

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2005

Louise Gulyas, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, September 8, 2005, at Chef Fred's Restaurant in Salisbury, Maryland at 5:50 p.m.

Members in attendance: Sam Boston, Charles Fisher, Mike McCready, James Ring, Somerset County Commissioners; Gail Bartkovich, Chip Dashiell, Larry Dodd, Marvin Long, Stevie Prettyman, Tony Sarbanes, Wicomico County Council; Sonny Bloxom, Judy Boggs, Tom Cetola, Bud Church, Worcester County Commissioners; Charles Massey, County Administrator, Somerset County; Ted Shea, Administrative Director, Wicomico County; Gerald Mason, Chief Administrative Officer, Worcester County; Doug Gosnell, Sharptown Commissioner; Bob Hawkins, Pocomoke City Councilman; Delegate Bennett Bozman; Delegate Rudy Cane; Delegate Norman Conway; Delegate Page Elmore; 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 Gring and Renee Stephens, DBED.

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. Cetola, seconded by Mr. Church the minutes of the previous meeting of May 25, 2005, were approved as written.

Old Business

LSWA Update

Mr. Corbin reported that the Tri-County Council needed to appoint or reappoint three Lower Shore Workforce Alliance at-large board members. The nominees seeking the appointment are Robert McIntire, Freddy Mitchell and Linda Weeks-Southerland. On a motion from Mr. Cetola, seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Tri-County Council unanimously approved the appointments for at-large members on the LSWA board.

Mr. Corbin reported that the mobile One Stop Job Market is scheduled to be at various community locations almost every day through October. The state is considering sending the mobile One Stop to Louisiana later in the fall when the need for its service is greater.

Mr. Corbin reported that Secretary Fielder and Deputy Secretary Wasilisin from the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation visited the One Stop Job Market in August and were very impressed with the facility, program offerings and staff. Mr. Corbin also noted that the Department of Aging is now a partner agency at the One Stop.

Mr. Corbin reported that LSWA's Annual Report will be available in October. He also reported that the Lower Shore Career Guide is in its final draft and will be available at the next meeting. He then noted that through a joint effort with Worcester County and NASA at Wallops Island, nine students from Worcester County participated in a summer internship program at NASA.

Shore Transit

Mr. Hart reported that ridership continues to grow with the increasing gas prices. The call center received 639 calls in 7 days from new riders asking about service. About 40 demand response riders a day are being turned away due to a lack of space on buses and a shortage of qualified drivers to handle the increased number of passengers.

Mr. Hart reported that fuel prices have not greatly affected the fuel budget yet as it was computed based on \$2.15 per gallon but if prices continue to increase it will. The state will not give us more money for fuel. In other transit systems around the state the member counties are giving systems more money for the additional fuel costs. Mr. Hart proposed raising fares on fixed routes from \$1.00 to \$2.00 as this will cover fuel cost up to \$3.59 per gallon. The additional funds would also help fund the demand response service. Following discussion and questions for Mr. Hart, on a motion from Mr. Cetola, seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Tri-County Council unanimously decided to appoint the three county administrators, Paul Ward for Somerset County, Larry Dodd for Wicomico County and Louise Gulyas for Worcester County as members of a Transit Task Force to look at the situation and possible solutions.

Mr. Hart was then asked to explain what 5307 funds are and can be used for. The 5307 funds have to be used for operating in the Salisbury, Fruitland, Delmar and Wicomico County. For every \$1.00 the Tri-County Council puts in the state of Maryland will match it with \$1.00. The Federal government will then match every \$1.00 from the Tri-County County Council with \$1.00 and match every \$1.00 from Maryland with \$1.00.

Mr. Hart reported that he, Chair Gulyas and Mr. Pennington met earlier in the day with the Lower Shore Delegation, Wicomico County, City of Salisbury and the Wicomico County Health Department about the bathrooms at the Transfer Station in Salisbury only being open during business hours. To fund the extra hours of availability for the bathrooms for the rest of the fiscal year, \$20,000 is needed. The Tri-County Council has offered \$5,000 and the Lower Shore Delegation offered \$5,000 from the state. The representative from Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury will have to discuss with their councils members before making a

commitment. As a good faith gesture, Shore Transit has extended the hours of operation for the bathrooms effective immediately.

Committee Updates

Water & Sewer and GIS Committees

Mr. Pennington reported that the Water & Sewer and GIS committees will be holding a joint meeting on October 19 at Salisbury University.

CEDS Committee

Mr. Pennington reported that the CEDS Revision Committee will be meeting in October.

TCC Budget

Mr. Pennington reported that Tri-County Council members were mailed a final budget for 2004-2005, an updated 2005-2006 budget and revenue and expenditures for the current year through August 19, 2005. If anyone has a question about the budget, contact him.

Joint Meeting

Mr. Pennington reported that the Eastern Shore Regional Councils Joint Meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 17. The Upper Shore Regional Council will be hosting the event this year. The Governor's Workforce Investment Board is interested in giving a presentation but other suggestions will be considered.

New Business

Citizenship Award

Mr. Pennington reported that nomination forms are in the meeting packet and need to be returned to the Tri-County Council office by October 3. The Executive Board will choose the recipient at their next meeting.

Legislative Reception

Mr. Pennington reported that the Legislative Reception will be held on February 2, 2006, at the Loew's Hotel in Annapolis. A committee is needed to organize the Legislative Reception. Last year committee members were Chair Gulyas and the Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester tourism directors. On a motion from Mr. Sarbanes, seconded by Mr. Cetola, the Tri-County Council unanimously approved appointing Chair Gulyas and the Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester tourism directors to organize the Legislative Reception.

Legislative Agenda for 2006

Mr. Pennington noted that agenda items are needed for the 2006 General Assembly Session. Funding for senior services and transportation funding have been suggested.

Other Business

Nominating Committee

Mr. Pennington reported that a committee is needed to nominate the 2006 Executive Board members. On a motion from Mr. Church, seconded by Delegate Cane, the Tri-County Council unanimously appointed the three county administrators, Marvin Long for Wicomico County and Tom Cetola for Worcester County to the Nominating Committee. Mr. Pennington noted that letters will be sent to all the municipalities asking each county to choose a representative to be on the Tri-County Council. He also asked Wicomico and Worcester counties to decide if there will be any change in their five voting members for 2006.

Mr. Pennington reported that the Tri-County Council by-laws do not allow for the Wicomico County Executive to be a member of the Tri-County Council. This will need to be addressed through legislation in the 2006 General Assembly session. Delegate Bozman asked Mr. Pennington to contact his office about the needed legislation.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Pennington reported that the Tri-County Council has received a request from the Greater Salisbury Committee for a letter in support of their Priority Places application. Following discussion, on a motion from Mr. Cetola, seconded by Delegate Bozman, the Tri-County Council unanimously decided not to send a letter in support of the Greater Salisbury Committee's Priority Place application.

Worcester County is having a Workforce/Affordable Housing Workshop on September 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Roland Powell Convention Center in Ocean City.

The Maryland Economic Development Commission is sponsoring an Open House for Businesses on September 21 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Lankford-Sysco in Pocomoke.

The date of the next Executive Board meeting has been changed from October 6 to October 13. Reminders will be mailed to members.

MDE and MDP are hosting a regional workshop on growth-related environmental issues on October 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Chesapeake College.

The Maryland Ethics Commission has informed the Tri-County Council that all members must

complete the disclosure statements distributed during the meeting.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Cetola, seconded by Mr. Dashiell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.