



TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL
for SOUTHERN MARYLAND

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Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Full Council

October 14, 2020

6:00 P.M.

Teams Conferencing

MINUTES

Call to Order and Welcome Guests

Administrative Matters

Approval of June 25, 2020 minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Tim Hutchins to approve the June 25, 2020 Minutes. The motion was seconded by Delegate Edith Patterson and approved by the Full Council. The Full Council approved the minutes unanimously.

Approval of July 2, 2020 minutes

A motion was made by Delegate Edith Patterson to approve the July 2, 2020 Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tim Hutchins and approved by the Full Council. The Full Council approved the minutes unanimously.

Approval of August 13, 2020 minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Reuben Collins to approve the August 13, 2020 Minutes. The motion was seconded by Delegate Edith Patterson and approved by the Full Council. The Full Council approved the minutes unanimously.

2021 Southern Maryland Reception update

The TCCSMD Executive Director has been in contact with the hotel as well as other elected officials and recommends that we cancel the reception for this year with every effort to resume in 2022.

Modified FY21 Budget

Amended budget is presented.

Changes include Rural Maryland Council (RMC) RMPFI had 2 rounds of cuts since June. The first round cut of 5% (about \$25k) was spread across all programs. The second cut was just under 7% which caused the TCCSMD to forego 1 program that had not been started yet. For the 7% cut, if funds are available in the Spring, those funds will be put back in the budget. Currently standing, overall a decrease in the budget of \$50k.

No further cuts for Workforce programs.

Summer Youth received an increase in State and Federal funds. These funds along with Calvert and Charles counties totaled about \$200k.

SMADC's original FY21 funding from the Department of Agriculture was \$950k. Received a cut of \$50K bringing them to \$900k. A second round cut of 25% occurred bringing the \$900k to \$675. SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program has increased its budget by roughly \$50k since the June budget.

An approval is requested.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Morgan to approve the modified FY21 budget. The motion was seconded by Delegate Susie Proctor and approved by the Full Council. The Full Council approved unanimously.

Proposed FY22 Budget

Proposed draft budget displayed.

After discussion with program directors, staff, and grantors, the decision was made to leave the program grants level funding from the cuts received this year. This budget is used to apply for FY22 grants.

An approval is requested.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Morgan to approve the proposed draft FY22 budget. The motion was seconded by Ellen Flowers-Fields and approved by the Full Council. The Full Council approved unanimously.

Regional Planning

Veterans Regional Advisory Committee (VRAC)

Construction is almost complete at the Charlotte Hall CBOC. Do not have a specific date at this time for opening.

Broadband Committee Formation

At the July 30, 2020 Executive Board meeting, a motion was made and approved for the "Executive Board to recommend to Full Council to establish an entire separate committee for broadband". Staff asks the Full Council to discuss identifying the Purpose and Responsibilities as well as Membership of the proposed committee. Staff offers a memo and draft resolution that is attached. Recommends the Full Councils adopt the final version of the proposed resolution.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Delegate Edith Patterson to adopt the Resolution to establish the Broadband Development Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tim Hutchins and approved by the Full Council. The Full Council approved unanimously.

Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee (RIAC)

The TCCSMD now has funding for planning.

At the July 30, 2020 meeting, the Executive Board approved a motion to “Task staff with coming up with RIAC bylaws at the next executive meeting Sept/Oct then the October full council meeting”. RIAC tentatively scheduled reviewing of draft By-Laws at their next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on October 15, 2020. At their August 20, 2020 meeting, RIAC committee members identified a temporary task force group which included 2 or more representatives from each county who will review and develop the document, prior to October 15, 2020.

Staff is directed to task the RIAC Committee to develop the resolution to include the purpose, responsibilities, and membership of the RIAC and bring back for review to the Executive Board.

Transportation

MDOT / MTA Commuter Bus Service Reduction

Trip reduction information has been posted on social media platforms as well as local newspapers. Commuter buses dropped to 10% ridership in April. In June, a reduction schedule was made. After monitoring, in August, there was only a 4% increase of ridership. The State of Maryland will now go to the “S” schedule. Ridership is staying steady at 15% for Southern Maryland.

Discussion ensued.

Workforce Development Board

Summer Youth Program

Presentation was displayed.

