

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled meeting on March 7, 2019. It was held in Talbot County at the Talbot County Senior Center in Easton.

MSRC members in attendance included: Walter Chase, Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Anthony Casey, Kelley Cox, Kurt Fuchs, Maria D'Arcy and James Redman. Guests in attendance included: Shore Gourmet representative's Roxanne Wolf (Program Director) and Holly Foster (Product Development Manager), Dorchester County Office of Economic Development Acting Director Susan Banks, Caroline County Director of Economic Development Deb Bowden, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism representatives Cassandra Vanhooser (Director) and Sam Shoge (Coordinator), Maryland Department of Commerce Senior Business Development Representative Nancy LaJoice, Maryland Cooperative Extension Talbot County Educator Shannon Dill, Governor Larry Hogan's representatives Stephen Schatz (Deputy Chief of Staff) and Ryan Snow (Eastern Shore Outreach Coordinator), Eastern Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Tracy Ward, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) Project Manager Erin Silva, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen's Eastern Shore Regional Director Melissa Kelly, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's Field Representative Kim Kratovil, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Dan McDermott, Congressman Andy Harris' Community Liaison Mike Arntz, Vets Helping Vets of Delmarva Secretary Stephanie Hallowell, Rural Maryland Council Executive Director Charlotte Davis, Maryland Broadband Cooperative representatives Drew VanDopp (Acting President and CEO) and Tyler Patton (Vice President for Public Affairs). MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

### Action Items

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Chairman Chase was in possession of proxies from Senator Addie Eckardt, Delegate Chris Adams, and Delegate Johnny Mautz. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Dan Franklin, Chuck Callahan, Ricky Travers, Jerome Stanley, and Robert Hanson all who could not attend in person due to other obligations or illness.

### *Approval of December 6, 2018 Minutes*

The first order of business was to obtain approval of December 6, 2018 Minutes. Ms. Spicher made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

### *Ratification of revised CEDS document*

Mr. Warner gave a brief overview of the work that the CEDS Committee and others put into the Mid Shore CEDS process this year.

The full CEDS Committee met on October 3, 2018. At the meeting the Committee was reminded that the first CEDS was submitted to EDA on October 16, 2002. Currently, 29 projects are part of the Action Plan. The GPRA Data Collection period FY18 (7/1/17 to 6/30/18) reported:

- 18 projects reported funding, jobs and/or investment activity
- 211 estimated number of jobs created or retained

During the meeting the Committee reviewed and revised the CEDS Goals and Objectives, reviewed the progress status of CEDS Action Plan, and had a presentation/discussion with the economic resiliency element contractor.

The CEDS Executive Committee met on December 5, 2018 to evaluate one proposed project. They also reviewed/discussed the “State of the Regional Economy” section.

On January 7, 2019 the full CEDS Committee held another meeting at which they approved modifications to update Goals and Objectives:

- Goal 1, Objective 6
- Goal 2, Objective 3
- Goal 4, Objective 3

One new project was also approved for inclusion in the CEDS, Frank M. Adams Industrial Park Expansion.

Additionally, the Committee approved the Economic Resilience section was also approved and the Committee decided to remove one existing project from the Action Plan and placed it in Appendix F; Completed and Removed Projects

- Talbot County Bio-Solids Treatment Facility; as construction was completed in October 2017.

All approvals were unanimous committee decisions.

The Talbot County Bio-Solids Treatment Facility was moved from the CEDS Action Plan and placed in Appendix F – Completed and Removed Projects. During this year’s update process Talbot County Engineer Ray Clarke informed the CEDS Committee that construction was completed in October 2017.

Mr. Warner thanked the following organizations/people for their assistance in revising the CEDS document.

- Chapter 1 – Analysis and Appendix E – Commuter Stats
  - ESRGC Project Manager Ryan Mello for updating the statistical sections
- Section 1.1 – State of the Regional Economy
  - CEDS Executive Committee members:
    - Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism
    - Sam Shoge, Coordinator, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism
    - Mike Thielke, Executive Director, ESEC
    - Jeff Trice, (former) Director, Dorchester County Office of Economic Development
    - Especially, Debbie Bowden, Director, Caroline County Economic Development
  - This section was moved out of the section “Recreational, Cultural and Historical Facilities”
    - Also moved “Environmental Factors” out of this section to its own section
- Section 1.2 – Demographics, Socioeconomic and Labor Force Data
  - USWIB Executive Director Dan McDermott
- Section 1.11 – Economic Resilience
  - USWIB Executive Director Dan McDermott

- Salisbury University Interim of the Henson School of Science and Technology Dean and Professor of Geography and Geosciences Mike Scott
- Vision Planning & Consulting, LLC
- Appendix B – Tax Credits
  - Maryland Department of Commerce Senior Business Development Representative Nancy LaJoyce

Provided with all this compiled information the MSRC revised the CEDS document updating all sections as needed.

