

The Mid-Shore Regional Council held a scheduled board meeting on March 9, 2017 at the Talbot County Senior Center in Easton. Board members present included: Dan Franklin, Don Satterfield, Anthony Casey, Rosalee Potter, Jerome Stanley, James Redman, Walter Chase, Kelley Cox, Andrew Hollis, Kurt Fuchs and Carolyn Spicher.

Guest in attendance included: Chesapeake College President Barbara Viniar, Chesapeake Culinary Center Executive Director Beth Brewster, Shore Gourmet Development and Education Coordinator Roxanne Wolf, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism representatives Cassandra VanHooser (Director) and Sam Shoge (Coordinator), Rural Maryland Council Executive Director Charlotte Davis, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Dan McDermott, Maryland Department of Commerce representative Deborah Bowden, Caroline County Technologies Director James McCormick, ESRGC Director Michael Scott, TCCLES Executive Director Michael Pennington, Caroline County Economic Development Coordinator Rachel Barry, ESEC Executive Director Michael Thielke, Eastern Shore Innovation Center Manager Steve Dolbow, Dorchester County Economic Development representative Susan Banks (Business Development Manager), and Easton Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Tracy Ward. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Chairman Chase called the meeting 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. Mr. Warner stated he was in possession of electronic votes from Dirck Bartlett and Allen Nelson who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of December 8, 2016 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the December 8, 2016 minutes. Mr. Franklin made a motion to approve, Mr. Fuchs 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.

Ratification of revised CEDS document

Mr. Warner stated that a great deal of time and effort was put into revising the Mid Shore CEDS this year. He thanked the CEDS Committee members for their time and dedication to the regional CEDS. Additionally, he thanked the ESRGC staff for the assistance they gave the MSRC staff in revising the document. Mr. Warner then gave a brief history and overview of the Mid Shore CEDS. A few of the highlights were:

- 1st CEDS document was submitted on October 16, 2002
- Sections of the document are: Analysis, Vision Statement, Action Plan, Evaluation, and Appendices
- Currently there are 26 projects on the Action Plan, 25 have activity
 - 3 projects have been completed

- 6 projects have been removed
- 7 projects are not seeking EDA funding
- 9 projects have received 12 EDA awards totaling \$11,121,750
- Reviewed the FY2016 EDA GPRA reporting sheet

Mr. Warner stated that all MSRC voting members and County Administrator/Managers are on the CEDS Committee. The CEDS Committee met on October 5, 2016. The CEDS Executive Committee met on November 29, 2016. On January 9, 2017 the MSRC held a full CEDS Committee meeting at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton. At the meeting modifications were approved to Goals and Objectives related to Goals 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the committee added Goal 7. Three projects were unanimously approved for inclusion in the document

- Phillips Packing Company, Factory F
- Port Street Redevelopment Project
- Chesapeake Harvest

One existing project was removed from the CEDS Action Plan and placed in Appendix F – Completed and Removed Projects: Speculative Building for the Caroline Technology Park in Ridgely.

Mr. Warner reminded everyone that the document was e-mailed to them on March 7, 2017 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, click on “Reports & Publications”.

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any questions, hearing none he asked for a motion to ratify the CEDS document. Mr. Fuchs made 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

Kurt Fuchs, MSRC Treasurer, stated that a copy of the treasurer’s report is included in your packets. He stated that everything is on track for being almost three quarters of the way through the current fiscal year. He also stated that there was a separate document showing where the Rural Maryland Investment Prosperity Funds (RMPIF) monies that the MSRC received this year have been distributed.

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any questions, hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. Ms. Spicher made a motion to approve, Mr. Franklin 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.

Federal Budget

U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Mr. Warner gave the following update to the Council.

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) issued a notice that EDA has been targeted for budget cuts. The MSRC is monitoring and will keep are partners informed. The MSRC has sent letters requesting our federal delegation to support the federal investment in EDA. Support letters to Senator Cardin (2/6/17) and Congressman Harris (1/31/17) are in your packets.

Maryland General Assembly Session

State Funding – FY2018

MSRC / regional councils – Mr. Warner stated that the Governor has maintained council funding at \$200,000 for each regional council. This is the second year in a row the Governor has included the historical legislative intention of \$200,000 in the state budget.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) – Mr. Warner summarized the RMPIF funding stating that the total requested was \$6,000,000. It was funded for the first time in the State's FY2017 budget at \$2,000,000. The Governor put a note in his proposed budget stating that he intends to fund the RMPIF at \$4,000,000 in FY2018 and \$6,000,000 in FY2019. Following through on his intention the Governor's proposed FY2018 budget funds the RMPIF at \$4,000,000. The Maryland Department of Legislative Services (DLS) has recommended RMPIF be level funded at \$2,000,000.

