

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled executive board meeting on December 5, 2014 at the Mid Shore Regional office in Easton. Members in attendance were: Allen Nelson, Dirck Bartlett, Kurt Fuchs and Walter Chase. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

The meeting was called to order at 12:16 p.m.

Approval of May 28, 2014 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the May 28, 2014 minutes. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked for any further discussion, ayes have it motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

Treasurer Fuchs presented the financial report, stating all expenditures were on track. Mr. Bartlett moved to approve the December 5th financial report, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Mr. Chase asked if there was any further discussion, ayes have it motion carried unanimously.

Employee Matters

Mr. Warner wanted to make the Executive Board aware of a discussion he had this morning with the MSRC accountant and health insurance provider regarding the new healthcare law and its effects on the MSRC. Mr. Warner gave an overview of how the MSRC can stay within budget and still honor its commitment to Ms. Deighan regarding her employee compensation. The Board appreciated the information and was glad Mr. Warner was on top of the situation.

Ratification of "Recommendation for Scott Warner to continue to serve as to Mid-Shore Regional Council's Member Delegate to the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc."

Mr. Warner stated an electronic vote initiated on August 29, 2014, resulted in five responses from the Executive Board. All were in support of accepting the recommendation for him to continue to serve as the MSRC delegate on the Maryland Broadband Cooperative Board. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to ratify, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Mr. Chase asked for all in favor to signify aye, opposed? Ayes have it, motion was ratified unanimously.

Ratification of electronic vote “Resolution accepting the MTA FY15 MTA Coordination Grant”

Mr. Warner stated an electronic vote initiated on August 5, 2014 resulted in seven responses from the Executive Board. All were in support of accepting the grant. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to ratify, Mr. Bartlett seconded the motion. Mr. Chase asked for all in favor to signify aye, opposed? Ayes have it, motion was ratified unanimously.

MSRC membership – new members and vacancies

Mr. Warner announced the following changes to the MSRC voting membership:

- Caroline County Commissioner Dan Franklin will replace Jeff Ghrist
- Talbot County Councilmember Andy Hollis will be replaced, but the Talbot County Council has not yet notified the MSRC on his replacement.
- Caroline municipal elected official will be Debra Rowe (Mayor, Town of Marydel) replacing William Cooper
- General Assembly member representing the region will be
 - Senator Addie Eckardt (replacing Rich Colburn)
 - Delegates Johnny Mautz and Chris Adams (replacing Addie Eckardt and Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio)
- Representatives that have requested to be replaced
 - Bill Brooks (Maryland Seafood Industries)
 - Anne Fleming (Dorchester private business representative)
 - Mike Silgen (Talbot private business representative)

Mr. Warner then stated that he and Chairman Chase have a suggestion for Mike Silgen’s replacement, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. Mr. Nelson made a motion to replace Mr. Silgen with Ms. Haddaway-Riccio, Mr. Fuchs seconded that motion. Mr. Chase stated all in favor signify by stating aye; opposed? Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bartlett then stated the Board should consider keeping Mr. Silgen on the Healthcare Work Group committee. He also suggested Mr. Warner contact healthcare expert Keith Ghezzi from Royal Oak as well for this committee. Mr. Bartlett provided Mr. Ghezzi’s phone number.

Discuss/ approve recommendation of the 2015 MSRC Executive Board

Mr. Warner reminded the Board Members of the automatic changes to the Vice Chair positions that occur due to the MSRC By-Laws. They are 1st Vice Chair will be Dorchester County, 2nd Vice Chair will be Talbot County, and 3rd Vice Chair will be Caroline County. Mr. Warner added that in recent conversations with Counties’ representatives that Commissioner Dan Franklin, Councilman Ricky Travers, and Councilman Dirck Bartlett would serve on the Executive Board. After a brief discussion the following 2015 MSRC Executive Board slate was proposed.

- Chairman: Walter Chase
- First Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)
- Second Vice-Chairman: Dirck Bartlett (Talbot)
- Third Vice-Chairman: Dan Franklin (Caroline)
- Secretary: Allen Nelson

- Treasurer: Kurt Fuchs
- General Assembly: Johnny Mautz
- Member-at-large: Gale Nashold
- Member-at-large: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio

Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept the slate as presented, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Mr. Chase asked for all in favor to signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights, ayes have it. The slate was passed unanimously. This proposed slate will be presented to the full Council at their December 11, 2014 meeting for their approval.