Additional updates that were made:

- Introduction
  - Including the EDA award of \$2,282,750 for Mistletoe Hall Commerce-Business Park
  - The summary now captures a total of 14 EDA awards, totaling \$13,461,700 that have been made since the inception of the Mid Shore CEDS
- Appendix A – CEDS Committee

Mr. Warner stated that the revised document was e-mailed to everyone on February 28, 2019 with this meeting's 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](http://www.midshore.org), click on "About", "Documents", then "Download CEDS".

Ms. Spicher made a motion to ratify the CEDS document, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

### *Treasurer's Report*

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented the current Treasurer's Report stating all expenditures and funding is on track. There is one payment pending from EDA, and that should be hitting our account in the next day or so. He asked if anyone had any questions, hearing none Chairman Chase said he would entertain a motion to accept the report. Ms. D'Arcy made a motion to accept, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Warner also stated that there is a second sheet in everyone's packets showing the status of the Rural Maryland Investment Prosperity Funds (RMPIF) monies. It details the disbursement of the funds as the MSRC approved. These funds have been disbursed in their entirety with the exception of the Regional Marketing Initiative funds, which are disbursed as needed.

### Update/Progress Presentations

#### *Annie's Project and Women in Agriculture*

Chairman Chase introduced Shannon Dill, Maryland Cooperative Extension Educator, so she could give us an update on Annie's Project.

Ms. Dill stated that Annie's Project is a national program designed to empower women in agriculture to manage information and learn about agriculture in a relaxed local network. The target audience is women with a passion for business, agriculture and involvement in the farm operation. However, the program is not just for women. Four men are taking the course this year and there is a male speaker for session this evening.

Ms. Dill mentioned that because of the additional funding provided by the MSRC this year, additions to the 2019 program are a farm recordkeeping workshop including QuickBooks and a farm tour.

Annie's Project Classes included:

Fall 2018

- 1 cohort, 6 sessions
- 34 participants
  - 1/2 class from Maryland (Mid-Shore and Lower Shore)
  - 15 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Borrowers
    - Annie's Project is a certified training by USDA. It is required for FSA loan clients.

Spring 2019

- 2 cohorts, each with 6 sessions
  - Southern Maryland
  - Mid-Shore
- 25 participants
  - 12 participants from Mid-Shore
- 4 FSA Borrowers

QuickBooks Class (held at Chesapeake College)

- 54 Participants
  - Beginner in morning and Advanced in afternoon
  - 80% of the participants were from Annie's Project and learned how to set up a farm Quickbooks account including setting up a chart of accounts, entering financial information and reconciling. The advanced session focused more on running reports, payroll and invoicing.

Fall Farm Tour: 28 participants toured three establishments

- Pop's Old Place (Hurlock)
- Emily's Produce
- RAR Brewing

Mr. Warner added that Shannon Dill and Jenny Rhodes (UM Agriculture and Natural Resources, Extension Educator in Queen Anne's County) are the Maryland co-chairs of the project. In the last ten years over 6,000 women in Maryland have participated in the program.

*DelMarVa Index*

Chairman Chase introduced ESRGC Project Manager Erin Silva, to give an update on the DelMarVa Index. Ms. Silva stated that the name of the project has been interchanged with the Eastern Shore Index. She wanted to clarify that it is called the DelMarVa Index, as it encompasses more than just the Eastern Shore.

Ms. Silva utilized a slide show as well as a live demonstration of the Index during the presentation.

The DelMarVa Index will be a fully contained website serving as both data repository and data visualization tool. With guidance from the DelMarVa Index Advisory Committee, the ESRGC has designed the web concept and data repository, selected the most appropriate datasets, designed and implemented the data dashboard, and is now working to develop the web interface and data repository elements.

The initial phase focuses on a broad view of regional economics and includes datasets such as: jobs, businesses, and payroll by sector; median household income; housing; commuting; and more. The county based statistics are presented in an intuitive and digestible format using maps, graphs, charts, tables, and text and are compared whenever possible to state and national averages. The site is extensible and future data, applications, etc. are being discussed with the Advisory Committee.

Ms. Silva stated that the website will have the capacity to include a variety of datatypes and formats and future iterations could include:

- Info graphics
- Surveys
- Reports

Ms. Silva stated that it is the hope that by communicating this type of information (Marketing, Data Analysis, etc.) it will help data driven discussions.

