



# UPPER SHORE Regional Council

## FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2021

Hybrid – In Person & Virtual “Go to Meeting”  
Cambridge Hyatt MACo Winter Conference

### Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Corchiarino (Chairman), Q.A.’s County Commissioner  
Bob Meffley (Treasurer) Cecil County Councilman  
Jackie Gregory (2nd Vice Chair), Cecil County Councilwoman  
Tom Mason (1st Vice Chair) Kent County Commissioner  
Bob Jacob, Kent County Commissioner  
Al Miller, Cecil County Councilman  
Jack Wilson, Queen Anne’s Commissioner

### Guests:

Shelley Heller, Kent County Administrator  
Dan Rider, DNR Forest Stewardship & Forest Products Utilization  
Bridgette Peters, Business Retention & Expansion Representative (virtual)  
Charlotte Davis, Rural Maryland Council Executive Director  
John Hartline, Tri-County Council Southern Maryland, Executive Director  
Heather Tinelli, Queen Anne’s County Office of Economic Development, Director  
Grayson Middleton, Office of the Governor, Eastern Shore  
Connie Dean, Career Technology Liaison, Kent & Queen Anne’s Counties  
Rebecca Lepter, Economic Development Coordinator, Queen Anne’s County (virtual)

### Staff:

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

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Board Chairman Chris Corchiarino welcomed and asked those in attendance to please introduce themselves. Each in attendance introduced themselves.

## **II. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOD MINUTES JUNE 16, 2021**

Chairman Corchiarino called the meeting to order. Prior to the start of the meeting board members were provided with a packet of information. The packet included the following: 12/7/21 Agenda, 2/17/21 Executive Board Minutes, 3/17/21 Full Council Meeting Minutes, 5/17/21 Executive Board Minutes, 6/16/21 Executive Board Minutes, 12/7/21 Financial Report, 2022 Executive Board Officer's Ballot and 6/16-12/7/21 Staff Report. Chairman Corchiarino requested a motion for acceptance of the 6/16/21 Executive Board minutes. Bob Meffley motioned; Jack Wilson seconded. All were in favor.

## **III. APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 17, 2021**

Chairman Corchiarino requested a motion for the acceptance of the March 17, 2021, Full Council Minutes. Jack Wilson motioned; Bob Meffley seconded. All were in Favor.

## **IV. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

Chairman Corchiarino requested a motion for the ratification of the March 17, 2021, Full Council Minutes and the February 17<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and June 16, <sup>2021</sup>, Full Council Board Meeting Minutes. Jack Wilson motioned, and Jackie Gregory seconded. All were in favor.

## **V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chair Corchiarino requested a motion to accept the 2022 Executive Board Ballot as presented. Jack Wilson motioned. Jackie Gregory seconded. All were in favor.

The 2022 Executive Board Officers remain the same as 2021.

## **VI. Career Technology Liaison Presentation by Connie Dean**

Director Susan O'Neill introduced Connie Dean, Career Technical Education (CTE) Liaison for Kent and Queen Anne's Counties and gave an update on a previous planning meeting with Kent OED Director Jamie Williams and Q.A.'s OED Director Heather Tinelli. Connie introduced herself and updated the board on her progress over the last few months. Connie has met with Queen Anne's and Kent County's local businesses, and school representatives to establish working relationships to encourage and promote internships, apprenticeships, and related partnerships. Connie has also established a needs assessment for stakeholders. Early on, attention was needed with the Culinary

Program in Queen Anne's, as it had been previously established and internships were ready to begin. Expansion into Kent County is hopeful. It was noted that public education is needed to clarify the differences between Apprenticeships and Internships. It was also noted that a process to notify parents, students, and counselors of available apprenticeships and internships must also be established. This process will also be aligned with a digital marketing campaign. Career/Job Fairs are scheduled and will be promoted to all students as well as local businesses. The presentation was well received by those in attendance.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Chair Corchiarino requested a motion for the USRC to send a letter of support to Rick Gordon on behalf of the Choptank Electric Cooperative. Motion provided by Jack Wilson and second provided by Al Miller. All were in favor.
- B. 2022 Meeting Dates: Chair Corchiarino asked the board members to note the FY22 Meeting dates and asked that any conflict be brought to Susan's attention.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Log Treatment:** USRC received a \$115,000 RIMPIF grant to promote a new Log Steam Vacuum Treatment. A recent gathering of stake holders met in Elkton at Pollo Pallet to tour the facility as well as witness the steam application to a small sample of logs prior to shipping to Germany and the Czech Republic.
- B. Impact Report:** Susan reported that each board member should have received a copy of the 2019-2021 USRC Impact Report. USRC is requesting feedback for future reports.
- C. Municipalities:** Impact Reports were mailed and or hand delivered to all municipalities of the Upper Shore with an intent to highlight our GIS partnership with the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative.

## **IX. TREASURERS REPORT**

Chair Corchiarino requested a motion for the 12/7/21 Treasurer's Report. Jack Wilson motioned, and Jackie Gregory seconded. All were in favor.

## **X. UPDATES**

### **A. Queen Anne's County**

- i. Jack Wilson reported that QA's County applied and will receive a \$12 million grant for Broadband expansion for underserved areas of which they have a lot of "shovel ready" projects.

### **B. Cecil County**

- i. Al Miller announced that the Cecil County Public Library will be receiving the MACO County Innovation Award for the Library's Business Information Center at tonight's award ceremony.
- ii. Bob Meffley shared that four developments will be expanding their broadband access thanks to Choptank Electric Cooperative.

**C. Kent County**

- i. Tom Mason reported that Kent County is working on zoning issues and facing difficulties regarding the 301 Corridor. Agriculture zoning issues are also being scrutinized.

**XI. ADJOURN**

With no further discussion, Chris Corchiarion motioned for adjournment. Jack Wilson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Palmer  
USRC Executive Assistant