

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on June 9, 2010 at the Choptank Electric Building in Denton. Members in attendance included: Bill Brooks, Carolyn Spicher, Gale Nashold, Jerome Stanley, Kurt Fuchs who was also carrying Delegate Addie Eckardt's proxy, Maria D'Arcy, Walter Chase, Allen Nelson, Senator Richard Colburn, Delegate Richard Sossi, James Redman, Delegate Jeanne Haddaway-Riccio, Jeff Ghrist, Robert Hanson and William Cooper. Acting County Managers/Administrators in attendance were Clay Stamp carrying two proxies and Rick Barton carrying one proxy. Economic Development Directors attending were: JOK Walsh and Paige Bethke. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. Guests in attendance were: Michael Pennington, Executive Director of the TCCLES; Mindie Burgoyne of DBED; Jack Tarburton, USDA State Director; Charles Cawley, USDA Farm Services Agency Maryland State Executive Director; Rachael McCullough of the Governor's office; Linda Prochaska of Senator Mikulski's office; Mike Thomas of Congressman Kratovil's office; Brad Powers, Shore Gourmet Board President; Pat Mitchell of Maryland Broadband; Barbara Viniar, President of Chesapeake College, LeRoy Mattingly, Chris Jarboe, Kelsey Johnson and Stephen Schmeiser all of PAX Naval Air Station, and Fred Hubbard of Choptank Electric.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chairman Fuchs and introductions were made. The first order of business was *approval of the March 17, 2010 Minutes*. Mr. Neslon made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Brooks seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Ratification of Executive Board Minutes

The next order of business was ratification of the Executive Board minutes of March 8, 2010. Ms. Spicher made a motion to ratify the minutes as presented, Mr. Chase seconded the motion and the minutes were ratified as presented by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Chairman Fuchs presented the treasurer's report for review. As there were no questions or comments Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the report as presented, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion and the treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Approval of FY11 Scope of Work

Mr. Warner stated that the Executive Board met on May 27, 2010 to review the Scope of Work and they approved this version. He explained that there were only a few changes made to this year's Scope and discussed each one. Mr. Stanley made a motion to approve the Scope of Work as presented, Mr. Brooks seconded the motion and the FY11 Scope of Work was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Approval of FY11 Budget

Mr. Warner stated again that on May 27, 2010 the Executive Board also reviewed and approved the MSRC FY11 budget presented here tonight. He then pointed out the changes and explained each. As there were no questions or concerns Delegate Haddaway-Riccio made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion and the FY11 budget was approved unanimously as presented.

Endorsement of Route 50 Corridor Committee letter to SHA

Mr. Warner explained that the MSRC was contacted at the end of April 2010 to be a part of the Route 50 Corridor Committee. He recommended Sarah Bunch, Economic Development and Transportation Specialist, to be put on the committee as this initiative is the very scope of work that encouraged the MSRC to have such a position. Neil Pedersen, Administrator for the State Highway Administration (SHA), spoke to the MSRC at their quarterly meeting on March 15, 2006 about Development Related Transportation Issues, which promoted a letter distributed by the MSRC at the end of March 2006 to be distributed to all local jurisdictions encouraging them to interface more with the SHA. The MSRC Executive Board recommended that it would endorse the action once the jurisdictions within the MSRC region endorsed it. Ms. Bethke stated she feels this is an important initiative that can be used to coordinate resources as we are lacking a voice at the State. Senator Colburn suggested adding Mardela Springs to the list of communities who would have a say in developing the plan.

Old Business

Business and Technology Parks

Caroline County

Caroline Commissioner and MSRC First Vice-Chairman Jeff Ghrist stated that presently they are waiting for a fiber POP (point of presence), which will lend a helping hand in marketing the site and are also seeking grant money to construct a speculative building.

Dorchester County

In Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe's absence due to illness, Mr. Warner gave the following updates to the Council. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 19, 2010, EDA officials including the Director of the EDA Philadelphia Regional Office Willie Taylor attended. In his speech Mr. Taylor mentioned that this \$3 million investment was 1 of 11 grants that were awarded by EDA out of 300 requests received by the Philadelphia Regional Office last year. Also at the ceremony MSRC Vice Chairman Ricky Travers highlighted the importance of the Council's regional collaborate efforts to enable EDA to fund this high priority Mid Shore CEDS project. The event was well attended and very well planned.

At present the first contract was awarded to Bramble, Inc. to install water and sewer down Bucktown Road. The second contract issued by the County and MEDCO for infrastructure inside the park is under review.

Mr. Hanson added that Dorchester County and City of Cambridge have had two working sessions.

