

UPPER SHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL



Cecil County
Kent County
Queen Anne's County

Executive Board

Robert Buckey
Chair
Queen Anne's
Commissioner

Ron Fithian
1st Vice Chair
Kent County
Commissioner

Joyce A. Bowsbey
2nd Vice Chair
Cecil County
Councilwoman

Jack Wilson
3rd Vice Chair
Queen Anne's County
Commissioner

William W. Pickrum
Treasurer
Kent County
Commissioner

George Patchell
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
www.linkedin.com/in/dorismason

Full Council Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date and Time:

Thursday, September 22, 2016 @ 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM

Location:

Inn at Huntingfield Creek, LLC
4928 Eastern Neck Road
Rock Hall, MD 21661

Participants:

Robert Buckey, Chair, Queen Anne's County Commissioner; Joyce Bowsbey, 2nd Vice Chair, Cecil County Council; Shelley Heller, Kent County Administrator (proxy for Ron Fithian, 1st Vice Chair, Commissioner, Kent County); James Massey, Cecil County Council Manager (proxy for George Patchell, Cecil County Councilman); Jack Wilson, Queen Anne's County Commissioner; Scott Boone, IT Director for Kent County; Lois Haggerty, MD TEDCo; Mark Wagner, CEO Think Big; Robin Davenport, Think Big, Project Manager; Joanne Richart-Young, Cecil County, Office of Economic Development and Agriculture; Jean Fabi, Acting Director, Queen Anne's County Economic Development; Lisa Fitzgerald, USDA; Ashly Davis, USDA, Jen Davis, Kent County IT Department and Doris Mason, Executive Director

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Mr. Robert Buckey, chair. Chair Buckey called for a review and approval of Minutes from the March Full Council meeting held at Chesapeake College. Commissioner Jack Wilson made the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Council Fiscal Overview

Executive Director Mason gave the Council's fiscal overview and status in the absence and with the former approval of the Treasurer, William Pickrum.

Organizational Grants and Resources/Update/Review of Projects

Ms. Mason, Executive Director gave the group an update on the METS Guild (Youth Workforce Development) Expansion project. The Guild trains youth in the region via a partnership with the Washington College GIS Program on three STEM-related tracks (1) GIS/GPS Technologies; (2) 3-D Virtualization (gaming technologies) and (3) website design. The program began a little over a week ago for the semester. Forty-eight kids are enrolled, which is nearly double the amount of kids trained last year! The Eastern Shore Harvest Directory brochures have just been printed and being distributed all over the tri-state area. The newly expanded tool (6-counties) can be seen at:

(<http://harvestdirectory.org>) and the newly updated Android and IOS Apps can be downloaded there. Ms. Mason also mentioned plans to resume the partners' work on the

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regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) draft document once more engaging the County Economic Development Directors. Ms. Mason will be posting the draft of the document as it stands on the website.

Kent County Fiber Optic Network High-Speed Internet/Broadband Connectivity

Scott Boone, Director for IT for Kent County presented on the fiber optic build out taking place in the County. Mark Wagner, CEO of THINKBig, the ISP which is a part of the public/private partnership participating in the project also shared with the group. The two answered questions and discussed goals and projections for the project. Kent County Commissioners made an upfront investment of \$4million to the project igniting the successes of the project thus far! Learn more about the high speed internet /fiber build out project taking place in Kent County at: <http://fiber.kentcounty.com/>

Summary of Action Steps/Closing

The next Full Council meeting for the Upper Shore Regional Council will take place at Winter MACo at the Chesapeake Bay Hyatt Regency in December 2016. All upcoming meetings are listed on the Council's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 after a motion from Commissioner Jack Wilson, Queen Anne's County.