



UPPER SHORE Regional Council

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2019; 4:00 Chestertown Visitor's Center

Attendance: Bill Coutz, Cecil County Councilman
Bob Meffley, Cecil County Councilman
Tom Mason, Kent County Commissioner
Chris Corchiarino, Queen Anne's County Commissioner
Jack Wilson, Queen Anne's County Commissioner
Susan O'Neill, USRC Executive Director
Janice Palmer, USRC Executive Assistant
Jim Massey, Cecil County Council Manager

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Meffley called the meeting to order. He asked for self introductions. There were 8 in attendance, 5 of which were voting members. A quorum was declared.

Ms. O'Neill also welcomed the board and gave an overview of a packet each board member received. Each packet contained an Agenda, The Annual Board meeting minutes, staff report, a Profit and Loss Statement, a copy of the Ag Equity Incentive Matching Fund Flyer, and a summary of a successful applicant for the Fund.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of January 3, 2019. Commissioner Chris Corchiarino made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jack Wilson.

STAFF REPORT

A staff report, included in the packet, highlighted the staff's activities for January, February and March. Commissioner Wilson asked that the minutes from the OED Directors meeting be forwarded for his review.

Discussion ensued regarding Opportunity Zones, deadlines and businesses inquiring into Church Hill in Queen Anne's County. Susan suggested a speaker from the Commerce Department update the board on Opportunity Zones. All agreed they would be interested and would attend. The presentation should be scheduled sooner rather than later.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Director O'Neill presented a profit and loss statement for the first quarter. She also reported that we can expect similar funding from Commerce and the Rural Maryland Council for FY20. Director Wilson reviewed USRC funding and past practices for new board members.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Cecil County Broadband Grant Agreement:** Director O'Neill reviewed recent changes to the Cecil Broadband MOU. USRC will earmark \$16,600 for Cecil County's Last Mile Broadband Project.
- **Ag Equity Incentive Matching Fund:** Director O'Neill presented the new Ag Flyer and a summary of a successful applicant out of Queen Anne's county. She reported that Steve McHenry and Janice Palmer attended the Cecil Farm Bureau Meeting promoting the MARBIDCo programs. Director Wilson suggested a similar project be devoted to the Waterman's Association.
- **PNC Grant/MEDA:** USRC will be receiving an award from PNC to be applied to regional Opportunity Zone marketing. The award will be presented at the MEDA Annual meeting in Cambridge on April 29, 2019. If any USRC Board members are interested in attending, Susan can purchase tickets for them. Discussion ensued regarding workforce development scholarships for senior high school students. Director O'Neill agreed to research the possibilities.
- **USRC Marketing:** Janice Palmer presented the draft web page that USRC and Platinum PR have been working on. Several edits were requested: a place for minutes, a calendar and Kent Island needed to be included in the Queen Anne's map!

NEW BUSINESS

HB513: Director Jack Wilson updated the board on the passage of HB513: County boards of Education – Establishing Regional Career and Technology Education Schools Authority –*Authorizing the county boards of education in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties to establish a regional Career and Technology Education (CTE) school to provide career and technology education programs to public high school students in the counties; requiring a regional CTE school to operate under the terms of a certain collective bargaining agreement; requiring the Interagency Commission on School Construction to study and develop a certain cost-share formula for certain county boards of education; etc.*

- Susan urged the board members to save **June 12, 2019** on their calendars for a full council working lunch meeting to vote on the FY20 Workplan. She noted a quorum was needed.
- Susan also reminded board members that a Workplan Committee is needed and will form in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Palmer

USRC Executive Assistant