Infrastructure Related to the Commercialization of Denton

Caroline Economic Development Corporation Executive Director JOK Walsh stated that he is hopeful the grant will be accepted in the near future. He expressed his thanks to Scott for all he has done to promote this project. Some of the highlights to date include EDA officials visiting the site of the project on April 19, 2010 after a tour of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park System from Cambridge to Denton. A meeting at the Museum of Rural Life was held to discuss the project. Attendees were Willie Taylor (EDA Philadelphia Regional Office Regional Director), Anne Cavalier (EDA Economic Development Representative), Debra Beavin (EDA Economic Development Specialist), Dan Gillen (EDA Engineer), Fred Killings (EDA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Management Analyst), Linda Prochaska (Special Assistant to Senator Barbara Mikulski), JOK Walsh (Caroline Economic Development Corporation), Ellis Davison (Denton Development Corporation), Kathy Mackel (Caroline County Tourism Director), Jan Willis (grant writer) and Scott Warner (MSRC). Currently version 9 of the EDA grant application is being reviewed by EDA officials. This project is projected to create over 300 jobs.

Regional Medical Facility

Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Bethke stated that she hopes to submit an Executive Summary in August for water and sewer infrastructure. There could be 600 jobs created over time, Ms. Bethke also stated that this project does have both State and Federal support. Mr. Warner stated that on April 20 EDA officials Anne Cavalier, Debra Beavin, and Dan Gillen visited the Regional Medical Facility and Mistletoe Hall sites and provided valuable feedback with conversations with Easton Mayor Willey, Maureen Scott Taylor, Paige Bethke, and himself. Also, on April 19 Mr. Warner had the opportunity to take EDA Regional Director Willie Taylor on a tour of both sites. Mr. Powers stated that the Rural Maryland Council will be holding a conference in October in Rocky Gap regarding health issues and encouraged all to attend.

Mistletoe Hall Project

Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Bethke stated that she was asked by the Town of Easton to forward this project to the CEDS Committee over a year ago. It now seems that due to extended deadlines by the FAA that the project's EDA funding request will come after the Regional Medical Facility project request.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

ESEC President of the Board of Directors Allen Nelson stated that all loans are current and most are doing well. The most recent loan was approved to Knaggs Guitars in Caroline County (Greensboro). The owners were the chief designer and international marketing head for PRS Guitars. Presently there are three other applicants preparing loan requests, but ESEC may not have funds to support all three. ESEC is waiting to see if USDA may have additional loan funds that will become available. The Dorchester Revolving Loan Fund has funded two companies and both are doing well. 'Brain Capital' consulting assistance demand continues to grow, unfortunately many businesses are waiting too long to seek help. ESEC has been successful in keeping five

businesses from closing. The Shore Venture entrepreneurship preparatory program has had discussions about a larger regionalization of this ESEC concept with Chesapeake College and Wor-Wic Community College. Chesapeake College President Barbara Viniar stated that presently Wor-Wic is going through leadership transition, but are supportive of the regional approach and look forward to moving ahead with this project.

Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General stated that on March 31 the Community Transportation Advisory Council (CTAC) held a joint meeting of Delmarva Community Transit (DCT) and MUST at Chesapeake College. The meeting was facilitated by Delmarva Community Services CEO Santo Grande. Of special notices: the Transit Development Plan for the Upper Shore, which includes Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, and Talbot Counties, was discussed; Kent County Local Management Board (LMB) Study, a recently awarded one year planning grant to study transportation access to health services, was discussed – the study will cover the same five counties as the MUST program – Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot. Kent County LMB representative asked Scott Warner and Mr. General to sit on the committee; Delmarva Community Transit updates given at the CTAC meeting included: One Stop / Travel Training program overview – DCT has been operating this service for one year now; the Dorchester update included Jerome Stanley explaining the expansion of fixed route services in Cambridge that DCT is preparing to incorporate; and an Upper Shore update included Santo Grande outlining and explaining services that DCT performs.

The scheduling and asset allocation system final report should be finished by MTA and sent to the FTA soon. MTA Manager Statewide Planning Lenny Howard is suppose to be visiting with members of the MUST team this month and finalize his report. Maryland Coordinating Committee for Human Services Transportation meeting was held on May 19, 2010 at the Maryland Department of Transportation headquarters. JARC/New Freedom FY11 grant applications were due on March 31, 2010. Three applications were received – Pleasant Day and DCT grants were awarded.

MSRC member Maria D’Arcy distributed several copies of the MUST schedules to Latino’s at a recent event Ms. D’Arcy explained the event was held in Washington, DC and was for immigration reform. She shared information with more than 380 people, most of which had no idea public transit existed. The ESLC held a Summit on February 26, 2010 at which time ESLC officials thanked MUST and its providers for their support of offering public transportation to conference attendees on their regularly scheduled routes. On May 25 Mr. Warner and Mr. General met with Dinkins Communications President Darnell Dinkins to receive an update on the MUST bus advertising campaign. Several hundred contacts have been made with several positive conversations that are ongoing. In addition, the first sale has been made; others are expected as the companies new budgets are set over the next few months.

