

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled meeting on March 18, 2015. The meeting was held at the Talbot County Senior Center in Easton. Members in attendance included: Andrew Hollis, Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Chuck Callahan, Jennifer Williams, Daniel Franklin, Dan Rider, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Jerome Stanley, Robert Hanson, Maria D'Arcy, and Walter Chase. Guests in attendance included Economic Development Directors Angela Visintainer (Caroline County), Keasha Haythe (Dorchester County) and Mark Green (in attendance for Paige Bethke, Talbot County), Tracy Ward of the Easton Economic Development Corporation, John General of CBRTCE, Mike Thielke of ESEC, Dr. Michael Scott of ESRGC, broadband implementation coordinator John McQuaid of ESRGC, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, Deborah Divins of the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, Barbara Viniar of Chesapeake College, Linda Prochaska of Senator Mikulski's office, Kim Kratovil of Senator Cardin's office, and Charlotte Davis of the RMC. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Chairman Chase announced he was in possession of proxies from Senator Eckardt and Delegates Adams and Mautz. Jennifer Williams was carrying a proxy for Dirck Bartlett.

#### *Approval of the December 11, 2014 Minutes*

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the December 11, 2014 Minutes. Ms. Haythe had pointed out a name correction to Ms. Deighan before the start of the meeting. The person attending that meeting on her behalf in December's first name should be Susan not Tammy. Ms. Deighan will make the said change. Being no further changes Mr. Franklin made a motion to approve the minutes, motion was seconded by Ms. Spicher. Chairman Chase asked for all in favor to signify aye, all opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

#### *Ratification of revised CEDS document*

Mr. Warner stated that all MSRC voting members and County Administrator/Managers are on the CEDS Committee. The full CEDS Committee last met on October 8, 2014. The CEDS Executive Committee met on December 15, 2014. On January 6, 2015 the MSRC held a full CEDS committee meeting at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton at which time one project was unanimously approved for inclusion in the document, Chesapeake Marine Trades Academy, and one existing project was removed from the CEDS Action Plan and

placed in Appendix F – Completed and Removed Projects, Environmental Monitoring of the Chesapeake Bay. The removal was done following feedback from Keasha Haythe and Paige Bethke as instructed by the CEDS Committee at their last meeting. The ESRGC staff completed updates of the statistical sections of the document.

The MSRC will submit the updated CEDS document to the EDA Philadelphia office once ratified and posted on the website for public comment for 30 days. The updated document was emailed to everyone on March 12, 2015 with this meetings agenda. It can also be viewed on the MSRC website [www.midshore.org](http://www.midshore.org) under “Reports & Publications.”

Mr. Rider made a motion to ratify the document, that motion was seconded by Mr. Franklin. Chairman Chase asked for all in favor to signify aye, all opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

### *Treasurer’s Report*

In the absence of the MSRC Treasurer, Mr. Warner presented the current Treasurer’s Report stating that the MSRC is on track with both expenses and income for this fiscal year that is almost three quarters complete. As there were no questions Ms. Spicher made a motion to accept the report, the motion was seconded by Mr. Stanley. Chairman Chase asked for all in favor to signify aye, all opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

### *Eastern Shore Innovation Center*

Dorchester County Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe stated that Dorchester Council voted 3-2 in favor of construction. Seven business have signed letters of intent to move into the incubator, 65% of capacity. Ground breaking is scheduled to be later this month with construction being completed sometime in December of this year. They are presently seeking a part time incubator manager.

### *Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)*

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke stated the ShoreVenture classes being held at Wor-Wic Community College will end in early April, the delay was due to weather cancellations.

ShoreVenture originally scheduled to start in March at Chesapeake College has been cancelled due to lack of participants.

hotDesks is getting ready to open its second location which is on Goldsborough Street in Easton. It is approximately 750 square feet and has broadband capacity of 100 mbs up and 10 mbs down thanks to the partnership of Easton Utilities. He also thanked the Talbot County Economic Development Office for

sponsoring four hotDesks memberships. The opening is slated for the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A mini-accelerator program is underway at hotDesks Salisbury. The program is 6 weeks from start to completion; two companies are participating.

