

Tri-County Council

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2005

Louise Gulyas, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, February 10, 2005, at the Loew's Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland at 3:05 p.m.

Members in attendance: Charles Fisher, Mike McCready, Somerset County Commissioners; Gail Bartkovich, Chip Dashiell, Larry Dodd, Marvin Long, Stevie Prettyman, Tony Sarbanes, Edward Taylor, Wicomico County Council; Sonny Bloxom, Judy Boggs, Tom Cetola, Bud Church, Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioners; Danny Thompson, Crisfield City Councilman; Doug Gosnell, Sharptown Commissioner; Bob Hawkins, Pocomoke City Councilman; Charles Massey, County Administrator, Somerset County; Ted Shea, Administrative Director, Wicomico County; Gerald Mason, Chief Administrative Officer, Worcester County; Jim Gring, DBED; 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 Hart, Shore Transit; B.J. Corbin, David Donohoe and Lawrence Elsey, Lower Shore Workforce Alliance; Beth Whitelock and Sherry Taylor, Tri-County Council; Jerry Redden, Worcester County Economic Development; Steve McHenry, Rural Maryland Council; Emmett Lehman, Office of Senator Stoltzfus.

On a motion from Mr. Cetola, seconded by Mr. Dashiell the minutes to the previous meeting of November 10, 2004, were approved as written.

Old Business

Human Resources Update

Mrs. Whitelock noted that the Tri-County Council now has 190 employees. She then explained the Shore Transit Organizational Chart and the changes that were made.

Mrs. Whitelock reported that the Safety Committee has made a lot of good suggestions, several of which have been implemented. She also distributed copies of the Safety Committee's Mission Statement.

Shore Transit

Mr. Hart distributed a chart showing an increase in ridership in both the first and second quarters of FY05 compared to FY04. He also noted that the number of riders through December 2004 was over 574,000.

Mr. Hart reported that there will be some schedule changes starting in May. Public meetings will be held in all three counties before the schedule changes are finalized.

Mr. Hart reported that Shore Transit is being held to MTA performance standards on all fixed routes in order to receiving funding. There are some routes that are not meeting these standards and are in danger of being cut. For example, Route 4 from Princess Anne to Deale Island which usually has less than 30 riders per day and Route 15 from Berlin to West Ocean City. One other change that is being considered is the addition of an Express Bus between Pocomoke to Ocean City in the morning and evening.

Mr. Hart noted that he expects to have larger buses for the Ocean City routes by spring. The used buses from Baltimore City that MTA offered Shore Transit are not in good enough shape to add to our fleet.

LSWA Update

Mr. Corbin introduced the Mr. David Donohoe, Chair of the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance Board, and Mr. Lawrence Elzey from the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance Board.

Mr. Corbin distributed a summary on the consolidation and expansion of workforce services and briefly explained what the changes will be and how they will impact each county. He also noted that assessment testing is now available at the One Stop Job Market. Mr. Donohoe spoke in favor of the workforce service's changes and the positive effect it will have on the region. On a motion from Mr. Cetola, seconded by Mr. Long, the Tri-County Council unanimously approved the consolidation and expansion of the workforce services on the Lower Shore.

Mr. Corbin reported that the LSWA Board has become more diverse and is now in compliance with U.S. Department of Labor regulations. He also reported that LSWA is working on a Lower Shore Career Guide for high school students.

Committee Updates

Water & Sewer Committee

Mrs. Bartkovich reported she has been attending the Bay Restoration Advisory Committee meetings. She noted that their meeting minutes are posted on the MDE website.

Regional Healthcare Committee

Mrs. Gulyas reported that committee members had the opportunity to meet with the Maryland Insurance Commissioner in November to discuss malpractice insurance. The committee met in January and Wor-Wic reported that they have several strong applicants for the dental

hygiene training program at Allegany College for the fall 2005 semester.

Telecommunications Committee

Mr. Shockley reported that Bay Broadband had until February 1 to raise the remaining \$2 million they needed for loans matches and operating expenses but they failed to do so. Worcester County is doing a RFP for wireless broadband for the county.

GIS Committee

Mr. Pennington reported that the 4th quarter report from the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Center (ESRGC) is included in the meeting packet.

CEDS Committee

Mr. Pennington reported that the CEDS Committee will meet again on February 23 to complete the revisions to the 2005 CEDS document.

New Business

Regional Recycling Information

Mr. Pennington asked the Tri-County Council if they would be interested in more information on a regional recycling effort. Following discussion, the Tri-County Council asked Mr. Pennington to provide them with more information on this topic.

2005 Legislative Agenda

Mrs. Gulyas reviewed the Legislative Agenda which includes the following items:

- Rural Public Transportation Funding
- School Construction Funding
- Broadband Funding
- Support for Emergency Services
- Water & Sewer Upgrades

Bookmarks with the Legislative Agenda and contact information for the Tri-County Council were distributed to Tri-County Council members to give guests during the Legislative Reception.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington noted that the 2005 Tri-County Council meeting schedule was included in the meeting packet.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Sarbanes, seconded by Mr. Cetola, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.