Mr. Shoge asked if this data will have the ability to be shared. Ms. Silva thought that it could be but said she will research with the ESRGC team to make sure. She hopes that a link will have the ability to be embedded onto existing websites, utilizing specific data sets. This will allow Counties to grab data for only their county or do side by side comparisons of several counties. Mr. Shoge stated that this would be very helpful as data driven information is difficult to obtain.

## Maryland General Assembly

### *2019 Legislative session*

Mr. Warner stated that the Governor has included in his proposed budget \$200,000 for each regional council. This is the fourth year in a row the Governor has included the regional council funding level at the historical legislative intention. He expressed extreme thanks for this support in the state budget.

Mr. Warner then introduced Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Director Charlotte Davis to provide an update on the legislative session.

Ms. Davis stated that the Governor's proposed FY2020 budget for RMC/Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) is \$6,167,000. She thanked the Governor for fully funding RMPIF at \$6 million which is level funding from last year. She also stated that the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) budget analysis did not recommend cutting the amount.

She then stated that MAERDAF (Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund) is funded with a separate line item totaling \$167,000. This is level funding from last year as well.

RMPIF is a key step forward in addressing disparities in the State's rural areas. It supports Rural Maryland Council's activities, MAERDAF, the states' five regional councils, regional infrastructure projects, rural entrepreneurship development, rural community development, and rural health care organizations.

MAERDAF provides grants to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. Also eligible are rural community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses through enhanced training and technical assistance. MAERDAF's goal is to increase the overall capacity of rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges to meet a multitude of rural development challenges and to help them establish new public/private partnerships for leveraging non-state sources of funding.

Ms. Davis then addressed the broadband legislative initiatives that were a result of the Task Force for Rural Broadband that the RMC facilitated. The two bills that have been introduced are (1) Wireless Facilities - Permitting and Siting and (2) Joint Use of Utility and Telecommunications Infrastructure.

Other legislative issues Ms. Davis highlighted were:

- Tax Credit for Angel Investment
- Rural Opportunity Zone Fund; which will help with Economic Development
- the Kirwan Commission bill that was introduced earlier in the week requesting approximately \$500 million a year for two years
- a \$350 million state budget write-down that is expected to be announced any day
- minimum wage bill which has a small business component for businesses with 15 employees or less
- the Senate passed the ban on Styrofoam
- PMT (Phosphorus Management Tool)
- Community Clean Air Act
- Oyster sanctuaries

### *Rural Maryland Day in Annapolis*

Ms. Davis stated this years Rural Maryland Day in Annapolis was held on February 14 and was a big success. Over 100 RMC members formed ten teams which met with several legislators to express the RMC's FY20 budget and legislative priorities.

Rural Maryland Day concluded with the RMC's joint luncheon with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Maryland Dairy Industry Association in the President's Conference Center West in the Miller Senate Building. The event was very well attended; approximately 250 people were in attendance. It is an annual event and everyone is invited to attend.

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

This event was held on February 14 at Hotel Annapolis (formerly Lowes Hotel). This was the receptions 17<sup>th</sup> year. Over 500 people attended.

### Guest speaker

*Stephen Schatz, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Larry Hogan.*

Mr. Schatz is the Governor's new Deputy Chief of Staff. He is replacing Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio who is the new Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Mr. Schatz shared that he was formerly with DNR doing communications and policy work. He stated he is the youngest of five children and grew up in New York. He grew up with a respect for public service and comes from a family serving as police officers, fire fighters and teachers. His wife is a native of Dorchester County and they and their four children. They are on the Shore often for family get togethers. Mr. Schatz stated he has only been in his new position for five weeks. He has ten Secretaries in his portfolio from agriculture/energy to environment/natural resources. He also oversees constituent services and intergovernmental affairs. The Governor wants us to know he is an ally and a partner. Mr. Schatz has hit the ground running and appreciates all the help he has received from Ryan Snow, the Governor's Eastern Shore Outreach Coordinator, and he looks forward to working with all of us in the future.

#### Member comments/requests

Deborah Bowden wanted to let Erin Silva and the members of the ESRGC know what a tremendous job they have been doing. Working with the Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC), the Town of Goldsboro is conducting an economic opportunity analysis. The ESRGC has provided various forms of information that has been instrumental in the process. This support was made possible by the RMPF monies invested by the MSRC into the ESRGC. Two projects utilized have been the GIS Circuit Rider and the housing quality study.

#### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m. by unanimous consent.