

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2016

John Hall, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, in Tylerton on Smith Island at 1:35 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston, Charles Fisher, Randy Laird and Craig Mathias, Somerset County; Larry Dodd, Wicomico County; Diana Purnell, Worcester County; Senator Jim Mathias; Delegate Chris Adams; Delegate Mary Beth Carozza; Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes; Kim Lawson, City of Crisfield;

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Chip Bertino, Worcester County

A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly and Becca Webster.

Guests in attendance: Linda Prohaska, Senator Barbara Mikulski's Office; Mike Dunn, Greater Salisbury Committee; Rick Pollitt, City of Crisfield; John Azzolini, Worcester County Economic Development; Kim Kratovil, Senator Ben Cardin's Office; Scott Warner, Mid-Shore Regional Council; Shawn Jester and Bill Reddish, Congressman Andy Harris' Office.

New Business

A. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan – Becca Webster

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB), following the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) guidelines, has developed a 5 year plan for the delivery of workforce development services on the lower shore. The plan has been available on the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance (LSWA) website for public comment. As the governing body, the Tri-County Council will also need to approve the plan.

Following discussion, on a motion from Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mrs. Purnell, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the LSWA 5 year plan.

B. Discussion – 2017 Legislative Session Items – John Hall

With the General Assembly session starting in a few months, Mr. Hall asked the Tri-County Council members what they felt should be priority legislative items.

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The following issues were suggested:

- Funding of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) in FY2018
- Payment in lieu of taxes for state property
- Restoration of Highway User Funds to the counties
- Sprinkler Systems – Help with the expense, since they are now mandated, in the form of a grant rather than a tax credit. This has hurt new home starts. (It was noted that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) sent a letter to the counties about programs available to help with the expense.)

Mr. Hall asked the Tri-County Council members to let their representatives on the Executive Board know of any other legislative issues. The Executive Board will be meeting in January to determine the Tri-County Council's legislative items for the 2017 General Assembly session.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington reported that he has been working with the State Highway Administration (SHA) on highway dedications for both Donnie Drewer and Delegate Norman Conway. SHA is working on dedicating a section of Route 413 in honor of Mr. Drewer and a section of the Route 50 Bypass in honor of Delegate Conway. SHA is currently working on sign wording and placement.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Dodd, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.