



UPPER SHORE Regional Council

FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MACo Winter Conference

December 11, 2024

Council Members in Attendance:

Ron Fithian, Kent County Commissioner
Jack Wilson, Q.A. County Commissioner
Patrick McLaughlin, Q.A. County Commissioner
Albert Nickerson, Kent County Commissioner
Rebecca Hamilton, Cecil County Councilwoman
Bob Meffley, Cecil County Councilman
Donna Culberson, Cecil County Councilwoman
Al Miller, Cecil County Councilman
Phil Dumenil, Q.A.'s County Commissioner
Adam Streight, County Executive, Cecil County
Dawn Branch, Cecil County Councilwoman

Partners & Guests:

Jamie Williams, Director, Kent County Office of Economic Development
Shelly Heller, Administrator, Kent County
Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, Cecil County
Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council
Dave Culver, Manager, Cecil County Council
Heather Tinelli, Director, QA's Office of Economic Development
Rebecca Clark, QA Office of Economic Development
Nancy LaJoice, Department of Commerce
Ryan Snow, Principal, R & R Solutions
Mike Detmer, Community Liaison, Office of Andy Harris
April Plummer, QA Office of Economic Development
John Hartline, Executive Director, Tri-County Council Southern Maryland
Alyssa Hastings, Eastern Shore Regional Director, Office of Chris Van Hollen
Madison Bryce, Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison, Office of Governor Moore

Staff:

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

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Fithian welcomed everyone. Each board member received a packet containing the Meeting Agenda, 2025 Slate of Officers Ballot, August 17, 2024, Executive Board Meeting Minutes, Financial Report, Staff Report, and proposed 2025 meeting dates. A small packet of project photos was also provided.

Each attendee introduced themselves.

II. USRC OFFICERS ELECTION

Chair Fithian discussed the recent history of the Executive Board Officers, each county having two representatives on the Executive Board, and each representative taking a turn at each of the executive positions. This year should be Cecil County's turn to be chair; however, Bob Meffley is chair of MRDC and does not want to also chair USRC. Two of the Cecil representatives are new to the board; therefore, it was suggested that Ron continue as chair for one more year, or until Cecil representation is ready to be chair. Ron also recommended the slate of officers as presented on the ballot and asked if there were any questions or concerns. Just prior to the start of the meeting, Cecil County Councilwoman Donna Culberson agreed to be the Secretary.

Patrick McLaughlin motioned to approve the slate:

Chair	Ron Fithian
First Vice Chair	Bob Meffley
Second Vice Chair	Jack Wilson
Third Vice Chair	Albert Nickerson
Secretary	Donna Culberson
Treasurer	Chris Corchiarino

Dan Schneckenburger provided a second. All were in favor.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Fithian requested a motion to approve the August 17, 2024, Executive Board Meeting Minutes. Jack Wilson motioned approval, Bob Meffley provided a second. All were in favor.

IV. TREASURERS REPORT

Director Susan O'Neill summarized the Treasurer's Report. Donna Culberson noted that the header be changed from July 1, 2023 – December 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024 – December 1, 2024. Jack Wilson provided a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Albert Nickerson provided a second. All were in favor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Calendar

Susan O'Neill noted a mistake in meeting dates that were provided at the Summer MACo meeting and asked the membership if they would prefer to keep those dates or revert to the regularly scheduled third Wednesday of the month. A motion to change to the original intention of the third Wednesday of the month was provided by Donna

Culberson and a second was provided by Dawn Branch. Corrected dates were listed on the back of the agenda.

B. Conowingo Dam Letter of Support Request

Chair Fithian opened a discussion regarding a request for a letter of support for dredging behind the Conowingo Dam. Most attendees agreed that more should be done to stop the stormwater runoff from the dam considering all the regulations and mandates that are in place to protect the bay downstream of the dam. It was suggested that Susan reach out to Chip MacLeod for written documentation in support of a regional letter. John Hartline and Secretary Anderson asked that they both be covered on the letter. Jack Wilson motioned that a letter of support for dredging be written on behalf of USRC. Albert Nickerson provided a second. All were in Favor.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund

Susan provided a packet of program photos and updates. The Department of Commerce granted 11 extensions: two in Cecil County, one in Kent, two in Queen Anne's County and six regional projects. Program Reports are due to Commerce at the end of December. Heather Tinelli updated the membership on Queen Anne's projects. Bob Meffley gave updates on projects in Cecil County and Jamie Williams presented updates on Kent County projects. Susan O'Neill provided updates on regional projects.

B. Projects

Susan reviewed events and projects that have taken place since the last Full Council meeting, some of which included the Cyber Ag Forum, the Business Mentors Webpage and portal, the new Project Bright Future logo and a glimpse of the new Project Bright Future webpage. The Municipal Development Consulting Grant, and the Career Technology Equipment Scholarships were also included in her review.

VIII. UPDATES

Commissioner McLaughlin updated the membership on renovations being done at the Carter Center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Ron Fithian requested a motion for adjournment. Jack Wilson made a motion, and Patrick McLaughlin provided a second. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Palmer
USRC Executive Assistant