

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2017

Merrill Lockfaw, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, December 7, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge at 11:05 a.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston, Charles Fisher and Randy Laird, Somerset County; Bob Culver, Wicomico County Executive; John Cannon, Larry Dodd and John Hall, Wicomico County; Bud Church, Ted Elder, Joe Mitrecic and Diana Purnell, Worcester County.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Doug Taylor, Somerset County.

Mr. Boston had Mr. Rex Simpkins' proxy.

A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington and Kristie Eberly.

Guests in attendance: Melissa Kelly, Senator Chris Van Hollen's Office.

On a motion from Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Church, the minutes for the meeting of September 20, 2017, were approved as written.

Mr. Lockfaw introduced Melissa Kelly, the Eastern Shore Regional Director for Senator Chris Van Hollen. She distributed her contact information and stated that if she could be of assistance let her know.

Old Business

A. 2018 Legislative Session Items – Merrill Lockfaw

Mr. Lockfaw asked the Tri-County Council members if they had any legislative items other than the following which were discussed at the previous Tri-County Council meeting.

- Highway User Revenues
- BAT System Requirement Changes
- Industrial Size Solar Farms
- Healthcare Providers in the Rural Areas (Healthcare Committee Report is due at the end of the year)

As there were no additional items suggested he asked that members discuss this at their county meetings and the legislative agenda will be determined at the next Executive Board meeting.

New Business

A. Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Resolution – Mike Pennington

Mr. Pennington stated that as a result of the closing of the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) at University of Maryland Eastern Shore Rural Development Center, the Maryland Department of Commerce (DOC) is making \$100,000 per county available for their RLFs. Worcester County has approved the Tri-County Council to apply for and manage the funds on their behalf and the Tri-County Council will provide the required matching funds of \$100,000. The Tri-County Council will be able to use this funding as match when applying for additional funding.

As part of the grant agreement, the DOC is requiring a Tri-County Council resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of the grant and the acknowledgement of Tri-County Council providing the matching funds.

On a motion by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Dodd, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approved Resolution 17-03.

B. Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Appointments – Mike Pennington

At-Large members of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) are appointed by the Tri-County Council. Heather Necessary, Somerset County Public Schools, and Jena Paquin, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) are being recommended to fill the vacancies.

On a motion by Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Fisher, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to appoint Heather Necessary and Jena Paquin as At-Large members of the WIB.

C. 2018 “Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event – Kristie Eberly

The “Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis. Sponsorship information has just gone out to last year’s sponsors and we are anticipating about the same number of sponsors as last year. A few changes are being planned for this year. Our bison supplier has retired so that will no long be on the menu but we are working on getting some locally produced pork instead. We will have local wineries, breweries and, new this year, distilleries offering tastings of their products. “Taste of the Eastern Shore” now has a website, www.totesmd.org, along with Facebook and Twitter accounts. There is a

discounted room block available at the Loews for the night of the event. Also there will be bus transportation available from Salisbury to Annapolis for the event.

D. 2018 Election of Officers – Merrill Lockfaw

As a member of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Taylor presented the 2018 Tri-County Council Executive Board nominations.

Randy Laird	Chair, Somerset County
Larry Dodd	1st Vice Chair, Wicomico County
Joe Mitrecic	2nd Vice Chair, Worcester County
Rex Simpkins	3rd Vice Chair, Somerset County
John Cannon	Secretary, Wicomico County
Ted Elder	Treasurer, Worcester County
Senator Jim Mathias	At-Large
Merrill Lockfaw	Immediate Past Chair (Non-Voting)

On a motion by Mrs. Purnell, seconded by Mr. Boston, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the nominations for the 2018 Executive Board members as presented.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington was asked to give a brief update on Shore Transit's changes to its services. He reported that Origin to Destination (OTD) and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) programs are the most expensive transportation programs. OTD service costs were ballooning so some cuts had to be made. OTD will now be offered two days a week in each county rather than five days a week. A lot of former OTD customers have now become qualified for ADA so that their service would not be reduced. Shore Transit is also returning to the circular regional routes which are more cost efficient and can be used by some of the OTD customers. A Public Hearing was held on November 30 to address these changes.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Dodd, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.