



# UPPER SHORE Regional Council

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2019

MACo Winter Conference, Cambridge Maryland

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  
Ron Fithian, Kent County Commissioner  
Al Miller, Cecil County Councilman  
Bill Coutz, Cecil County Councilman  
Jim Moran, Queen Anne's County Commissioner  
Steve Arentz, Delegate, District 36

Guests:

Charlotte Davis, Rural Maryland Council Executive Director  
Ryan Snow, Eastern Shore Outreach Coordinator, Governor's Office  
Shelley Heller, Kent County Administrator  
Dan Dalton, KFH Group, Sr. Transportation Planner  
Brigitte Peters, Business Development Representative, Dept. of Commerce  
John Hartline, Executive Director, Tri County Council for Southern MD

Staff:

Susan O'Neill, USRC Executive Director  
Janice Palmer, USRC Executive Assistant

## **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Meffley called the meeting to order at 1:16. He welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions. There were 17 in attendance, 11 of which were voting members. A quorum was declared.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 16, 2019 Full Council Meeting. Delegate Steve Arentz made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bill Coutz. Motion passed unanimously. Chair Meffley also asked for a motion to ratify the Executive Board meeting minutes of September 18, 2019. Motion was made by Commissioner Corchiarino and seconded by Commissioner Jack Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chair Meffley presented a slate of officers, he asked if an individual vote was preferred. All agreed that a vote for the full slate was acceptable. Chair Meffley asked for a motion to vote on the following slate of officers:

Chair: Bob Meffley

First Vice Chair: Chris Corchiarino

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Tom Mason

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair: Jackie Gregory

Secretary: Jack Wilson

Treasurer: Ron Fithian

Commissioner Jack Wilson motioned to accept the slate of officers. The motion was seconded by Bill Coutz. All in favor, the slate for 2020 Executive Board members was voted in unanimously.

## **FINANCES**

Susan explained the new categorizations in the finance report. These categories align with reporting for Commerce and RMPIF reports, as well as our QuickBooks accounting system.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Review of Coordinated Public Transit Plan: Council members were provided a link to the final draft of the MD Coordinated Public Transportation Human Services Transportation plan for the Upper Eastern Shore prior to our Annual Meeting. Dan Dalton, KFH Group's Sr. Transportation Planner presented an update of the plan at the Joint Regional Council Luncheon held directly prior to the USRC Annual Meeting. Council members were asked to approve the plan. Dan Dalton was available for any questions. Hearing none, a motion to approve the plan was made by Jack Wilson and seconded by Bill Coutz. Director O'Neill will provide a letter to KFH notifying them of the approval of the plan for its submission for federal grant money.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Kent County Transportation Task Force:**

Shelley Heller reviewed the needs assessment for adequate and affordable transportation, noting the committee was made up of public and private citizens. Susan reported that she met with representatives of Chesapeake Charities and United Way to discuss financial support. Commissioner Fithian asked that Shelley please invite committee members and Santo Grande to a Commissioner meeting to discuss survey results.

### **Farm Museum:**

Chair Meffley and Commissioner Mason updated the Council members on a recent meeting held with Cecil and Kent Farm Museum representatives. The meeting clarified that there will be no merger of the two Farm Museum's however each hoped to work with the other to bring about student education through a shared speaker series. Shelley Heller suggested our next Full Council meeting be held at the Cecil School of Technology, where the Farm Museum can be toured.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Rt. 301 Update:**

Cecil County recently accepted \$1.2 million from DELDOT for the repair of Edgar Price Rd. The road had been damaged due to heavy traffic from trucks avoiding the toll on Rt. 301 toll. Chair Meffley reported that there has been a 5 time increase of traffic since the new 301 Route opened. Queen Anne's reports that 2500 cars per day travel through the QA Rout 301 corridor. Delegate Arentz has met with Congressman Harris asking for Federal assistance on toll relief for local Maryland citizens.

### **New Bridge Crossing**

Commissioner Moran reports that the first NEPA study will be completed next Fall. He expects that once the second study is done the bridge will be built. He is requesting that local elected officials be part of the planning process. Commissioner Moran also spoke of new legislation being written for the closure of off ramps for non-local citizens to improve traffic flow.

## **STAFF REPORT**

A copy of the August – November Staff report could be found in each Council notebook. Janice asked that everyone be mindful of the next ethics filing date, April 30, 2020. Each council member also received a packet of frequently asked questions and a copy of the new legislation regarding the ethics filing forms. Each board member is required to file a form.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further discussion, a motion was requested for adjournment. Chris Corchiarino made the motion. Jack Wilson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Palmer

USRC Executive Assistant