

**Mid Shore Regional Council
Minutes, Denton, Maryland
June 02, 2004**

Present – Betsey Krempasky, Shane Johnston, Jim Gring, Russ Brinsfield, Brad Horsey, Father Chris La Barge, Charles C. Cawley, Marty Gangemi, Hilary Spence, Kevin Morse, Michael Scott, Rudolph C. Cane, James D. Buckland, Kate Wagner, Jerome Stanley, Andy Hollis, Chuck Manto, Michael Beach

Action Items

Call to order

Ms. Spence called the meeting to order after dinner at 5:20 pm. Ms. Spence asked those present at the meeting to state their names and affiliations.

Minutes

The February 25, 2004 minutes were approved upon motion by Ms. Stanley seconded by Fr. La Barge and unanimous consent by the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Morse stated the Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) checking account currently has a balance of \$73,136.90 and \$70,781.04 in reserves. Ms. Spence asked if the budget line items were on track and Mr. Morse responded yes. The MSRC still has outstanding IT bills and that is reflected in the computer support and supplies budget. The county dues will be used last and the remaining funds are put into reserves. The audit should be completed before July 1, 2004. The MSRC will use the remaining legal funds for the fees associated with the creation of the Revolving Loan Fund. The June 2, 2004 Treasurer's Report was approved upon motion by Mr. Brinsfield, seconded by Mr. Horsey and unanimous consent by the Board.

Introductions

Everyone present at the meeting stated their name and affiliation.

Eastern Shore Broadband Plan (ESBP) Results

Mr. Morse stated that the plan recommended policy and infrastructure plans to remove barriers to deployment of broadband on the Shore. Mr. Beach presented the findings in a power point presentation to the Board. The next steps of the Plan include a summer presentation to the entire Eastern Shore Delegation; a letter drafted by the lower Shore requesting a presentation to Governor Ehrlich and his staff; and implementation of the plan.

Letter to Governor regarding ESBP

The Full Board gave approval to send a letter to Governor Ehrlich endorsing the ESBP on behalf of the MSRC, upon motion by Mr. Gangemi, seconded by Fr. La Barge and unanimous consent by all.

New Business

Regional GIS Needs and Opportunities

Mr. Johnston stated that transparency and seamless data system flow from Worcester to Cecil County is important to the region for emergency response. The MSRC has been a valuable asset to the counties because staff is limited. The MSRC has partnered with Salisbury University and the Lower Shore Tri County Council to fund a Regional GIS Center to provide the counties with services that would otherwise not be achieved. The MSRC hopes to hire a GIS tech that will be housed in Easton but work with Salisbury. Ms. Spence mentioned that a regional backbone is important for this reason. Fr. Chris mentioned that Delaware is very sophisticated and we could partner with them. The MSRC will create a Staffing/Work Plan/Requirements for the position and bring back to the Council.

MSRC FY05 Work Plan

Ms. Spence commented that the Work Plan is very ambitious. The Work Plan was approved upon motion by Fr. Chris, seconded by Mr. Gangemi and unanimous consent by all.

MSRC FY05 Budget

Mr. Morse stated that FY05 revenues will be the same as FY04 and the budget will remain almost the same. The budget was approved upon motion by Mr. Horsey, seconded by Fr. Chris and unanimous consent by all.

Executive Director Performance Evaluation

Ms. Spence stated she, Mr. Cawley and Ms. Elzey met to review Mr. Morse's annual performance. The results were "outstanding" and he will receive a 2% plus COLA raise per his contract. The contract expires June 2005 and a committee needs to be formed to negotiate his new contract.

Director's Report

- a. Inter-County network – The MSRC, along with TEDCO, has applied for a \$479,000 grant that would provide wireless, hardware, server and an IT person TOP grant.
- b. Critical Infrastructure Coordinator- The MSRC has applied for a \$150,000 grant from HUD to fund a CIC.
- c. Upper Shore Regional Council – The USRC has completed the Executive Director Search and he will start July 1, 2004.
- d. Regional GIS Center – A staff of 8 students from SU have begun to digitize tax maps and will continue by doing the same with Ridgely and Talbot County will have an intern for six weeks.
- e. Economic Adjustment Strategy – The study has been completed by Angle Technology and the TCE will coordinate the presentation.
- f. MUST – The MSRC has assumed the administration of the MUST project through MTA and is requesting a \$5000 match from the counties for FY05.

- g. Regional Wastewater – Mr. Morse is looking for local leadership to serve as the organizer the committee. The Board will think of names and send them to Mr. Morse.

Member Matters

Ms. Wagner stated tat the Rural Summit is scheduled for November 3-4, 2004 in Solomons, Maryland. The RMC has also received a small grant to conduct a Rural Transit Survey.

Adjourn

Ms. Spence adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.