



# UPPER SHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Cecil County  
Kent County  
Queen Anne's County

## Executive Board

William W. Pickrum  
Chair  
Kent County  
Commissioner

David L. Dunmyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Queen Anne's County  
Commissioner

Diana Broomell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Cecil County  
Commissioner

Ronald Fithian  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair  
Kent County  
Commissioner

Steven J. Arentz  
Secretary  
Queen Anne's County  
Commissioner

Vacant  
Cecil County  
Commissioner  
Treasurer

Senator E. J. Pipkin  
Maryland General Assembly

Doris S. Mason  
Executive Director  
[dmason@kentgov.org](mailto:dmason@kentgov.org)  
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### Executive Board/ Full County Council

**Location:** Schaefer's Canal House

**Date and Time:** December 13, 2012 @ 1:30 pm

**Participants:** William W. Pickrum, Chair; Diana Broomell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Del. Michael Smigiel; Del. Steve Hershey; Dick Sossi, District Office Manager for Andy Harris; Dr. David Kolzow, PhD, International Economic Development Consultant; Doris Behnke, University of Maryland Extension Office Cecil Co.; Kathy Beisner, Acting Director Regional Office; Scott Boone, Director of IT Kent County; Buddy Bowling, Out Reach Coordinator US Dept. of Agriculture; Bernadette Bowman, Kent Co. Ed. & Tourism Director; Chuck Cook, Governors Liaison for Eastern Shore; Robert Hodge President of Cecil county Council ; Loretta Lodge, Director of Kent Co. Chamber; Doris Mason, Executive Director of Upper Shore Regional Council; Laura Mayse, Cecil County Chamber Director; Faith Elliott Rossing, E.D. Director of Queen Anne's Co.; Erika Sturgill, Cecil County College Workforce and Continuing ED; Lisa Webb, Director of Cecil County Economic Development; Joanne R. Young, Cecil Co. EDO Agriculture

<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Owner</u>
1:30-1:40	Opening/Meeting Purpose Review minutes of prior meeting	William Pickrum, Chair, USRC Exec. Board
1:40-1:45	Welcome to Cecil County	Diana Broomell, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair
1:45-2:40	Unveiling of USRC 3-5 Year Strategic Plan Dr. David Kolzow Rural Economic Development; Strategies and Trends:	

Dr. David Kolzow, IEDC Expert Econ. Dev. Trainer, shared a powerpoint presentation with the group in which he explained the need for the Strategic Plan and talked about the extensive work in which the Council has engaged during the past quarter. Additionally, he discussed pertinent industries in our region and the job skills, which are in demand in specific sectors. Dr. Kolzow highlighted each of the seven goals in the plan and discussed some economic trends in our region, and other rural regions across the country. Based on the outreach and discussions, which made up the strategic planning process in the Upper Shore region, and best practices observed in other rural areas, some trends and projections discussed included:

- Recruitment may intensify among small to midsize companies. Some may recruit immediately while others opt to wait on the final results of 2012 election.
- Increased need for trained, skilled workers. Communities will recognize the need for workforce development in order to meet the needs of a growing economy.



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- An increase in the number of businesses taking advantage of legal counsel as a precaution due to an escalating regulatory environment in the US.
- Companies have begun and will increasingly using social networks as a tool for recruiting, marketing and public relations, but also increasingly for training and development.

**2:40-3:00**      **USDA Grants**

**Kathy Beisner,  
USDA Reg. Office**

Ms. Beisner shared materials and provided a presentation on Cooperative Grants. She discussed 225,000 grant issued from the Cooperative Development Foundation to meet the needs of senior citizens in rural areas of the country. The grant was formulated to conduct research and outreach related to the needs of seniors. The funds will also be used to advance agricultural, economic and social interests related to seniors across the nation in rural areas.

**3:00-3:25**      **Election of CY 2013 Executive Board**

**Doris Mason,  
Executive Director**

Del. Michael Smigiel moved to keep William Pickrum as Chair and retain the current presiding executive slate. Del. Steven Hershey seconded. Ms. Mason suggested the group later make some adjustments to the Council's by-laws to reflect the need for fewer voting members necessary to formulate a quorum for voting purposes of the Council, as it was later noted that a full voting quorum (per the present by-law)s was not present at the December meeting.

**3:25-3:00**      **Closing /Action Step Summaries**

Buddy Bowling, Outreach Coordinator for the USDA (United States Dept, of Agriculture), requested to be put on the agenda for the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 meeting. Ms. Mason shared that she would connect with him to plan to have him on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

David Kolzow and Doris Mason extended an invitation to the group to join them the following day for a roundtable/presentation discussion of the Economic Development Priorities, trends, and action steps for our region at Upper Shore Regional Council on Friday, Dec. 14, 2012 from 9:00 am to 11: a.m. at the Council offices. Dr. Kolzow had worked with Ms. Mason to drill down into a discussion of more trends across the region based upon his research.

Commissioner Diana Broomell moved to end the meeting. With no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.