

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 31, 2014
TO: Mason Dixon Task Force
FROM: Robert Thaeler, Vice-Chairperson
SUBJECT: Minutes of August 21, 2014 Meeting

Attendees at the Mason-Dixon Task Force Meeting were:

Jason Boothe	Cecil County
Martha Corrozi Narvaez	Univ. of Delaware
Andrew Homsey	Univ. of Delaware
Tony McClune	Harford County
Carrie Offerholter	Baltimore County
Robert Thaeler	Adams County
Martin Wollaston	Univ. of Delaware

I. Administrative:

- **Minutes of the April 17, 2014 Meeting.**

The minutes of the April 17, 2014 meeting were mailed to the members. Mr. Boothe motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Wollaston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

- **Treasurer's Report.**

The members reviewed the Treasurer's Report. The funds balance through the July, 2014 bank statement was \$7,879.83 with \$0.26 interest income reported. Mr. Wollaston moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Thaeler seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

- **Correspondence.**

No written correspondence was received.

II. Nominating Committee

The members discussed appointments to the Nominating Committee. Mr. Wollaston, Steve Stewart, and Joe Heffner were appointed to the Nominating Committee.

III. Membership List

Mr. McClune distributed updated copies of the Membership List to the members. He requested that each county / organization review the Membership List and inform him of any necessary changes.

IV. New Castle County Status

Mr. Wollaston reviewed the membership status of New Castle County. He indicated that Institute for Public Administration staff has traditionally been considered to function on New Castle County's behalf with regard to the Task Force. Given the change of membership status of the IPA within the Task Force, Mr. Wollaston indicated that IPA representing New Castle County on the Task Force may not be appropriate. He therefore recommended that New Castle County's membership status be changed to a non-member status similar to that of Lancaster County. The members agreed to retain this issue as an agenda item for the next meeting.

V. Website

Mr. Boothe indicated that the Task Force website being hosted by Cecil County is active and content can begin to be added. Archive information and minutes will be forward to Cecil County for inclusion on the website in the near future.

VI. Topics for Next Meeting

Mr. McClune open a discussion regarding topics for the November 13, 2014 Task Force meeting. He indicated that he would consult with Carrie Conwell for a Chester County presentation. Other items identified for discussion included appointment of the Auditing Committee, setting the meeting schedule for 2015, and discussion a potential program in the spring at Stroud Research Center.

VII. County Updates

- **Baltimore County:** Ms. Offerholter reported that the County continues to work on their small watershed action plans. She also discussed the Prettyboy Research Collaborative and the County's tree planting and canopy maintenance program.
- **Cecil County:** Mr. Boothe indicated that the County is restarting its agricultural preservation program after a period of inactivity and will be focusing efforts in the northern part of the County. They will also be working on getting their Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program back up and running. He also reported that Rising Sun has received grant funding to complete construction of their waste treatment facility and that the County Public Works department is setting up a volunteer water monitoring program.
- **Adams County:** Mr. Thaeler noted that the County is considering a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposal to support a shopping plaza development proposal at the US Route 15 / US Route 30 Interchange area. He also indicated that the Planning and

Development Office will be transitioning to a new director as the current director is resigning at the end of August to take a position in Georgia.

- **Harford County:** Mr. McClune that development submissions remain down this year with only 500 new dwelling units proposed to date. He also indicated that two significant projects, a Walmart store and a 500 bed Continuing Care Retirement Community, are coming up for approval shortly. Mr. McClune also noted that the Route 230 Corridor Study is underway in the Bel Air area and that updated FEMA flood maps are due to be released shortly for the County. There are substantial issues with the accuracy of the mapping, and the County will appeal the FEMA maps if approved.
- **University of Delaware:** Mr. Wollaston indicated that the University voted against the generating facility and, accordingly, the project is discontinued. The project might be constructed in northern New Castle County but not on University property.

VIII. University of Delaware Presentations:

IPA staff discussed a variety of programs and initiatives with which they are associated or involved.

- Ms. Corrozi Narvaez presented information regarding a feasibility study involving the Brandywine and Christina Basins. The William Penn Foundation has funded a feasibility study to assess the potential for establishing a fund geared toward upstream conservation programming in these basins.
- Ms. Corrozi Narvaez provided a presentation regarding the Wilmington Green Jobs Program. This program engages inner city youth, ages 14 to 18, and introduces them to environmental education and environmental careers.
- Ms. Corrozi Narvaez concluded by sharing a video exploring citizen perceptions of watersheds
- Mr. Wollaston provided a presentation regarding the Delaware Downtown Development Districts Act of 2014. The program aims to promote capital investments in downtowns. The state government designates three districts per year and provides eligible projects within the districts with up to 20% of capital costs,
- Mr. Wollaston also shared videos regarding Newark's Main Street and the University of Delaware's new Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (ISE) Laboratory building.

IX. Adjourn:

With no further business, the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.