citizenship Award**

Mr. McCready and Mr. Shockley, who made the nomination, presented the 2006 Citizenship Award to Coastal Hospice.

### **Election of 2007 Executive Board**

Mr. McCready distributed the nominations for the 2007 Executive Board:

Chair	John Cannon
1st Vice Chair	Bud Church
2nd Vice Chair	Rex Simpkins
3rd Vice Chair	Bill McCain
Secretary	Linda Busick
Treasurer	Paul Ward
At-Large	Delegate Page Elmore
Immediate Past Chair	Mike McCready

On a motion from Mr. Purnell, seconded by Mr. Boston, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to close the nominations and accept the 2006 Executive Board nominations as presented.

### **Other Business**

Mr. McCready presented the members of the Executive Board with certificates to recognize their service to the Tri-County Council during 2006.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Shockley, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.