

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled meeting on March 9, 2016 at the Talbot County Senior Center in Easton. Members in attendance included: Allen Nelson, Carolyn Spicher, Chuck Callahan, Corey Pack, Daniel Rider, Jeremy Goldman, Kurt Fuchs, Maria D'Arcy, Robert Hanson and Walter Chase. Guests in attendance were: Heather Gramm from the Department of Commerce, Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Tilghman, Rachel Barry from Caroline Economic Development Corporation, Shannon Reed from USDA, DBED representative Deborah Bowden, ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke, RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis, City of Cambridge Manager Sandra Tripp-Jones, Chesapeake College President Barbara Viniar, Senator Cardin's representative Kimberly Kratovil, Senator Mikulski's representative Linda Prochaska, Congressman Harris' representative Denise Lovelady, TCCLES Executive Director Mike Pennington, Tyler Patton from Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Mid-Shore Food System Coalition Director Neoma Rohman, and Eastern Shore Innovation Center Manager Steve Dolbow, and prospective new member Mike LeMire (Principal, Miles & Stockbridge P.C.). MSRC staff present was Terry Deighan and Scott Warner. Mr. Warner also stated that Dan Dalton has joined the meeting via the web to give an update later this evening.

The meeting was called to order at 5:27 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Mr. Warner announced Chairman Chase was in possession of proxies from Senator Eckardt and Delegates Adams and Mautz. Corey Pack was carrying a proxy for Dirck Bartlett and Jeremy Goldman was carrying proxies for Ricky Travers and Don Satterfield. Mr. Warner stated he was in possession of electronic votes from Dan Franklin and Gale Nashold who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of December 10, 2015 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the December 10, 2015 minutes. Mr. Hanson made a motion to approve, that was seconded by Mr. Fuchs. Chairman Chase stated all in favor signify by stating aye, all opposed have the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried with all in favor and one abstention.

Ratification of revised CEDS document

Mr. Warner stated that all of the MSRC voting members and County Administrator/Managers are on the CEDS Committee. The full CEDS Committee met on October 1, 2015. The CEDS Executive Committee met on December 14, 2015. On January 6, 2016 the MSRC held a full CEDS Committee meeting at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton at which time two projects were unanimously approved for inclusion in the document, Chesapeake College Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture and Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center. Also one existing project was removed from the CEDS Action Plan and placed in Appendix F – Completed and Removed Projects, Preparing Applicants for Utility Line Mechanic Careers

on the Eastern Shore and Beyond. Mr. Warner extended a big thank you to the ESRGC staff for completing updates of the statistical sections of the document. The MSRC staff made the remaining updates to the document. The document was e-mailed to you on March 4, 2016 with this meetings agenda. 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 can be viewed on the MSRC website www.midshore.org, simply click on "Reports & Publications". Chairman Chase asked for a vote to ratify the document. Mr. Rider mad a motion to ratify, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated all in favor signify by stating aye, all opposed have the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The next order of business was presentation of the current MSRC treasurer's report. Treasurer Fuchs presented the current financial report stating all income and expenditures are on track. As there were no questions Mr. Hanson made a motion to accept the report, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated all in favor signify by stating aye, all opposed have the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried with all in favor and one abstention.

Ratification of the updated Upper Eastern Shore Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Warner stated the original plan was created in September 2007 and the plan was updated September 2010. MTA directed there be another update of the plan. KFH Group's Senior Transportation Planners Dan Dalton and Joel Eisenfeld conducted the revision. Mr. Warner stated the document was emailed to the attendees on March 7, 2016. In addition, the KFH Group website has the regional plans, www.kfhgroup.com/UpperShore.htm. This document is very important to the transportation providers. It is used for them to get grant funds, especially program 5310. 5310 FTA/MTA grants for transportation are for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities (capital grants used for buses and other equipment). Mr. Warner stated the plan's Table of Contents and Introduction section is included in everyone's meeting packets. If anyone would like a full report printed, please contact the MSRC office and we will get one to you. Dan Dalton participating in the meeting via webcast explained the updates to the plan. After brief comments, attendees thanked Mr. Dalton for joining the meeting. Chairman Chase said he would entertain a motion to ratify. Mr. Nelson made a motion to ratify the plan, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Mr. Chase stated all in favor signify by stating aye, all opposed have the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

General Assembly Session – *State Funding FY2017*

MSRC / regional councils

Mr. Warner shared the very good news that in the proposed FY17 budget the Governor increased the level funding for each regional council to the historical legislative intention of \$200,000.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Mr. Warner stated that the fund was legislated in 2006. The RMPIF targets investments to assist regional, nonprofit, and education. The amount requested in recent years has been \$6,000,000. The RMPIF has never been funded since its inception. The Governor has placed \$2,000,000 in the proposed FY17 budget along with a letter stating his intention of including an additional \$2,000,000 in FY18, and then another \$2,000,000 in FY19, to get the fund to the \$6,000,000 annual amount. Funding RMPIF has been a long time coming and it is appropriate to thank Governor Hogan for this commitment to rural Maryland.