Configured a program that would have virtual paid employment as well as virtual paid training. Twelve employers took on participants for a virtual work assignment: 6 week program, \$11 an hour for 35 hours per week. Virtual paid employment participants benefit by acquiring professional and soft skills, enhance business acumen, develop work ethics, and explore career choices.

Virtual Paid Training program included 77 participants who entered into a 6 week “Learn and Earn” program. Incentives of up to \$1,200 per participant for successful completion. Participants developed the knowledge, skills and aptitudes needed to succeed in their career pathways and gain self-sufficiency.

100% Summer Youth Completion rate.

Funding included:

- Charles County Summer Youth Funds - \$74,800
- Calvert County Summer Youth Funds - \$15,250
- Federal/State Summer Youth Funds - \$109,560 (includes an additional \$40k)

Totaling \$199,610

Virtual Regional Hiring Event

TCCSMD held its 9th Annual Regional Hiring Event and this year made it virtual. Included 64 hiring businesses of which 13 of them were sponsors. 952 job seekers; 46% Charles County residents, 19% St. Mary's County residents, 9% Calvert County residents, remaining 26% greater D.C. area residents that were attracted by the Department of Defense jobs. The event offered 340 open jobs; 62 participants have confirmed scheduled follow-up interviews. Funding was provided by a grant from the Rural Maryland Council (RMC).

Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC)

SMADC Report was read.

Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) - A Special SMADC Voting Board Meeting regarding the Regional Agricultural Center was called for Thursday, October 8, 2020 a 12 p.m. (Virtual/Conference Call Meeting)

- Background - In 2019, SMADC granted \$1 Million to St. Mary's County for the construction of the RAC, and St. Mary's County donated the land where the RAC will be located.
- Challenge - The cost of site preparation for the RAC was underestimated, in addition to cost overruns. Staff has conducted several intense conversations with the County over the past few months and have concluded that to get the RAC built and the services running for the farming community, more funding is needed. Both SMADC & St. Mary's County are working to find that funding through multiple avenues.
- Proposal - SMADC has \$1 million of encumbered funds that have been set aside and earmarked for operating the RAC (equipment needs, programs, etc). However, at this time, due to the priority of getting the RAC built, staff is proposing to use ½ of the funds for the building of the RAC with the following conditions:
 - St. Mary's County comes up with the remaining balance (whatever that might be) needed to construct the RAC as specified.
 - The County sign a new MOU reflecting these changes

The SMADC Board convened a special meeting to discuss this proposal and vote.
Members in attendance: Senator Jack Bailey, Joan Bearden, Edward Goodman, Amanda Hand, Bill Hitte, Delegate Michael Jackson, Guy Kilpatric, Mary Wood
Members vote via Email: Commissioner Gilbert Bowling, Erik de Guzman, Willie Goddard, Linda Jones, Deana Tice, Lucille Walker and Steve Walter.

Delegate Michael Jackson made a motion to authorize the Director to provide additional funding to St. Mary's County Government of up to \$500,000, for the construction of the Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) project contingent that St. Mary's County Government provide 100% of any and all additional funds for the project. Senator Jack Bailey seconded. Discussion ensued.

After discussion, the motion, was carried with seven affirmative, seven affirmatives via email and one no vote. Motion approved.

Due to the importance of the RAC to the farmers and agricultural businesses, and the need to get it built in a timely manner, SMADC requests that the TCCSMD Executive Board review the vote by the SMADC Board, and consider voting the same to authorize the Director to provide additional funding to St. Mary's County Government of up to \$500,000, for the construction of the Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) project contingent that St. Mary's County Government provide 100% of any and all additional funds for the project.

A discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Morgan to authorize the Director to provide additional funding to St. Mary's County Government of up to \$500,000, for the construction of the Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) project contingent that St. Mary's County Government provide 100% of any and all additional funds for the project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eric Colvin and approved by the Full Council. The Full Council approved unanimously.

Southern Maryland Heritage Area

Southern Maryland to become the 56th National Heritage Area. Held 3 community conversations in Southern Maryland. Senator Cardin and House Majority Leader Hoyer have announced their sponsorship of this legislation in the US Congress with Senator Van Hollen as an original co-sponsor. This initiative can bring federal dollars to our region, create more partnerships, provide economic benefits, and help tell the remarkable story of Southern Maryland.

Comments are shared.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Morgan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Delegate Edith Patterson, and approved by the Executive Board.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John F. Hartline".

John F. Hartline, Secretary/Executive Director