

The Mid-Shore Regional Council held a scheduled Executive Board meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Mid-Shore Regional Council office. Members in attendance were: Dirck Bartlett, Walter Chase, Gale Nashold, Jeff Ghrist, Kurt Fuchs and Andy Hollis. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. Chairman Bartlett called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

#### *Approval of November 21, 2011 Minutes*

The first order of business was approval of the November 21, 2011 Minutes. Chairman Bartlett asked for a motion to approve the Minutes; Mr. Nashold motioned to approve, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

#### *Financial Report*

The next order of business was presentation of the current financial report. Treasurer Fuchs' stated that expenditures are all on track for this fiscal year to date. Chairman Bartlett asked for a motion to approve the financials; Mr. Nashold stated he would make the motion with one correction, change the fiscal year beginning date, as it reads now 07/01/12, it should read 07/01/11; Mr. Chase then seconded the motion and the financial report was approved unanimously.

#### Old Business

##### *Regional Councils' Funding in FY13 State Budget*

Chairman Bartlett asked Mr. Warner to explain the status of the Regional Councils' funding in FY13 State budget. Mr. Warner stated that the regional councils are in the proposed budget for \$73,500 each. Communications with State representatives have been made stating the need for historical legislative intended amount of \$200,000, including Chairman Conway and Senator Middleton, also Mid-Shore legislators Senator Colburn, Delegate Eckardt, and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio, Eastern Shore Delegation, Southern Maryland Delegation, and Western Maryland Delegation.

A presentation to the Eastern Shore Delegation was made on 1/27/12 and another presentation was also made to the Rural Caucus on 2/23/12. For the Rural Caucus presentation several people made the trip to Annapolis to show their support for the MSRC including Mr. Chase, Mr. Nashold, Mr. William Cooper, Holly Foster of Chapel Country Creamery, Kevin Deighan of Shore Gourmet and Terry Deighan of MSRC. Mr. Fuchs and Steve McHenry also were in attendance as a show of support, as well as the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's Josh Hastings. In addition support letters sent to the Governor with copies to legislators were also sent from all three counties (Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot), Talbot County Economic Development Commission, Senator Colburn, Delegate Eckardt, and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio (2

from Delegate Haddaway-Riccio (10/12/11 and 1/27/12), the latter went to the Governor and Lt. Governor).

Mr. Warner also informed the Executive Board that Senator Colburn initiated a phone call to Lt. Governor on 12/21/12 requesting a meeting for him, Delegate Haddaway-Riccio, and Walter Chase with the Lt. Governor or his Chief of Staff. After other contacts with the Lt. Governor and his Chief of Staff, Mr. Chase and Mr. Warner met with the Lt. Governor's Chief of Staff on 1/31/12.

This update of State funding was followed by discussing the possibility of increasing the county councils' contributions to the MSRC by 25%, 50%, or 100%. A discussion ensued regarding budget and Mr. Warner shared a list he had made regarding the amount of money that has been leveraged to date because of the existence of the MSRC; and suggested to share these figures with our Counties, Delegates and Senators so they can advocate for MSRC funding.

#### *Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)*

Mr. Warner then explained that the RMPIF was not funded in the proposed FY13 State budget; the Rural Maryland Council and regional councils are working with same individuals as above to get \$4 million into the fund. Presentations have been made to Delegations and individuals explaining the need for this fund to assist in building capacity in the rural regions of the State. Senator Middleton is the lead on getting RMPIF funded. Starting this year with a meeting on 8/30/11 called by Senator Middleton and Chairman Conway with Secretaries of Department of Budget & Management, Business and Economic Development, and Agriculture and their staffs and/or representatives.

#### *CEDS projects*

##### *Regional Medical Facility:*

Mr. Warner reminded the Board that on 11/10/12 he traveled to the EDA office in Philadelphia with Talbot County Manager John Craig and Economic Development Director Paige Bethke to meet with EDA representative Alma Plummer regarding the Regional Medical Facility CEDS project. Ms. Plummer is expecting updated information anytime. Mr. Warner is letting her know that as soon as the agreement between all the local parties is signed an updated Investment Summary will be sent to her in preparation for grant submittal. Mr. Warner met with John Craig on 2/13/12 and learned that Talbot County is working through the final stages of an agreement with Shore Health System. The grant should be submitted by 6/8/12 which is the EDA deadline for grant submittal for funding in cycle 4 of FY2012. Mr. Bartlett stated that the University of Maryland Medical System is the driving force now, not Shore Health System.

##### *Eastern Shore Innovation Center and Business Accelerator (regional incubator):*

Mr. Warner reminded the Executive Board that Dorchester County made an inquiry on 11/16/11 about possibly submitting a grant application to EDA. On 11/21/11 Mr. Warner spoke to EDA Economic Development Specialist Alma Plummer as there were many questions regarding the scope of the project, as well as to clarify that two projects from the same region submitted during the same funding cycle do compete with one another. On 12/8/12 Mr. Warner facilitated a conference call

between Dorchester Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe and Ms. Plummer to discuss the possibilities of submitting an EDA grant to support the building of an incubator in the Dorchester Technology Park. On 1/18/12 Dorchester County submitted the first draft of an EDA Investment Abstract to Ms. Plummer. On 2/1/12 Mr. Warner participated in a conference call with Ms. Haythe, Tech Growth President Shirley Collier (consultant to Dorchester County), and Ms. Plummer to discuss the EDA Investment Abstract. On 2/2/12 Scott, Mike Thielke, and John General participated on a conference call initiated by Facility Logix, LLC | Building Performance President Pat Larrabee. Ms. Larrabee has been hired to update the Business Plan For Proposed Dorchester County Entrepreneurship Incubator submitted to Dorchester County by her company on March 6, 2008. Also on 2/2/12 Ms. Collier called Mr. Warner to discuss various aspects of establishing an incubator that will serve the Eastern Shore. Finally on 2/10/12 ESEC Executive Director met with Ms. Collier at her request to discuss the establishment of an incubator and incubator programs.

### New Business

#### *Proposed Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) relating to the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS PAX)*

Mr. Warner explained to the Board that the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) is working with the U.S. Department of Defense and Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS PAX) to assist with a JLUS relating to the NAS PAX and its Inner Atlantic Range (Chesapeake). TCCSMD has reached out to the MSRC and Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) to partner in the JLUS since our counties are impacted by NAS PAX. TCCSMD Executive Director Wayne Clark spoke to the MSRC and TCCLES at the luncheon held at MACo on 1/5/12. On 1/30/12 an introductory meeting in which several stakeholder counties' representatives in Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore of Maryland, and Virginia were invited. Representatives invited included county planning directors and economic development directors. The two main parts of the study are:

1. Flight range over the Eastern Shore – Inner Atlantic Range (Chesapeake)
2. Windmill heights that affect NAS PAX radar systems

A presentation will be given at the MSRC meeting on 3/15/12 by Greg Bowen, TCCSMD, and Richard Tenga, U.S. Department of Defense - Office of Economic Adjustment. TCCSMD has approved cooperating with JLUS for NAS PAX; the MSRC and TCCLES are being asked if they would cooperate, as well as, the six counties they represent. A good faith commitment that jurisdictions will participate in the study and highly consider the recommendations that come from the study is the objective. The cost to MSRC, TCCLES, and Eastern Shore counties is zero as TCCSMD and its counties are matching all federal grant funds.

### Other matters

None

### Member comments/requests

*None*

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Fuchs, seconded by Mr. Chase and approved by all at 5:00 p.m.