

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled quarterly meeting on September 17, 2015. This meeting was our annual field trip, prior to leaving on the tour the meeting was held aboard the tour bus at the MSRC office. Members in attendance included Dan Franklin, Wilbur Levengood, Carolyn Spicher, Gale Nashold, Maria D'Arcy, Rick Price, Jerome Stanley, Chuck Callahan, Burton Wilson, Senator Addie Eckardt, Delegate Johnny Mautz, Walter Chase, Dan Rider, and Kurt Fuchs. Guests in attendance were: Dorchester County Manager Jeremy Goldman; Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes; Linda Prochaska from Senator Mikulski's office; Denise Lovelady from Congressman Harris' office; Mike Pennington of the TCCLES; Mike Thielke of ESEC; Caroline County Technologies Director Jim McCormick; Caroline County Tourism Director Kathy Mackel, Shannon Reed from USDA Rural Development; Andrew Gosden from MD Department of the Environment; Sherry Levengood, Bonnie Martin, and Jack Keats all Caroline County residents; Todd Berman of the MD Forest Association; Richard Abend Tree Farmer of the Year and Dorchester Forestry Board Member; and Steve McHenry, Andra Davis, Betsy McKeehan, Amy Cook and Karen Gindes all from MARBIDCO. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. Larry Porter, President, Caroline County Commissioners; Kim Kratovil, Senator Ben Cardin's Field Representative; and Bill Miles, Executive Director, Association of Forestry Industries, met us later during the tour.

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. at which time introductions were made. Mr. Warner announced Chairman Chase was carrying Delegate Chris Adams' proxy. Mr. Warner also stated that he was in possession of electronic votes from Ricky Travers, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, and Allen Nelson who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of June 11, 2015 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the June 11, 2015 minutes. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the minutes presented, Mr. Franklin seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked for any further discussion, all in favor to signify aye, those opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs stated the MSRC is right on track, nothing to point out, expenditures and receivables are right where they should be. Being no questions Mr. Franklin made a motion to accept, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked for any further discussion, all in favor to signify aye, those opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke was present to give updates although not able to attend the tour. He stated that ESEC has a new branding, using *hotDesks – Your Link to the Innovation and Startup Ecosystem*. The new website is www.hotdesks.org. He stated hotDesks locations now include Easton, Salisbury, and Pocomoke City. He further noted that hotDesks and ETC Baltimore have a reciprocity agreement for their respective members. hotDesks serves as a satellite facility for TEDCO field representatives and has entrepreneurs-in-residence. As a Member of Maryland Business Incubation Association (MBIA), Mike Thielke is the MBIA Board of Director's Secretary.

Mr. Thielke has been actively assisting in the establishment of an investor club – PinOak Capital Investment Group. PinOak Capital Investment Group has individual accredited investors. ESEC will manage the fund.

Eastern Shore Manufacturing Council (ESMC)

Mr. Warner stated that Bill Barnes resigned as the ESMC Executive Director as he has taken a job as a manager at an incubator associated with Purdue University in Indiana. On August 20, 2015 the ESMC held a Board of Directors meeting to restructure the ESMC with the recent announcement of Mr. Barnes resignation. Dan McDermott, Mike Thielke and Scott Warner were added to the Board at that meeting. The current Board now is David Landsberger, Dan McDermott, Mike Thielke and Scott Warner. Once the ESMC secures funding the Board will be reconstituted with all manufacturing representatives.

State Funding – FY2017

MSRC/regional councils

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

Mr. Warner stated that on August 14, 2015 the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio facilitated a meeting between the RMC Executive Committee and representatives of the Governor's staff. RMC members in attendance were Scott Warner, Chair; Doris Mason, 1st Vice Chair; Josh Hastings, 2nd Vice Chair; Mike Pennington, Past Chair; and Charlotte Davis, Executive Director. Governor's staff present included David Brinkley, Secretary, Dept. of Budget and Management; Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture; and Michael Gill, Secretary, Dept. of Business and Economic Development; and representatives from the Governor's Legislative Office. The meeting was to discuss the funding of the regional councils and Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). The regional councils need to reach full funding of \$200,000 per year and RMPIF funding of \$6 million per year.

Mr. Warner stated that the meeting was very positive. The regional councils and RMC will follow up as needed in the coming weeks.

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

- Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)
- Maryland Broadband Cooperative
- Shore Gourmet
- Business and Technology Parks
 - Caroline County
 - Dorchester County
- Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)
- Regional Medical Center Campus EDA grant

There were no questions from the group.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Warner reminded everyone of MSRC's upcoming meetings:

- Mid Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 12:00pm at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton
- Mid-Shore Regional Council meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 11:00am at the Hyatt in Cambridge
 - Followed by Eastern Shore Regional Councils Joint Luncheon Meeting during the MACo Winter Conference

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Being none he entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting portion of the day at 9:27 a.m., and we began our Forestry Industry Tour.

The tour destinations consisted of:

- Johnson Lumber Co., Inc. (Easton)
 - Bill Miles joined the group for this portion of the tour
- John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery (Preston)
 - Kim Kratovil joined the tour
- Linchester Mill (Preston)
 - Larry Porter joined the tour
- Chesapeake Wood Products, Inc. (Cambridge)
- Dorchester Regional Technology Park and Eastern Shore Innovation Center
 - Keasha Haythe, Dorchester County Economic Development Director, joined us on the bus and caught us up on the developments to date on the Innovation Center and future plans for the Tech Park.

The tour portion of the day was guided by Dan Rider, Forest Stewardship & Utilization Program Manager, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service. He was

extremely informative in explaining the contributions the forestry industry makes to Maryland. The forestry industry's total economic benefit to the State is \$4 billion.

The stops were all hosted by incredibly friendly people who enlightened the group to what their companies do and add to the Maryland economy.

Guides:

- Johnson Lumber Company – Matt Guthrie, General Manager
- John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery – Richard Garrett, Nursery Manager
- Linchester Mill – Charles Andrew, Curator
- Chesapeake Wood Products – Tommy Spicer, owner

A big thank you to our sponsors who made today possible:

- MARBIDCO
- Maryland Forests Association
- Dorchester County Forest Conservancy District Board
- Talbot County Forest Conservancy District Board

Thanks to Mike Pennington and Brad Bellacicco of the TCCLES and Shore Transit for supplying such a great bus for the day's travels.

A huge thank you to Dan Rider for arranging a great tour.

The tour was completed and we arrived back at the MSRC office at 4:00 p.m.