The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled board meeting on September 17, 2014. It included the board meeting and a trip to Salisbury to tour the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) office, a broadband point of presence (POP), and the Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MdBC) corporate office building.

A majority of attendees met at the MSRC office by 10:00 A.M. and from there caravanned to Salisbury. Once we arrived at the ESRGC building and met other MSRC members and guests, Dr. Michael Scott welcomed everyone and gave them a historic review of the ESRGC. We then broke into smaller groups and toured the facility. Members of the ESRGC staff demonstrated a few of their current projects including figuration of property percentage affected by the new rain tax, LIDAR mapping, and dashboards. We next were taken on a tour of a broadband POP located near the Salisbury bypass. MdBC President and CEO Patrick Mitchell explained the POP so we could all better understand the inner workings of what the MdBC puts together. After that tour we traveled to the MdBC corporate office where we were treated to lunch and conducted the MSRC board meeting.

Members in attendance included: Dan Rider, Gale Nashold, Maria D'Arcy, Walter Chase, Wilbur Levengood, Delegate Addie Eckardt and Mike Silgen. Guest included: Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff for the Caroline County Commissioners; Doris Mason, Executive Director of the Upper Shore Regional Council; Charlotte Davis, Executive Director of Rural Maryland Council; Ed Vitales and John McQuaid, Broadband Implementation Coordinators; Denise Lovelady representative for Congressman Harris; Kim Kratovil representative of Senator Ben Cardin; Linda Prochaska representative of Senator Barbara Mikulski; Michael Scott, Director of the ESRGC; Patrick Mitchell and Tyler Patton of the MdBC; Mike Pennington and Kristie Eberly of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore; and Jack Keats and Sherry Levengood, residents of Caroline County. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Mr. Warner announced Chairman Chase was in possession of proxies from Senator Colburn and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio. Mr. Warner also stated that he was in possession of electronic votes from Kurt Fuchs, Andy Hollis, Dirck Bartlett, Jeff Ghrist, Rick Travers, Jerome Stanley and Allen Nelson who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of June 12, 2014 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the June 12, 2014 minutes. Mr. Rider made a motion to approve, that motion was seconded by Delegate Eckardt. Chairman Chase asked for all in favor to signify by saying aye, and those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The next order was to obtain approval for the treasurer's report. In Treasurer Fuchs absence, Mr. Warner stated that all financial items were on track. Delegate Eckardt made a motion to approve, that motion was seconded by Mr. Silgen. Chairman Chase asked for all those in favor signify by stating aye, those opposed nay. The ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Warner gave a few quick updates.

Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Air Station Patuxent River

The first update was on the JLUS for Naval Air Station Patuxent River. The JLUS - East Area TAG (Technical Advisory Group) and Public Workshop was held at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton on August 6, 2014. The meeting focused on the draft JLUS Strategy Section reviewing each subcategory and discussing its impact on the various regions covered by the JLUS. Input was collected and will be distributed to the TAG for further input.
NAS PAX JLUS Policy Committee meetings are planned for November 20, 2014 and December 17, 2014. They will be held from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department Hall.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

The next update was given by Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Director Charlotte Davis. She stated that RMC members have had meetings and communication with state administration and legislators, especially during the Summer MACo Conference. They have kept the RMC Legislative Committee updated and she will be contacting everyone again for support letters to hopefully help the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund get funded in the FY2016 State budget.

Mr. Chase asked if anyone had questions on any of the following:

- Business and Technology Parks: Caroline County or Dorchester County
- Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)
- Shore Gourmet
- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)
- Regional Medical Center Campus EDA grant

There were no questions from attendees.

Upcoming Meetings

Council Members were reminded of future meetings:

Mid Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at 12:00pm at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton.

The next Mid-Shore Regional Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014, in Dorchester County at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting portion was adjourned at 1:45 p.m., at which time the group divided into two groups and was taken on a tour of the MdBC facility. Pat Mitchell and Tyler Patton conducted the tours. We saw the whole facility that included offices, lab and assembly area, the command center where the entire MdBC fiber network is monitored utilizing large display screens. Mr. Mitchell shared that the MdBC has received approval for the Chesapeake Bay crossing and their plans for cable to be buried in the Bay. It was a two year process. We were also shown two sizes of fiber cable and learned that cable is made out of glass. It was a very interesting and enlightening presentation.

The group then returned to the conference room where ESRGC Director Mike Scott gave an update on the Maryland Broadband Mapping Initiative. He explained how this five year initiative is scheduled for completion this October. He handed out a two-page summary that included accomplishments and impacts. Dr. Scott stated that interns traveled the state with cell phones from all the major carriers to obtain an accurate and comprehensive mapping of the various carriers' coverage areas. He informed the group that although carriers have coverage maps on their sites, they are not necessarily correct and for comprehensive mapping coverage information you may visit the Maryland Broadband Mapping Initiative's site www.mdbroadbandmap.org.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

We traveled back to the MSRC office and were back at 4:00 P.M.