The Revolving Loan Fund has approximately \$400,000 available. Once all funds are allocated ESEC will seek to obtain additional funds.

Ms. Burgoyne asked if there is an application fee. Mr. Thielke said yes, a \$100 application fee, which may be revisited.

#### *Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)*

MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General stated application reviews of capital grant application Under Section 5310 have been completed.

This funding comes from USDOT/FTA for Section 5310-Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities capital funds for Non-Profit Organizations and the availability of State funds for the Senior Rides Program. MUST serves as the Regional Planning office for the Upper Eastern Shore (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties). There were five endorsed grant submissions requesting a total of over \$1.7 million. They were submitted to the MTA by the February 27, 2015 deadline.

Mr. General also stated that a needs assessment/long range plan for the upper six counties is underway.

#### *"Taste of the Eastern Shore" legislative reception*

Mr. Warner stated the event was held on February 19 at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis and had a record number of participants and attendees this year. It was a great event and new sponsors have already approached the MSRC and TCCLES to be included next year. The TCCLES is examining the number of attendees and may discuss with the MSRC and USRC the desire to set a maximum number of attendees. There is an advantage of keeping the event at a certain size so attendees can mingle and talk to each other.

#### *Rural Maryland Day in Annapolis*

Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Director Charlotte Davis stated that on February 19 the RMC coordinated a Rural Maryland Day. There were five teams of rural Maryland supporters who visited with State of Maryland Senators and Delegates to inform them on the RMC priorities during this legislative session. This includes keeping the RMC, MAERDAF, and regional councils at level funding that are in the proposed budget. Following the visits the RMC sponsored an informal lunch in downtown Annapolis. Not only did several of morning

participants attended, but legislators who wanted to show support for Rural Maryland also stopped by to address the attendees.

### *State Funding – FY2016*

Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC and all regional councils are currently in the proposed budget at level funding of \$150,000 each for FY2016. He added that the RMC and MAERDAF are also level funded.

The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund is not in the FY2016 proposed budget, but the RMC and its supporters are still looking for opportunities.

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had questions regarding any of the following:

- Maryland Broadband Cooperative
- Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)
- Shore Gourmet
- Business and Technology Parks
- Regional Medical Center Campus EDA grant
- Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Air Station Patuxent River

There were no questions from the Council.

### *Presentation: Maryland's FirstNet Program*

As Maryland's FirstNet Broadband Coordinator Lori Stone was already obligated to attend another event, she asked Dr. Michael Scott to give the PowerPoint presentation to the Council. Dr. Scott is a member of Maryland's FirstNet Broadband Team.

“The Maryland InterOp Team is working to prepare our state for the design, deployment, and eventual operation of our Nation's first Public Safety Broadband Network.” Statewide Interoperability Program Management Office is in charge of overseeing the program. This program is for first respondents. Caroline County is Maryland's pilot county for Maryland FirstNet. The presentation was very informational and interesting and we look forward to getting future updates as the project progresses. There were several questions posed regarding participation and overall coverage of the cost of the program. The Council was very engaged and in favor of the project.

### *Member comments/requests*

Chairman Chase reminded MSRC voting members that they need to complete the 2014 State of Maryland ethics form by April 30<sup>th</sup>. If anyone needs further information please contact Terry.

Ms. Burgoyne reminded everyone the Upper Shore BRN (Business Resource Network) will be held tomorrow at Chesapeake College starting at 9:00 a.m. Anyone interested may attend.

Dr. Scott stated the Maryland Department of Planning is scheduling aerial flights to start next winter. Any county interested in upgrading their photos should contact him for more information.

*Adjourn*

Chairman Chase adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.