

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2005

Louise Gulyas, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Monday, December 5, 2005, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, Maryland at 10:20 a.m.

Members in attendance: Sam Boston and Paul Ward, Somerset County Commissioners; Gail Bartkovich, Chip Dashiell, Marvin Long, Tony Sarbanes, Ed Taylor, Wicomico County Council; Sonny Bloxom and Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioners; Charles Massey, County Administrator, Somerset County; Ted Shea, Administrative Director, Wicomico County; Bob Hawkins, Pocomoke City Councilman; Senator Lowell Stoltzfus; Delegate Norman Conway; 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: B.J. Corbin, Lower Shore Workforce Alliance; Rob Hart, Shore Transit; Jim Rzepkowski, Renee Stephens, Paul Mauritz and Kathy Magruder, DBED; Deputy Secretary Carol Baker and Mike LaChance, Maryland Department of Aging; Signe Hippert, USDA; Peggy Bradford, MAC; Lee Kirwan, TEDCO; Vanessa Orlando, Rural Maryland Council; Jerry Redden, Worcester County Economic Development; Theresa Owens, Worcester County Emergency Management.

Mike Pennington noted that he was notified by Worcester County that Jim Purnell would not be in attendance and Sonny Bloxom would be voting by proxy for him.

On a motion from Mr. Bloxom, seconded by Mr. Hawkins the minutes of the previous meeting of September 8, 2005, were approved as written.

Old Business

LSWA Update

Mr. Corbin reported that the Mobile One Stop Job Market was sent to Biloxi, Mississippi on two different occasions to work with disabled hurricane victims.

Mr. Corbin reported that the One Stop Job Market has a new web site at onestopjobmarket.com. From the new site job seekers can access the Maryland Workforce Exchange website and other resources.

Mr. Corbin reviewed projected decreases in workforce funding over the next three years. He then explained the effect these decreases will have on LSWA programs and services and discussed some potential cost saving measures.

Mr. Corbin reported that the Eastern Shore Career Guide has been very well received by the public. Of the 5,000 copies printed about 200 are left and they are looking at ordering a second printing in a few weeks.

Mr. Corbin reported that LSWA's Annual Report is now available. All available space in the One Stop Job Market building, which is 24,000 sq ft, has been leased to partner agencies. A larger location may be needed in four years if the counties want to continue to house all these services together.

Shore Transit

Mr. Hart reported that with the help of MTA, Shore Transit has completed a draft feasibility study for a combined operations and administrative facility and distributed a summary of the report for members to review and comment on. He noted that the study showed the top three sites for such a facility were southern Wicomico County/northern Somerset County border, the westside of Salisbury near the landfill and the eastside of Salisbury near the Route 50/Route 13 bypass interchange. A building to house all of these functions would cost about \$1.7 million to build and need to be on a 3 to 4 acre lot. Mr. Hart also noted that he and Mr. Corbin have been discussing the possibility of combining the One Stop Job Market and Shore Transit in one location.

Committee Updates

Water & Sewer and GIS Committees

Mrs. Bartkovich reported that the Water & Sewer and GIS committees met together in October at Salisbury University for a speaker on preparation for GASB34. The Water & Sewer Committee will meet again in January with speakers discussing sludge.

CEDS Committee

Mr. Pennington reported that the CEDS Revision Committee is working with Salisbury University to revise and update the CEDS document. A draft should be available for Tri-County Council members at the February meeting.

2006 Legislative Reception

Mrs. Gulyas reported that the date of the Legislative Reception has changed and it will now be held on February 9, 2006, at the Loew's Hotel in Annapolis. Mr. Pennington has been in contact with the Deal Island Fire Department about making single fry oysters.

New Business

Legislative Agenda for 2006

Mr. Pennington asked for suggestions of agenda items that the Tri-County Council can support during the 2006 General Assembly Session. Following discussion transportation funding, workforce funding, school construction and annexations were suggested. Mr. Pennington thanked Council members for their input and noted that the Executive Board would make a final decision on the agenda items prior to the Legislative Reception.

Election of 2006 Executive Board

Mr. Pennington read the nominations for the 2006 Executive Board:

Chair	Mike McCready
1 st Vice Chair	Chip Dashiell
2 nd Vice Chair	Tom Cetola
3 rd Vice Chair	Sam Boston
Secretary	Marvin Long
Treasurer	Bud Church
At-Large	Delegate Bennett Bozman
Immediate Past Chair	Louise Gulyas

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

Lower Shore Senior Center

Ms. Peggy Bradford from MAC discussed the services MAC provides to area seniors. The building they are currently in is overcrowded and in need of major renovation to come up to code. They are looking at existing buildings and/or land for new construction. MAC has asked Governor Ehrlich to put \$1.5 million in the 2006-2007 budget for a new facility to house MAC's services. Following discussion and questions, on a motion from Mr. Bloxom, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to send a letter to Governor Ehrlich in support of funding for a new MAC facility.

Citizenship Award

Mrs. Gulyas asked Delegate Conway to read the nomination of the recipient of the 2005 Citizenship Award. The 2005 Citizenship Award was present to Peggy Bradford of MAC. Dr. Carol Baker of the Maryland Department of Aging, also presented Ms. Bradford with a commendation from the Maryland Department of Aging.

Other Business

Mrs. Gulyas presented the members of the Executive Board with certificates to recognize their service to the Tri-County Council during 2005.

Foreign Trade Zone

Mr. Pennington reported that the Executive Summary of the Foreign Trade Zone Study was being distributed for Tri-County Council members to review and comment on.

Broadband Fiber Funding

Mr. Pennington reported that Senator Barbara Mikulski announced at Salisbury University in late November the funding of fiber from NASA in Wallops Island up the Eastern Shore and across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to points on the western shore.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.