



# UPPER SHORE Regional Council

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2019; Kitty Knight House

### Council Members in Attendance:

Jackie Gregory, Cecil County Councilwoman

Bob Meffley, Cecil County Councilman

Bob Jacobs, Kent County Commissioner

Tom Mason, Kent County Commissioner

Chris Corchiarino, Queen Anne's County Commissioner

Jack Wilson, Queen Anne's County Commissioner

### Guests:

Jim Massey, Cecil County Council Manager

Melissa A. Kelly, Eastern Shore Regional Director, Chris Van Hollens Office

Charlotte Davis, Rural Maryland Council Executive Director

Ryan Snow, Eastern Shore Outreach Coordinator, Governor's Office

Kim Kratovil, Field Representative, Ben Cardin's Office

Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Dept. of Commerce

Tyler Abbott, Representative, Delegate Andrew Cassilly's Office

Rod Heinz, Representative, Delegate Kevin Hornberger's Office

Jean Fabi, Queen Anne's County, Economic Development Office

Jamie Williams, Director, Kent County Economic Development Office

Steve McHenry, Director, MARBIDCo

### Staff:

Susan O'Neill, USRC Executive Director

Janice Palmer, USRC Executive Assistant

## **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Meffley called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions. There were 19 in attendance, 6 of which were voting members. A quorum was declared.

Janice Palmer gave an overview of the new three ring binders each board member and partner received. Each book contained updated member contact information, creating legislation and Bylaws, the FY2019 Scope of Work, meeting minutes from the January Annual meeting and March 21<sup>st</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meetings. The book also contained information on USRC partner's and programs. Books are asked to be returned at the end of each meeting. Each will be updated for the next meeting. Smaller informational reports were given to our guest attendees to bring back to their respective offices.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 3, 2019 Annual Meeting. Commissioner Jack Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Corchiarino. Jack Wilson also made a motion to approve the March 21<sup>st</sup> and May 15, 2019 Executive Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Corchiarino and Jackie Gregory.

## **MARBIDCo PRESENTATION**

Steve McHenry, Executive Director for the Maryland Agricultural and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCo) handed out folders with a wealth of information regarding programs and loans available to Maryland Agricultural businesses and farmers including the Upper Shore Agriculture Equity Incentive fund created by USRC. He gave an overview of many of the programs and noted that \$57 million dollars have been distributed across Maryland via 41 loans and 18 grants. Steve answered questions from the audience and directed them to the MARBIDCo webpage for individual county data sets. There was discussion on the creation of a funding/grant program for local watermen. Steve gave a small history of past efforts and offered to work with USRC to review, update and partner with USRC to help leverage loans for a watermen program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**New Member Confirmation:** Jack Wilson requested that Charles Rhodes, chairman of the local Council of Governments and Commissioner of Church Hill be nominated as the municipal representative on the Council, replacing Tim McCluskey of Centreville. Chris Corchiarino seconded, all voted in favor.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Cecil County Broadband Grant Agreement:** Susan updated the members on the request from Cecil County to use the remaining \$16,600 of their original \$65,000 grant on preliminary engineering studies of specific Cecil County neighborhoods with the intention of being better positioned to apply for broadband grants from both federal and state agencies. Councilmen Meffley and Wilson raised concerns and asked that something be put in writing should the project not be completed.
- **Marketing:** The USRC website is now up and running. We have a Regional News and Events page that highlights local news articles. Susan and Janice asked that any pertinent information (articles, programming, regional news, etc.) someone wishes to highlight be forwarded for posting. Work will begin next week on updating and linking the Harvest Directory to the webpage.
- **OED Meetings:** USRC and Directors of Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Economic Development Offices are meeting quarterly. Industry Cluster Studies were discussed at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and all agreed that these studies would be helpful in identifying gaps in the supply chain, workforce needs, and specific industry's being attracted to the region.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **County Updates:** Susan opened the floor for county updates:
  - Chestertown Business Campus is moving along very well.
  - Cecil County has added two new businesses and is expecting 500 employees to be hired. Infrastructure is being placed.
  - Queen Anne's is facing a 44% increase in traffic now that the 301 bypass has been opened.
  - Cecil County is also dealing with a large influx of large commercial vehicles on backroads looking to avoid the tolls. Cecil is working with DelDot to repair damaged roads. Councilmen Meffley stated that DelDot continues to look at solutions to alleviate issues with those looking to avoid the tolls.
- **MACo Meeting:** The next Full Council meeting will take place on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 at the MACo Summer Conference. A joint regional council luncheon will follow directly after the meeting.
- **STAFF UPDATE:** Susan and Janice worked with the Cecil County Office of Economic Development and Extension Office to present a Spotted Lantern Fly workshop. They are waiting on a finished video to be posted on the web page. The workshop can be reproduced in Kent and Queen Anne's if requested.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, a motion was requested for adjournment. Jack Wilson made the motion. Councilwoman Jackie Gregory seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Palmer

USRC Executive Assistant