



# UPPER SHORE Regional Council

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

#### Chester River Yacht Club

October 11, 2023

#### Council Members in Attendance:

Ron Fithian (Chair) Kent County Commissioner  
Chris Corchiarino (Secretary) Q.A.'s County Commissioner  
Bob Meffley (Treasurer) Cecil County Councilman  
Jack Wilson (2nd Vice Chair) Queen Anne's Commissioner  
Jackie Gregory (1st Vice Chair) Cecil County Councilwoman  
Rebecca Hamilton, Cecil County Councilwoman  
Albert Nickerson, (3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair) Kent County Commissioner  
Jay Jacobs, Delegate, 36<sup>th</sup> District

#### Partners & Guests:

Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Director, Commerce  
Jamie Williams, Economic Development Director, Kent  
Heather Tinelli, Economic Development Director, Queen Anne's  
Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council  
Shelley Heller, Administrator, Kent County  
Sarah King, Director, Kent County Chamber of Commerce  
Linda Friday, Director, Q.A.'s County Chamber of Commerce  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary, Maryland Natural Resources  
Dan Rider, Forestry, DNR  
Steve McHenry, Executive Director, MARBIDCo  
Robert Bernstine, Town Manager, Chesapeake City  
Mary Bolt, President, Cecil College  
Joyce Bowsbey  
Lawrence DiRe, Town Administrator, Chestertown  
Sandra Edwards, Manager, OED, Cecil County  
Sandy Turner, Director of Tourism, Cecil County  
David Foster, Mayor, Chestertown  
Alyssa Hastings, Eastern Shore Regional Director, Senator Chris Van Hollen's Office  
Kim Kratovil, Field Representative, Ben Cardin's Office  
Elizabeth Manning, Town Administrator, Millington

AJ Metcalf, Director of Communications, DNR  
Charlie Rhodes, Commissioner, Church Hill  
Sandy DuBay, CEO, PPR Strategies  
Mia Vicarro, PPR Strategies

Staff:

Susan O'Neill, USRC Executive Director  
Maureen O'Shea Fitzgerald, Grants Program Manager  
Janice Palmer, USRC Executive Assistant

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Board Chairman Ron Fithian welcomed everyone opening the meeting at 9:05 am. Each board member received a packet containing the Meeting Agenda, August 8, 2023, Full Council Minutes, September 20, 2023, Executive Board Meeting Minutes.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A.** Chair Fithian requested a motion to approve the August 8, 2023, Full Council Minutes. Jack Wilson motioned approval. Jackie Gregory provided a second. All were in favor.
- B.** Chair Fithian requested a motion to approve the September 20, 2023, Executive Board Meeting Minutes. Bob Meffley motioned to approve. Jackie Gregory provided a second. All were in Favor.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill**

Director Susan O'Neill explained that USRC was a sponsor of the Maryland 5 Star, an elite sport in horse eventing. There are only seven 5 Star events in the world, with two being held in the United States. Tickets are available for those who wish to attend October 19-22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **B. Maryland 5 Star Fresh Food Festival**

Maureen O'Shea Fitzgerald reported that the Fresh Food Festival will be held at the Maryland 5 Star and will be set up much like a Farmers Market showcasing 14 vendors with ready to eat food as well as produce to purchase. The Fresh Food Festival will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2023, from 9-4pm.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund Review**

Maureen O'Shea Fitzgerald, USRC Grants Manager updated the board noting that 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter reports have been collected, one project has been completed, and that we are in need of Small Business Mentors should anyone be interested in volunteering their time.

### **B. CTE Scholarship**

Janice Palmer updated the board noting that we have received 43 CTE Scholarship applications from CTE students, representing all three counties. Requests total approximately \$3700.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further discussion, Ron Fithian requested a motion for adjournment. Jackie Gregory provided a motion, and Bob Meffley provided a second. All were in favor. The business meeting was adjourned at 9:14 am.

Note, an Agenda of 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and recognitions is attached.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Palmer  
USRC Executive Assistant

## Upper Shore Regional Council 20th Anniversary Celebration

Bridging Opportunities Cultivating Success  
20 Years of Regional Prosperity

Welcome 9:00 am

Full Council Meeting

Proclamation Process

US Senator Ben Cardin's Office  
US Senator Chris Van Hollen's Office  
MD Secretary of Commerce Kevin Anderson's Office  
Kent County Commissioner's  
Queen Anne's County Commissioners  
Cecil County Administration & Council

Executive Director Susan O'Neill

Keynote Speaker  
Natural Resources Secretary Joshua Kurtz

Closing Remarks 10:20 am