

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 Bowsbey
Cecil County
Councilman

Robert Buckley
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 DRAFT

Date and Time: Thursday, March 24, 2016; 1:30PM – 3:30PM

Location: Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD --Room HPAC 129
Health Professions and Athletic Center

Participants: Dr. Alan McCarthy, Cecil County Councilman, Chair – Elect; Joyce Bowsbey, Cecil County Councilwoman; Doris S. Mason, Executive Director Upper Shore Regional Council; William Pickrum, Kent County Commissioner, Treasurer – Elect; Jamie Williams, Kent County EDC; Jack Wilson, Queen Anne's County Commissioner; Stewart Bruce, Washington College GIS Department; Linda Prochaska, Representing Barbara Mikulski; Loretta Lodge, Kent County Chamber of Commerce; Kathy Beisner, Representing Bill McGowan, USDA Rural Development; Michael Dugan, Dean, Workforce and Training Chesapeake College; Charlotte Davis; Executive Director Rural Maryland Council; Jamie Gilbert, Director, Queen Anne's County Economic Development; Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce; Joanne T Richart-Young, Cecil County, Office of Economic Development and Agriculture; Shelly Herman, Kent County Administrator; Jean Fabi, Queen Anne's County Business and Economic Development; Wayne Jearld, Director of Development, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; George Koste, Executive Director, Maryland Capital Enterprises; Denise Lovelady, Representing Congressman Andy Harris; Harry Marcy, Betterton Township Council, Kent County; William Short, Member, Board of County Commissioners, Kent County.

1:30 PM – 1:40 PM Welcome/Review of Meeting Purpose

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 PM by Dr. Alan J. McCarthy, chair. Dr. McCarthy called a vote to ratify the 2016 Officer Slate and to accept the September, 2015 Full Council Minutes as presented. Jack Wilson, Queen Anne's County Commissioner made the motion to accept the 2016 Officer Slate and Robert Buckley, Queen Anne's County Commissioner seconded such motion. The 2016 Officer Slate and the September, 2015 Minutes were accepted and approved unanimously. Introductions for the group were made.
(The minutes have been posted on the Council website.)

1:40 PM Council Fiscal Overview

Executive Director Mason gave the Council's fiscal overview and status with the acceptance of Treasurer, William Pickrum.

1:45 PM – Presentation, METS Guild

Stewart Bruce, Director for GIS at Washington College shared an updated status report on the METS Guild and Eastern Shore Harvest Directory, of which are sponsored by the

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Upper Shore Regional Council. Additionally, he proposed the future METS Guild Project (<https://www.washcoll.edu/centers/ces/gis/projects/youth-education/esri-software/k-12/mets-guild>) goals as follows: 1) gaining additional sponsorship support, 2) recruiting more students to join the program, 3) offering a second year program to currently enrolled students, and 4) to possibly open a Guild office in downtown Chestertown. Mr. Bruce also shared with the Council updates regarding the Eastern Shore Harvest Directory (now in six counties) and the support provided via the USDA Rural Business Development Grant. He also discussed possible opportunities for future expansion to the Lower Shore (<http://harvestdirectory.org>).

2:10 PM Presentation MDOT and Vote to Ratify

Ms. Mason called the groups' attention to the [Upper Eastern Shore Coordinated Public Transit Transportation](#) plan for 2016, and requested a vote to ratify the plan. William Short, Kent County Commissioner motioned to accept the plan. The motion was seconded by Jack Wilson, Queen Anne's County Commission. The Transportation Plan was approved unanimously.

2:15 PM – Comprehensive Economic Development (CEDS)

Executive Director Mason provided an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) planning for the Upper Shore, sharing in the meeting packets summary notes from recent meetings with the Economic Development Directors in the region. Following Ms. Mason's presentation, a brief brainstorming session took place in which the Council discussed the current issues of the region, such as heroin addiction and transportation issues. The group also brainstormed possible areas/ projects which might in some way involve the Council in the upcoming fiscal year, such as: A Broadband Deployment Needs Assessment, Workforce Development and Training, A Regional Data Center and A Regional Business Incubator. The Council then went on to discuss the current ongoing projects related to: A Business Park Plan (Centreville-301/304 corridor), NRL Associates, Friel's Potential Growth (Sudlersville), and the Career Technology Center in Cecil County.

2:30 PM – 2016 Leveraging Sustainable Partnerships Conference

Wayne Jearld, Director for Corporate & Foundation Relations, at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Princess Anne, presented to the group regarding the upcoming Fall multi-faceted conference happening at UMES around which the Council can partner.

2:40 PM – Role of the Rural MD Council, Presentation

Charlotte Davis, the Executive Director for the Rural MD Council discussed the goals of the Rural MD Council and updated the council on the Rural MD Prosperity Investment Fund. She also discussed the upcoming cycle of the Maryland

122 N. Cross St., Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 810-2124 – Phone; FAX (866) 571-5607
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Agricultural Education and Resource Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), sharing that for Fiscal Year 2016, the Rural MD Council (RMC) received 53 applications requesting approximately \$890,000 in funding and dispersed a total of \$167,000 to 16 different organizations. Thus, the demand far outweighed the available resources.

2:55 PM Summary of Action Steps/Closing

The meeting was closed at 3:04 p.m. by Dr. Alan McCarthy, Chair.