Rural Maryland Day in Annapolis

Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Director Charlotte Davis stated that Rural Maryland Day was held on February 11, 2016. Five teams of RMC members met with several legislators to express the RMC's FY17 budget priorities. This was an opportunity to thank the Governor for his support in including the following organizations/programs in the FY17 Operating Budget: level funding of the RMC, level funding of MAERDAF, increasing funding to legislative intention for the regional councils, funding for MARBIDCO, and funding RMPIF. In addition, the teams asked the legislators to reject the recommendations of DLS to cut RMC and MAERDAF funding since it would reduce the funding available for programs supported by MAERDAF and RMPIF. Ms. Davis also shared the Governor proclaimed February 11, 2016 Rural Maryland Day. The RMC members got much accomplished prior to everyone attending the Taste of The Eastern Shore legislative event.

"Taste of the Eastern Shore" legislative reception

Mr. Pennington, Executor Director of the TCCLES stated this years TOTES event was held on February 11, 2016 at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis. This year's event was attended by approximately 350 people and was a great event. The inclusion of a few new food and drink purveyors also added to the festivities. Next year will mark the reception's 15th year.

Updates

Maryland Broadband Cooperative

Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC) Vice President for Public Affairs Tyler Patton stated the MDBC has been busy, a few projects they have been involved with are: establishing the MDBC backbone to the Dorchester County Tech Park and Eastern Shore Innovation Center, working with Caroline County's IT department with the intention of expanding services in the County, participating on the Talbot County broadband work group, and hooking up ten additional cell towers in the region.

Eastern Shore Innovation Center

Steve Dolbow, the manager for the Dorchester County incubator, stated things are going well for the newly finished facility. They are currently at 60% capacity and have three significant prospects. Also, for the first time an economic study has been done highlighting the incubator community. The impact of 23 incubator and coworking facilities shows 4,100 jobs created, \$310 million in compensation generated, \$635 million in augmented commercial activity, that in turn created \$27 million in state tax revenue and ultimately had an \$800 million annual commercial impact overall. This study covered MBIA (Maryland business incubation Association) members throughout Maryland.

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

Mr. Warner stated that the study was completed in January 2015, it can be viewed on the project website www.paxjlus.com and it is also available in print form and on CD. The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) received an Implementation Grant for the JLUS. TCCSMD is working to obtain Resolutions from counties, cities and towns and/or Good Faith Letters from planning boards. The Project Manager is George Clark. He will be meeting with Dorchester, Talbot, and City of Cambridge staff members individually on March 16.

Questions from the Council regarding...

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had questions on the following:

- Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)
- Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

There were no questions asked.

Presentations

Mid-Shore Food System Coalition

Mid-Shore Food System Coalition Director Neoma Rohman shared a video explaining the Coalition that is working within five counties – Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot. She also handed out a pamphlet entitled Mid Shore Food System Coalition. She invited everyone to read the brochure, visit the website www.MidShoreFoodSystem.org, and contact her with any questions.

F³ Tech (Farm, Fish, Food)

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke presented a PowerPoint presentation “F³ Tech (Farm, Fish, Food) – An Industry Focus and Regional Strategy for Economic Development on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.” He explained this concept evolved from ESEC submitting grant proposals for funding and while the proposals almost always survive the first cut, they do not make the final round for funding. He inquired as to why this was and found that while the proposals submitted were of high caliber they were missing out on receiving extra points in several categories; such as, Industry Sector Focus and Regional Strategy. Knowing what needed to be addressed in future proposals, he came up with F3 Tech (Farm, Fish, and Food). In discussing this with Mr. Warner,

they realized this concept would address a more Eastern Shore regional strategy for economic development on Maryland's Eastern Shore and ultimately have a global impact once initiated. Through innovation and technology, both biological and digital traditional industries, could advance to higher levels and at the same time help solve local controversial issues facing them. F³ Tech's mission is for the Eastern Shore to be nationally recognized for developing and building new innovations and technologies that help achieve food security, improved nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. All ESEC asks is for entities to include the mission as part of their already existing efforts and strategy, and sign on in support of the regional strategy and industry focus. By helping to advance this initiative, F³ Tech (Farm, Fish, Food) will enhance the region's ability to attract investment and grant funding in pursuit of helping with business attraction, and demonstrate a regional strategy and industry sector focus on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

Chairman Chase adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.