Mr. Warner then took some time to review RMPIF 2017 funding by breaking it down to how much of the funds are being invested in the mid-shore region. The overall highlights were:

FY2017 RMPIF

- 43 applications were submitted, totaling \$3,279,377.47; of that 23 grants were awarded, totaling \$1,389,166.00
- FY2017 RMPIF awards benefiting mid-shore region (7 grants awarded, totaling \$489,692). The monies funded:
 - Entrepreneurship grantees – 2 totaling \$144,339
 - Health Care grantees – 2 totaling \$109,545
 - Infrastructure grantees – 2 totaling \$124,675
 - Regional Council grantee – 1 totaling \$111,133

FY2017 MAERDAF

- 95 applications were submitted, totaling \$2,026,212.28; of that 42 grants were awarded, totaling \$555,917.00 (27 of these were supported by RMPIF funds)
- FY2017 MAERDAF awards benefiting mid-shore region (16 grants awarded, totaling \$206,931.02). The breakdown:
 - MAERDAF grantees (RMPIF funded)
 - Organizations within the region – 6 totaling \$73,409.77
 - Statewide organizations – 5 totaling \$72,209.25
 - MAERDAF grantees from separate line-item in State's budget
 - Organizations within the region – 3 totaling \$38,224.20
 - Statewide organizations – 2 totaling \$23,087.80

Summary of FY2017 RMPIF and MAERDAF grant awards benefitting the mid-shore region:

- 23 grants awarded (35% of total awards), totaling \$696,623.02 (36% of total funds)

Rural Maryland Day in Annapolis

Rural Maryland Council's (RMC) Executive Director Charlotte Davis stated this event was held on February 9. Six teams of RMC members met with several legislators and expressed the RMC's FY18 budget priorities.

The RMC's budget priorities include level funding for the RMC, MAERDAF, and the regional councils. Additionally, a RMC priority is to increase RMPIF funding by \$2 million so they are asking the legislators to reject the recommendation by DLS to reduce RMPIF from \$4 million to \$2 million. The RMC also supports current level funding for Program Open Space including Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program.

Ms. Davis stated the RMC held a luncheon that was very well attended, approximately 50 people. Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder addressed the attendees and Governor Larry Hogan presented the RMC with a Rural Maryland Day Proclamation. She then shared this event is held every year and everyone is welcome to attend.

"Taste of the Eastern Shore" legislative reception

TCCLES Executive Director Michael Pennington stated the Taste of the Eastern Shore Event was held on February 9 at Loews Hotel in Annapolis. It was the largest turnout so far, approximately 400 people. It was the reception's 15th year. He has been told it is among one of the three best events legislators choose to attend every year.

Updates/Progress Reports

MSRC's Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Initiatives

Presentations were made by recipients of the MSRC's allocation of RMPIF funds to show progress to date.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

MSRC is working with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES) to financially assist the operations of ESEC in its delivery of technical and financial assistance to the startup and entrepreneur ecosystem.

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke gave a power point presentation showing some of the programs made possible through partnerships and funding. Some of the highlights were:

- Revolution Labs is a network of rapid prototype facilities that ESEC is been working to establish on the Eastern Shore. Revolution Labs is designed to advance innovation and new product development. Mr.

Thielke has been working with serial entrepreneur Bill Bernard in this endeavor.

- F3 Tech Accelerator advances innovation and technology in the sectors of agriculture, aquaculture, and the environment.
- hotDesks is a network of co-working spaces that serves the needs of entrepreneurs and innovators throughout the Eastern Shore
- Managing Revolving Loan Funds and Technical Assistance

Shore Gourmet/Chesapeake Culinary Center

MSRC is supporting Shore Gourmet and Chesapeake Culinary Center's partnership to hire a Development and Education Director. Shore Gourmet President Kurt Fuchs spoke highly of this partnership as he introduced Chesapeake Culinary Center Executive Director Beth Brewster. Ms. Brewster gave a background on how the Chesapeake Culinary Center and Shore Gourmet have worked together in the past and how the partnership with the MSRC has allowed them to hire a development and education director who will assist with value added products and education. Ms. Brewster then introduced the new Development and Education Director Roxanne Wolf.

Ms. Wolf said she had retired from the health industry and is very excited to be in this new role. Since she has just started in this position, she is meeting and networking with agricultural industry representatives, as well as, starting to visit with farmers to see how she can lend assistance.

Agricultural GIS Extension

MSRC is working with the TCCLES and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to create a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Initiative for family farms to develop mapping and spatial analysis projects driven by their needs and requiring little to no additional effort on the part of the farmers.

Dr. Michael Scott was present to give a PowerPoint showing progress made on this project. Some highlights were how this project can help farmers to expand their crop yields through mapping of the fields. This allows the farmer to see what needs to be added to the soils to increase yield, as well as shows existing high yield areas.

The ESRGC has also been tasked with the development of two data dashboards.

Health Data Dashboard

MSRC is working with the TCCLES and the ESRGC to create a tool that various parties working to support the health industry can have easily accessible data when discussing this number one job generating industry on the Eastern Shore.

Dr. Scott shared some work that has been done to date, stating this is a very difficult dashboard to complete due to the immense amount of

information to collect. Additionally, he showed samples of how the interactive dashboard will display various data.

Education Data Dashboard

MSRC is working with the ESRGC to create a tool to aid various parties to more easily examine, track, and compare educational investment (the largest element of county budgets) within their own jurisdictions and across jurisdictions. ESRGC Director Mike Scott gave a brief progress report on this project.

Dr. Scott also gave a sneak peak at the new MSRC website the ESRGC is in the progress of designing.

Furthermore, Dr. Scott shared that due to changes at Salisbury University, Dean of Richard A. Henson School of Science and Technology Karen Olmstead will be transitioning to Interim Provost and that he will take her place as Interim Dean of the School of Science and Technology. The Council members gave their heart felt congratulations on his promotion. They also were delighted to hear about Dr. Olmstead's promotion as the members know her through her valued participation as a member of the Mid Shore CEDS Committee.

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any questions regarding:

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

There were no questions about the initiatives/programs listed.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.