



UPPERSHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL

CecilCounty
KentCounty
Queen Anne’s County

Upper Shore Regional Council Executive Bd. Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 16, 2016; 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. *(resched. from Feb. 24, 2016)*

Executive Board

Location: 122 N. Cross, St. Chestertown, Maryland

Agenda: *[Conference Call Information: (410) 810-2213, access code: 55877]*

Dr. Alan J. McCarthy
Chair
Cecil County Council
Commissioner

Attendees: Dr. Alan J. McCarthy, Chair and Cecil County Councilman; Joyce Bowsbey, Cecil County Councilwoman; Jamie Williams, Kent County Economic Development; Jack Wilson, Queen Anne’s County Commissioner; Robert Buckey, Queen Anne’s County Commissioner.

Robert Buckey
1st Vice Chair
Queen Anne’s County
Commissioner

Welcome

Jamie Williams
2nd Vice Chair
Kent County
Economic Development

Dr. Alan McCarthy opened the meeting after determining that a quorum was present. The Board voted unanimously to approve the December 17, 2015 Executive Board minutes as presented. Ms. Mason shared with the board our need to have the Full Council approve the officers slate at the March meeting. (The slate is: Dr. Alan J. McCarthy, chair, Commissioner Robert Buckey, 1st Vice Chair, Jamie Williams, 2nd Vice Chair, Councilwoman Joyce Bowsbey, 2nd Vice Chair, Commissioner Jack Wilson, Secy., Commissioner William Pickrum, Treasurer.)

Joyce Bowsbey
3rd Vice Chair
Cecil County
Councilwoman

Jack Wilson
Secretary
Queen Anne’s County
Commissioner

In Commissioner William Pickrum’s absence, Ms. Mason reviewed the financial statements with the Board. The statements were the Custom Summary report for FY 2015 and for FY 2016 up thru March 3, 2016, the Deposit Detail for FY 2016 thru March 3, 2106, and Profit and Loss for FY 2016 thru March 3, 2016. The bank balance was also shared. Ms. Mason also included review of the Bank Statements for FY 2016 in the packets of the Chair and Treasurer. The Treasurer also received e-mailed copies of the statements for FY 2015 and FY 2016 thru to the end of February. Ms. Mason iterated to the board that as good as the numbers look, we still have \$75,000 to draw down yet from the MD Dept. of Commerce. The board was given an overview of the expenditures for the USDA grant (total 21,400 for the Harvest Directory Project Expansion). Year-to-date, the \$10,650 has been drawn down and 10,750 remains (with plans to draw that down in May 2016) to complete the project. The most recent quarterly reports to the USDA were included in the Board’s packets. Additionally, the Executive Director reiterated that she worked with Washington College’s GIS Department to access a \$5,000 grant for the METS (Math, Engineering, Technology and Science) Guild youth training project. Ms. Mason discussed and the fact that the Rural MD Prosperity Investment Fund has been included in the Governor’s budget in the amount of \$2 Million and it is looking like it will remain there for FY 2017! Should it remain, each regional council will receive approximately \$100,000 in additional funds. Ms. Mason shared finally, that Regional Council budgets received from the MD Dept. of Commerce should be increased from the 150,000 for the last two fiscal years to \$200,000 each for the FY 2017.

William W. Pickrum
Treasurer
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

Ms. Mason shared with the Council how she in her new role as Chair for the Rural MD Council (RMC) has worked diligently (via partnerships) on acquiring the funding for the

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(410) 810-2124 – Phone; FAX (866) 571-5607

www.uppershoreregionalcouncil.org; www.youthdashboard.com;
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Rural MD Prosperity Investment fund (RMPIF), a fund to be distributed to all of the rural regions of Maryland.

Ms. Mason shared with the group that in December 2015, she was elected as Chair for the Rural MD Council (adding as an aside that she is also President of the Board for Upper Shore Aging). She shared how she had worked with the Executive Committee for the RMC so that for the first time, the Rural MD Prosperity Fund would actually have an allocation for the leadership to work to “enhance the quality of the life” in the rural counties in Maryland.

Ms. Mason placed a copy of the proposed FY 2015 Annual Report in the packet to the Executive Board, however, time only allowed for a quick reference to the document. It will be reviewed once more during the May Executive Board meeting and hopefully voted on and adopting for posting on the website.

The Board discussed the CEDS plan and Ms. Mason gave a brief update sharing that a first draft had been completed and shared out with the Economic Development directors in a February 1, 2016 meeting. Ms. Mason shared that Scott Warner of the Mid-Shore Regional Council attended the meeting to share regarding some of the successes that he has had acquiring EDA funding because of the CEDS planning process. The Board encouraged Ms. Mason to work closely with the Economic Development Directors closely to craft the CEDS priorities and to keep the Board abreast of progress with doing so. Ms. Mason agreed to email out to the Board the minutes from the CEDS meeting with the three Economic Development Directors. The Board wanted to know of the priority projects which had been submitted to date by the ED's and other partners. Ms. Mason shared regarding the Regional Data Storage Center submitted by Scott Mesneak, IT Director for Cecil County. The Board asked for an e-copy of the submission. Ms. Mason informed the Board that the next meeting with the ED's was already being planned for March.

A recent press release on the METS Guild was in the packet to the Board and they were informed that 26th-thru 10th graders (ages 12-15) were being trained in 3d & Virtual Worlds (Gaming), Web Design, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Graduation is being planned for Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the College. The Board was invited to attend.

Ms. Mason informed the Board that in light of her ability to work to greatly increase the USRC's budget for FY 2017, she would like the Board to consider granting her the ability to hire a full time Business Administrative Specialist. She agreed to e-mail the board a position description she has developed for the position. Ms. Mason added in the packets for the board, the “Local Government Tort Claims Act—Regional Development Councils” (legislation introduced during the session by Senators Mathias and Hershey to have the state cover the regional councils for liability purposes).

The Executive Committee had a brief discussion regarding the Upper Shore Transit Plan constructed by the KFH group in conjunction with the MD Transit Administration and the Maryland Upper Shore Transportation (MUST) group (a regional team on which Ms. Mason participates). The Board was previously e-mailed the link and was informed that the Full Council will need to ratify the plan at the March meeting.

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