



# UPPER SHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Cecil County  
Kent County  
Queen Anne's County

## USRC Full Council Minutes

### Executive Board

Robert Buckey  
Chair  
Queen Anne's  
Commissioner

Ron Fithian  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Kent County  
Commissioner

Joyce A. Bowsbey  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Cecil County  
Councilwoman

Jack Wilson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair  
Queen Anne's County  
Commissioner

William W. Pickrum  
Treasurer  
Kent County  
Commissioner

Bob Meffley  
Secretary  
Cecil County  
Councilman

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](mailto:dmason@kentgov.org)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/dorismason](http://www.linkedin.com/in/dorismason)

**Date and Time:** Thursday, December 8, 2016 @ 10:00-11:45 AM  
**Location:** Chesapeake Bay Hyatt, Room Chesapeake C  
Cambridge, MD 21613 (during Winter MACo)

### Attendees:

Robert Buckey, Chair; Ron Fithian, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair; Joyce A. Bowsbey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Jack Wilson 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair; William W. Pickrum, Treasurer; Bob Meffley, Secretary; Jackie Gregory, Cecil County Council; Senator Steve Hershey; Del. Steven J. Arentz; Delegate Jeff Ghrist; Denise Lovelady, Rep. Andy Harris' Office; Chris VanHollen's Office; Doris S. Mason, Executive Director

Chair Robert Buckey opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and conducted introductions. Two USRC members newly elected to the Cecil County Council were introduced to the group: Councilwoman Jackie Gregory and Councilman Bob Meffley.

The group reviewed and voted to accept the minutes from the September 2016 Full Council meeting as presented.

Commissioner William Pickrum requested that Ms. Mason review the fiscal reports with the group. Ms. Mason reviewed the overall budget and discussed the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss reports for FY 2017, YTD with the group.

Ms. Mason reviewed current projects, which the Council is presently undertaking including the grant application presently being prepared for December 15, 2017, submission to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the expansion of the Eastern Shore Harvest Directory. The new Directory is slated to include not only the six (6) Eastern Shore counties presently supported, but to add Sussex and Kent Counties in Delaware. The Harvest Directory presently provides marketing and development support to agri-businesses in Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil, Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties via a website, Android/IOS Apps, printed brochures and technical support.

Ms. Mason also shared that she has been working on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Upper Shore. This includes the actual document as well as conducting various partner meetings and adding "priority projects" to the plan. Once approved by the counties and the United States Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the CEDS plan can be used to leverage federal funding to the region to support various capital and infrastructure projects to enhance economic development efforts all across the region.

122 N. Cross St., Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 810-2124 – Phone; FAX (866) 571-5607

[www.uppershoreregionalcouncil.org](http://www.uppershoreregionalcouncil.org); [www.youthdashboard.com](http://www.youthdashboard.com);  
[www.harvestdirectory.com](http://www.harvestdirectory.com); [www.chesapeakewinecountry.com](http://www.chesapeakewinecountry.com)



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The new slate of officers was presented to the group and a vote was taken. New officers for the Council were elected as follows (press release attached):

### **Officers:**

Chair, Robert H. Buckey, Queen Anne's County Commissioner

1st Vice Chair:

Ron Fithian, Kent County Commissioner

2nd Vice Chair:

Joyce A. Bowsbey, Cecil County Councilwoman

3rd Vice Chair:

Jack N. Wilson, Queen Anne's County Commissioner

Treasurer:

William W. Pickrum, President, Kent County Commissioner

Secretary:

George Patchell, Cecil County Councilman

The By-laws were discussed briefly.

The group then heard a presentation from Matt Mullin, CEO of High Street Strategies regarding regional political resources and strategies offered by the group.

The next Full Council meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2017 for Cecil County, MD.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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