

**THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 @ 1:00 PM
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING
41770 BALDRIDGE STREET
LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County was held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Present:

Chairman David Willenborg
Member George Anas
Member Richard Shin
Member Barbara Hill
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator
Chris Beaver, Attorney
Kevin Hall, Inspector

Not Present:

Vice-Chairman Richard Watts
Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary
Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Anas made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Member Hill made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on February 13, 2025, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Applications**

Drift Inn Crab House- Application for Darin West to purchase a Class B (Restaurant) BWL license and t/a Drift Inn Crab House (Drift Inn Crab House, LLC), 41310 Riverview Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

Darin West appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. West stated that everything will remain the same as with previous ownership and that all servers and bar staff will be trained. Member Shin inquired as to why the agenda noted this as a new license application. Mrs. Hildebrand stated that it was an error, it was a transfer, and the legal

ads reflected the transfer. Member Shin made a motion for a 90-day conditional approval pending the Fire Marshal, Use and Occupancy and clearance of the tax hold from the previous ownership, seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

El Coqui - Application for Martha Lopez Perez and Roberto Lopez Torres to purchase a Class B (Restaurant) BWL license and t/a El Coqui (El Coqui, LLC), 21030 Point Lookout Rd., Callaway, MD 20620. And permission for catering privilege and extension of premises for outdoor service.

Martha Lopez Perez and Roberto Lopez Torres appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mr. Lopez stated that he had some prior experience serving alcohol while working for his family in Puerto Rico. Member Shin made a motion for the approval of Class B BWL license seconded by Member Anas. Motion carried.

- **Premise Changes**

Southern Trail Distillery – Richard Copsey - Requesting temporary extension of premises into the normal parking area and field and portable outdoor serving counter for three (3) special events: Spring Shine Festival, May 10, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Fall Market, October 4, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Winter Market, December 6, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Richard and Rachael Copsey appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mrs. Copsey explained this is their 6th year and everything will be about the same as in the past years; their security plan, entrance and exit points, and that there will be 100% I.D. checking. Member Anas made a motion for the approval, seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Southern Trail Distillery – Richard Copsey - Requesting temporary extension of premises and extra serving counter for Bats & Boos event on October 25, 2025, from 4:30 PM to 10:00 PM.

Richard and Rachael Copsey appeared before the Board and remained sworn in. Chairman Willenborg made a motion for the approval, seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

- **Trade Name Changes**

Hermanville C-Store - Requesting trade name change to Aspen Liquors

Member Shin made a motion for the approval of the trade name change, seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

- **2025 Renewals for Approval**

Member Anas made a motion for the approval of the 2025 renewals, seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Hildebrand explained that for the most part, the renewal process went smoothly. Also, Suzi is back in her regular capacity which helped with renewal. Mrs. Hildebrand told the Board of the passing of long-time licensee Tommy Courtney. She has been working with the family for a while since Tommy became ill.

BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT

For the month of February, Inspector Hall reported:

- 6 inspections
- 2 postings on establishments that did not renew; some with walk through to make sure alcohol had been removed
- Sent text message renewal reminders.
- Covered Administrative Assistant duties as needed.

ST MARY'S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION

David Dent stated that the SMLBA had recently held elections for their new officers for 2025.

New officers- Parth Patel - President
Maval Patel -Vice President
Matt Rogow- Secretary
David Dent – Treasurer
Guy Combs – Representative

Mr. Dent brought the Board up to date on the Legislative session in Annapolis by stating:

SB 824 the grocery bill has been withdrawn

HB 1379, also a chain store bill, is still active but not expected to come out of committee
HB1400 No Tax on Tips - bill was basically to raise minimum wage but then was changed to requiring making local liquor boards to suspend licenses if no sexual harassment training was taken. Most likely this bill will not make it out of committee.

Mr. Dent stated he thought all 3 St. Mary's County bills would go through. Guy Combs spoke to the Board and explained how he hopes to get more members involved in the SMCLBA and get it back to the way it was before COVID.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shin made a motion to adjourn at 1:40 pm, seconded by Member Anas. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary

David Willenborg, Chairman