

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

**Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes**  
**June 20, 2018**

Randy Laird, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at the Washington Inn in Princess Anne at 6:10 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston and Rex Simpkins, Somerset County; John Cannon and John Hall, Wicomico County; Ted Elder, Joe Mitrecic and Diana Purnell, Worcester County; Senator Jim Mathias; Delegate Charles Otto; Dennis Williams, Town of Princess Anne; Doug Gosnell, Sharptown; LaToya Purnell, Town of Snow Hill.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Laura Hurley, Wicomico County

Mr. Laird had Mr. Charles Fisher and Craig Mathies' proxies.

A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Brad Bellacicco, John Donegan, Kristie Eberly and Becca Webster.

Guests in attendance: Karen Kollias, NCALL Loan Fund; Melissa Kelly, Senator Chris Van Hollen's Office; Scott Warner, Mid-Shore Regional Council; Mindie Burgoyne, Maryland Department of Commerce, Greg Padgham; Bill Reddish, Congressman Andy Harris' Office.

On a motion from Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Hall, the minutes for the meeting of December 7, 2017, were approved as written.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Shore Transit Update – Brad Bellacicco**

Mr. Bellacicco reported that cash flow is good even with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) doing yearend close out. MTA funding for FY2019 will be flat. The match from Wicomico and Worcester counties will be used to cover expenses until the FY2019 grants come in. Construction costs are being paid as completed. Capital grants have been expended except for the current year buses and construction.

There are currently 41 buses in the fleet. There are 2 medium buses on order from FY2018 capital funds. MTA has not confirmed FY2019 capital but two medium buses and one small bus are anticipated.

There are 91 employees with 51 drivers and two more drivers are needed.

Parts I and II of the Phase III water and sewer project have been completed. The public sewer is hooked up and functioning and the pump house has been redone to accommodate the new water lines. Work is starting on Phase III Part III which is the bus wash.

Fixed route ridership is down and Origin to Destination (OTD) ridership is up for the year. The Municipal Planning Organization (MPO) will be funding a study on ways to improve fixed route ridership.

#### **B. Lower Shore Workforce Alliance (LSWA) – Becca Webster**

There are still some vacancies on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). A letter will be sent to each county notifying them of the number of vacancies and if there are any qualifications needed by the appointee. Wicomico County just filled two vacancies.

The LSWA Youth Coordinator will be on the agenda for a County Commissioners or County Council meeting over the next few weeks to talk about the youth programs available in each county. Somerset County is first and she will be there next week.

The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) has increased the FY2019 funding to the local workforce boards.

#### **C. Revolving Loan Fund – Mike Pennington**

As we are still trying to capitalize the revolving loan fund, applications are being made to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for their Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

In the meeting packet is the draft Skipjack Loan Fund business plan. Mr. Pennington asked the Tri-County Council to consider Resolution 18-03 which authorizes the creation of the Skipjack Loan Fund and a Loan Review Committee who will review, make changes to and approve the governance documents and review and approve loan requests. The Loan Review Committee will have 7 members, two from each of the three counties and one at-large, and will be appointed by the Tri-County Council Executive Board.

On a motion by Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Simpkins, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approved Resolution 18-03.

Mr. Pennington asked the Tri-County Council to consider Resolution 18-04 which authorizes Mr. Pennington to submit an application to USDA for the IRP and sign the necessary documents. This resolution is a USDA requirement.

On a motion by Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Simpkins, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approved Resolution 18-04.

Mr. Pennington was asked to explain the agreement with NCALL. He stated that NCALL is providing guidance on creating and running a loan fund. They are also providing loan underwriting services and teaching us how to do the underwriting ourselves. The cost of these services is not to exceed \$30,000 for 2018.

The Skipjack Loan Fund will provide an annual report to the Tri-County Council.

## **New Business**

### **A. FY2019 Budget – John Donegan**

MTA has not yet provided firm grant amounts but we should have them by the September meeting.

The Finance Department has been working with our auditors to change and improve our processes and procedures. As a result of this they are expecting to have the annual audit completed by December.

On a motion by Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mrs. Purnell, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the FY2019 budget.

### **B. FY2019 Holiday Schedule – Mike Pennington**

The FY2019 Holiday Schedule was included in the meeting packet for review and approval. On a motion by Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Simpkins, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the FY2019 Holiday Schedule.

### **C. Tawes Crab & Clam Bake – Mike Pennington**

The Tawes Crab & Clam Bake is on July 18 in Crisfield. As in the past we will be partnering with Somerset County Economic Development, Maryland Department of Commerce, Worcester County Economic Development, Maryland Broadband Cooperative and Maryland Department of Natural Resources in a tent. We do have tickets available for TCC members.

**D. 2018 Citizenship Award – Randy Laird**

Information on the Citizenship Award was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Laird asked if the Tri-County Council was interested in giving the award this year. Following

discussion, the Tri-County Council decided to call for nominations. The award will be presented at the Tri-County Council meeting in September.

**Other Business**

Mr. Pennington stated that Wicomico County is looking to rehabilitate the Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit into a residential treatment facility. More information on this project will be available at future meetings.

Mr. Pennington introduced Mr. Greg Padghan who will be the Tri-County Council Executive Director starting January 2019.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Mitrecic, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.