

UPPER SHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL



Cecil County
Kent County
Queen Anne's County

Executive Board

Dr. Alan McCarthy
Chair-Elect
Cecil County Council
Commissioner

Ronald H. Fithian
1st Vice Chair-Elect
Kent County
Councilwoman

James J. Moran
2nd Vice Chair-Elect
Queen Anne's County
Commissioner

Joyce Bowlsbey
Cecil County
Councilman

Robert Buckey
Queen Anne's County
Commissioner

William W. Pickrum
Treasurer-Elect
Kent County
Commissioner

Representing the General
Assembly:

Senator Stephen S. Hershey
Delegate Jay A. Jacobs
Delegate Steven J. Arentz
Delegate Jeff Ghrist

Maryland General Assembly

Doris S. Mason
Executive Director
dmason@kentgov.org
www.linkedin.com/in/dorismason

Full Council Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday, December 11th, 2014 1:30PM – 3:30PM

Location: Woody's Crab House, 29 South Main St., North East, MD 21901

Participants: Dr. Alan McCarthy, Cecil County Councilman, Chair – Elect; James J. Moran, Queen Anne's County Commissioner, 2nd Vice Chair – Elect; Joyce Bowlsbey, Cecil County Councilwoman; Robert Buckey, Queen Anne's County Commissioner, Doris S. Mason, Executive Director, Upper Shore Regional Council; Robert Hodge, Cecil County Councilman; Joseph Zang, III, Mayor of Cecilton; Ernie Crofoot, Kent County Administrator; Greg Bowen, Southern MD Agriculture Development Commission; Craig Schroeder, Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship; William Barnes, International Economic Development Council; Minidie Burgoyne, Regional Development Representative for DBED; Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council; Steve McHenry, Executive Director MARBIDCO; Mary O'keeffe, Andy Harris Representative; Dr. Faith Elliott- Rossing, Queen Anne's County, Director of Economic Development; Ummu Bradley Thomas, Consultant, Freddie Bell Jones Inc.; Amanda Nicole Travers, Executive Assistant, Freddie Bell Jones, Inc.; Joanne Richart-Young, Agriculture Coordinator, Cecil County Economic Development and Planning.

1:45 PM – 1:45 PM Welcome/Review of Meeting Purpose

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 PM by Executive Director Doris Mason. The vote of the incoming Executive Board election ballot was tabled until the end of the meeting. Introductions were made.

1:50 PM Budget/Fiscal

Executive Director Mason shared that the for FY 2015 budget is \$221,000 and there are currently 2 outstanding grants that the USRC is awaiting word regarding the status of approval: One at the end December 2014 and the other February 2015, Family & Community Partnership of Kent County/LMB and Blackstone Grant. She further announced that the USRC was awarded a \$1,000 Verizon grant to build the Geo Dashboard to display the data from the Youth Survey Project for Washington College. She further shared with the group, the 2 awards she will present outgoing Chair David Dunmyer and outgoing First Vice-Chair Diana Broomell for their service to the Upper Shore Regional Council. The organization had plaques for each one and a governor's citation form. The ballot was submitted to elect Dr. Alan McCarthy as the Board Chair and passed unanimously.

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1:55 PM – Agricultural Econ. Dev. Strategies for Rural Economies

Greg Bowen, Director of MD Farmlink Southern MD Agricultural Comm. discussed strategies to improve agricultural economic development in rural areas. Among the best practices he shared were recommendations that communities should 1) plan for rural economies in the region and include goals and strategies County and Regional plans; 2) Improve State and County health regulations to allow for local production of value added products in a less cumbersome manner; 3) Amend zoning codes to allow for local food products processing operations; 4) facilitate the development of aggregation and distribution; 5) Support the revival of local fisheries and agriculture. 6) Work as a region rather than at county levels.

2:15 PM – 2:20 PM Vote/ Approval of Minutes

Executive Director, Doris Mason motioned to approve the September 18, 2014 Full Council Meeting Minutes. The September 2014 minutes were approved unanimously. Ms. Mason also asked voting members to vote on slate and calls for the floor to accept the officers platform. The slate was accepted as presented. Ms. Mason then introduced the presenter, Craig Schroeder, Senior Fellow, Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship, Nebraska and gave a brief overview of the purpose of the Youth Engagement Survey Project.

2:20 PM – Youth Engagement Survey Project

Craig Schroeder, discussed the development of the Youth Engagement Survey project with the Rural Maryland Council and USRC and the findings. The survey consisted of 3 primary components: 1) electronic surveys of 2,514 youth (6th – 12th grades) in Kent, Queen Anne's and Cecil Counties; 2) Focus groups of approximately 125 youth in the schools; 3) Town halls meet up was to help communities come up with youth engagement action plans. He provided the next steps that will occur now that the survey has concluded; 1) working to identify specific goals which emerged from the data, 2) identify and bring together organizational leaders and key state holders, 3) address priorities among and 4) draft final document.

2:45 PM – 3:05 PM – Other USRC Project Updates

- **Upper Shore Harvest Directory (Goal 5)**
Executive Director Mason provided a brief update on the Harvest Directory. She informed the group that she has discussed developing a Harvest Directory to include the Lower Shore and Mid-Shore, with Washington College GIS assistance.
- **Chesapeake Wine Country/Vintage Atlantic**
Executive Director Mason informed the group that she would like to cultivate the Chesapeake Wine Country and support the growth of more vineyards and wineries in the mid and lower shore. She also shared that there has been interest from other States regarding the Chesapeake Wine Country rack cards.

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- **Shorevines.com (Goal 5)**

Executive Director Mason shared that there will be more resources on the Shorevines.com website; including educational videos and videos that feature individual wineries and vineyards.

3:05 PM – 3:20 PM – Open Forum

Executive Director, Doris Mason welcomed new member, Cecil County Councilwoman Joyce Bowsbey and Queen Anne's County Commissioner Robert Buckley to the Board.

Ernie Crofoot, Kent County Administrator encourages Economic & Planning Commissioners to take info and share for planning purposes and also to engage youth.

Executive Director Mason shared that Washington College will develop the Geo-Dashboard containing the Youth Engagement Project's findings to make it publicly available on-line to partners for use in planning, economic development, grant submissions and for County Councils and Commissions for data mining.

3:20 PM – 3:30 PM Summary of Action Steps/Closing

The Upper Shore Regional Council will issue the annual Calendar for meetings in 2015 emailing it out to partners next month. Executive Director, Doris Mason motioned to adjourn at 3:20PM