Old Business

Health Cluster's Economic Impact Work Group – update/ moving forward

Mr. Warner stated that members of the Group met with University of Maryland Shore Regional Health (UMSRH) on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 in their Board Room at Memorial Hospital in Easton. Representatives of Shore Regional Health in attendance were:

John Dillon, Chairman, Board of Directors of UMSRH

Ken Kozel, President & CEO of UMSRH

Patti Willis, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Communications of UMSRH

Members of the Health Work Group in attendance were Walter Chase, Larry Porter, Allen Nelson, Ted Bautz, Al Silverstein and Scott Warner.

Members of Health Work Group who were not able to attend were Dirck Bartlett, Andy Hollis and Gale Nashold.

Following the meeting Mr. Dillon told Mr. Warner that he would attend any future meetings he was asked to attend. Also, following the meeting Mr. Kozel asked Mr. Warner to set up a lunch meeting with him. The date for the meeting is Friday, December 19, 2014.

A discussion ensued where Mr. Warner asked the group if they would like to consider enlarging the existing committee. It was suggested that Mr. Warner send an email after the first of the year to the existing members requesting recommendations for viable additions to the committee. Mr. Nelson suggested creating a sub-committee using Wicomico County as an example.

Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) update

Mr. Fuchs stated that when this issue arose in 2013 he requested the MSRC write a letter of concern. The letter dated November 14, 2013 was sent to Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Earl F. Hance. Mr. Warner stated that Mr. Fuchs was very instrumental in drafting this letter. Mr. Fuchs went on to state that this PMT would cause great hardship to many farmers due to the cost factor. He would like for an updated letter from the MSRC stating fiscal reality and the great cost to the Ag community due to cost share possibilities not being available to farmers. The Board completely agreed to send a new letter. Mr. Fuchs will work with Mr. Warner to draft the letter. The Board also requested to be kept updated on the process of the PMT. Mr. Fuchs stated the Governor had set a six year time frame for implementation.

Endorsement letter sent by MSRC

Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC supplied an endorsement letter for ESEC's Innovation grant application to EDA. The grant would be for a regional strategy for innovation throughout Maryland's Eastern Shore. It would include a mobile lab which is available for on-site training at manufacturers and other businesses in innovation and 3D printing (additive manufacturing), 30-hour innovation training course in collaboration with community colleges, and contribute to a 13-week accelerator program at hotDesks that takes new startups from idea stage to commercialization.

New Business

Presentation of MSRC FY13 independent financial statements

The Board determined this would be discussed at their next meeting; giving them time to review the document.

Funding – FY2016 State of Maryland Budget

Mr. Warner stated the MSRC will continue working to get the \$200,000 per regional council (\$1 million total) into the State budget.

He also discussed the Rural Maryland Council's (RMC) request for \$6 million in funding for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). The RMPIF encompasses 18 rural counties. The RMC is working with the Rural Maryland Foundation to produce a video that puts faces to the RMPIF. This effort to fund the RMPIF is entitled the ASPIRE Campaign for Rural Maryland.

Eastern Shore Food Hub

Mr. Warner stated that on Monday, November 24, Easton Economic Development Corporation (EEDC) requested an opportunity to present the food hub to the MSRC. After a discussion with Chairman Chase, Mr. Warner set up the presentation with EEDC Executive Director Tracy Ward. The presentation will be held during the MSRC full council meeting on Thursday, December 11. It is scheduled to be a 10 minute presentation followed by a 10 minute questions and answers session. Mr. Warner reminded the Board that the MSRC has been involved in food hub discussions since he was first asked to attend a February 4, 2014 meeting with Paige Bethke, Cleo Braver and Tracy Ward held at the Talbot County Economic Development Office. The Board discussed various issues regarding the food hub.

Other matters

The next full council MSRC meeting will be December 11, 2014 at the Delmarva Community Services building in Cambridge at 5:00pm.

There will be a Regional councils' luncheon on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at the Hyatt in Cambridge from 11:45am to 12:45pm. It will be held during the MACo Conference, as in previous years.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m. by unanimous consent.