



## MASON DIXON TASK FORCE, INC.

c/o Adams County Office of Planning and Development  
670 Old Harrisburg Road  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

Robert Thaeler, Chairperson

### Memorandum

**Date:** January 23, 2019  
**To:** Mason Dixon Task Force  
**From:** Robert Thaeler, Chairperson  
**Subject:** Minutes  
Thursday, November 1, 2018  
**Host:** Harford County Planning Commission, Bel Air, MD

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#### Attendees:

Jason Boothe	Cecil County
Carrie Conwell	Chester County
Moe Davenport	Harford County
Joel Gallihue	Harford County
Tony McClune	
Terry Ruby	York County
Clare Stewart	Carroll County
Robert Thaeler	Adams County
Erin Watts	Baltimore County

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The following are the Minutes for the Thursday, November 1, 2018 meeting of the Mason Dixon Task Force. The meeting was hosted by the Harford County at their offices in Bel Air, Maryland. Chairperson Robert Thaeler of Adams County open the meeting at 10:15 AM.

#### **I. Administrative:**

- Minutes of the February 8, 2018 Meeting:

The Minutes of the May 2, 2018 were mailed to and reviewed by the members. No additional comments were made. A motion to approve the Minutes as is was made by Ms. Ruby, seconded by Mr. Davenport. The Minutes were approved unanimously by the Task Force.

- Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Conwell presented the Treasurer's Report. As of the October 2018 bank statement, the Task Force has a balance of \$7,794.16. Interest in the amount of \$0.67 has been accrued in the past three months. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Mr. Davenport, seconded by Ms. Ruby. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously by the Task Force.

- Correspondence:

No written correspondence was received by the Task Force.

- Appointment of Auditing Committee

Mr. Thaeler asked for members to volunteer to serve on the Auditing Committee to review finances for the 2018 calendar year. Mr. Davenport, Ms. Stewart, and Ms. Watts agreed to serve on the Auditing Committee

- Nominating Committee

Given the cancellation of the August, 2018 meeting, Mr. Thaeler arranged for the appointment of the Nominating Committee to develop a recommended slate of officers for the 2019 calendar year. Appointed members were Mr. Davenport, Ms. Ruby, and Ms. Watts. Ms. Ruby presented the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The recommendation was that the current slate of officers (Mr. Thaeler – Chairperson, Mr. Boothe – Vice-Chairperson, and Ms. Conwell – Treasurer), be retained for 2019. The members will consider this recommendation at the February, 2019 meeting.

## **II. Host County Presentation**

Mr. Gallihue provided a presentation on the Harford County Green Infrastructure Plan. The Green Infrastructure Plan was initially envisioned in HarfordNEXT as a means to assist in the implementation of several strategic action items from that plan. Mr. Gallihue indicated that the intent of the Green Infrastructure Plan involves creating and retaining a county-wide greenspace network. He further described the network as taking a core, hub, and corridor approach to identifying the network. Much of the network involves forested lands, and thus the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan is unfolding almost from a forester's perspective. Once completed, the plan is intended to be used to guide land conservation and open space decisions to enhance recreation opportunities, protect ecosystems, protect water quality, and manage stormwater.

## **III. Future of MDTF Discussion – Continued**

Mr. Thaeler led a discussion among the members regarding the future direction of the Task Force. He noted that the make-up of the Task Force continues to transition with new and potentially new participants, and new existing member appointments. He stressed that the Task Force must strive to provide value for the members, both in terms of topical area discussions and information sharing.

A summary of the discussion is provided as an attachment to these minutes.

#### **IV. County Updates**

##### **Harford County**

- Mr. Davenport reiterated the continuing work on the Green Infrastructure Plan, as was presented earlier in the meeting.

##### **Adams County**

- Mr. Thaeler indicated that the Adams County has two important projects moving forward. First involves the development of a prototype, countywide Phase 3 Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP). Second involves the development of an economic impact analysis of the equine industry in Adams County. This effort is modeled after the Fruitbelt economic impact analysis prepared recently.

##### **Cecil County**

- Mr. Boothe indicated that much of his time has been spent pursuing illegal forestry operations, participating on a state committee dealing with agricultural easements and public rights-of-way, and dealing with an unapproved mining operation.

##### **Baltimore County**

- Ms. Watts indicated that the county's Reservoir Technical Group is updating its strategy for maintaining its reservoir and protecting water supply. This updates action items from 2005. The county is also preparing for WIP3.

##### **Carroll County**

- Ms. Stewart indicated the county is working on a Pedestrian / Bicycle Master Plan, which is slated for completion in 2019.

##### **Chester County**

- Ms. Conwell indicated that the county has held its last public meeting regarding the county's comprehensive plan update. Next steps will be the upcoming public hearing followed by plan adoption. She also indicated that Chester County will

receive \$2 million in fines from Sunoco which will be used for stream restoration projects.

**V. Next Meeting:**

The members confirmed that the next meeting of the Task Force will be held on February 7, 2019 in Carroll County.

**VI. Adjournment:**

With no further items for discussion, Mr. Thaeler called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Conwell move for adjournment, with Mr. Davenport seconding. The motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.



## **Mason Dixon Task Force Future of the Task Force Summary of Discussion November 1, 2018**

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On November 1, 2018, the membership of the Mason Dixon Task Force held a discussion regarding the future of the Task Force during its regular Task Force meeting. Discussion revolved around a list of questions (see attached) that were distributed to the members in advance of the November 1, 2018 meeting. The following generally summarizes the discussion within the context of identifying future activities, events, topics, and membership.

- Members expressed interest in continuing forward with the current organizational framework of the organization.
- Members also expressed interest and willingness to consider inviting additional counties in the region to join the Task Force.
- Members expressed support for the current range of topical areas that are presented and discussed at Task Force events. Members specifically expressed support and interest in having presentations and discussion regarding a broad range of topics. At the same time, members expressed support and interest for continuing to have a specific focus on water resources management and sustainability as a topical area that binds the organization together.
- Members expressed support for continuing the strong networking focus on the organization, particularly when coupled with the educational opportunities the Task Force provides from planning and resource management professionals within the region.
- Members do not view the Task Force as an organization that would help facilitate the coordination of efforts on a given topic area (for example, water resources management) across the region covered by Task Force membership. Members did not view this as an appropriate role for the Task Force, particularly given that most topics already have an organization (for example, state government departments) that already serve such purpose. At the same time, members indicated some support for the notion that the Task Force could serve as an means to facilitate planning coordination, consistency, and review across the member counties.



**Mason Dixon Task Force  
Future of the Task Force  
Questions List  
November 1, 2018**

1. Please identify the most important benefits that you and your organization derive from participation in the Mason Dixon Task Force.
2. Please identify the topical areas that you and your organization would like the Task Force to address.
3. Are there characteristics of how the Task Force is organized or how we function that should be improved to encourage continued participation and to grow participation in the organization?
4. The Mason Dixon Task Force has, in the past, convened one-day conference events on a variety of topical areas. Given the time and staff effort needed to convene such events, should the Mason Dixon Task Force continue to consider providing such conference events.
5. The Mason Dixon Task Force has, in the past, convened "County Host Programs" where the host county provides an informational program about issues and activities occurring in the host county. Should the Mason Dixon Task Force continue with this type of program? If so, should we continue with the current format of such meetings, or should we explore other potential formats?
6. Should the Mason Dixon Task Force explore the potential of using the Task Force as a forum to address regional topics and issues? Are there regional issues or topics that the Mason Dixon Task Force could work on collaboratively?
7. Are there other issues regarding the future of the Mason Dixon Task Force that we should discuss?