Shore Gourmet (SG)

President of the Board of Directors Brad Powers gave the following updates to the Council including: the cable television advertising campaign designed four

television commercials that have been airing on several channels and seem to be receiving good exposure; the Shore Gourmet website is online at www.shoregourmet.com; one new distribution outlet for SG is Grauls in St. Michaels where a display has been installed and they are currently selling products; SG will have Grauls in Cape St. Claire after the two store managers confer on what sells best; Grauls in Annapolis will probably follow the two other stores; Fred has met with Acme, the regional Vice President saw the display in Grauls and wants to create a similar look, but larger refrigerator units etc. in the Chestertown, Centerville, Easton and St. Michaels stores; and the Hyatt would like to carry products several SG's producers. Mr. Power's gave Mr. Smyth credit for his marketing efforts including the Chef Panel, as well as, his initial concept of Shore Gourmet. In addition, Mr. Power's complimented Ms. Deighan for all her efforts to support the Shore Gourmet operation. Mr. Power's stated that currently there are approximately 20 producers offering 120 products.

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

ESRGC Director Mike Scott gave a Power Point presentation; some highlights included showing the first half of the year being heavily dedicated to the Maryland Broadband Mapping Initiative Project. This initiative is in response to the Recovery Act (2009) and the Broadband Data Improvement Act (2008). The ESRGC is part of a team that includes MdBC, Towson University, and DBED. The project is to map where broadband service is available across the state and by doing so will be able to determine where the unserved and underserved areas are so that funds can be allocated to those areas for infrastructure. The first deliverable of data was sent to NTIA in April and the next deliverable is due at the end of September.

The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Mapping Project is wrapping up the pilot project (Baltimore and Talbot Counties), in Talbot, all line work has been completed. Additionally, initial work in Queen Anne's and Caroline Counties are almost finished. Mapping in Calvert County is getting ready to start. The ESRGC is partnering with Axis Geospatial (a company based in Easton) to perform the Quality Assurance review of the 2010 aerial imagery for the Eastern Shore. Dr. Scott also stated that the ESRGC crime mapping application project they have been working with in Salisbury may now spread to other jurisdictions in the future. This is a project the ESRGC is very excited about and it should assist local law enforcement greatly in their duties.

GeoDASH Initiative

On March 24 the GeoDASH Initiative Team gave a presentation at the EDA Philadelphia Region Conference. EDA officials were very impressed. On April 20 EDA officials visited the ESRGC office in Salisbury and received a demonstration of GeoDASH Initiative projects, the EDA grant should be announced at any moment.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative

MdBC President and CEO Patrick Mitchell stated that there are currently 60 members of the MdBC. The NTIA round two application is in the due diligence stage as of the beginning of June and award announcements are suppose to be announced within the next 30 to 45 days. Also in accordance with the Bylaws the MdBC Annual Members meeting will be held on the third Thursday of

October (October 21, 2010). As part of the federal broadband planning grant award to the MDBC for the State of Maryland, the first meetings of the Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT), as well as, Broadband Forums are being held by BEACON in conjunction with the MDBC, MSRC, TCCLES, and USRC. The LTPT meetings bring together a finite number of IT stakeholders whose contributions will be used as a basis to craft a set of reports for the region that will be concatenated into a statewide document for steering broadband development. The Broadband Forums are planning roundtable discussions about the future of broadband in rural regions of the State with regards to access, speed, and cost. Local businesses and members of the public are welcome to attend and give their input.

Dr. Scott then showed a PowerPoint presentation of the initial finding of the broadband data collection and mapping grant. He encouraged those in attendance to visit either www.mdbroadbandmap.org or www.broadband.maryland.gov to take the Internet speed test.

New Business

None

Other matters

Presentation "Patuxent Naval Air Station Update"

Several representatives were present this evening from PAX NAS including LeRoy Mattingly, Chris Jarboe, Kelsy Johnson and Commanding Officer, CAPT Stephen Schmeiser who arrived via helicopter so he could attend. Mr. Jarboe gave a brief PowerPoint presentation sharing some of the more recent activities at the facility. The MSRC has been in contact with them regarding possibly taking another tour of Patuxent River Naval Air Station similar to the trip we had two years ago along with the TCCLES. Once again we could go by boat conducting our meeting on the bus on the way to Hoopers Island, the next MSRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15th. The general consensus of the Board was in favor of taking another trip, so MSRC staff will proceed with the planning.

Member comments/requests

Chairman Fuchs on behalf of Linda Prochaska of Senator Mikulski's office reminded everyone there will be a public hearing regarding the relocation of the U.S. postal sorting facility located in Easton on Tuesday, June 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and it will be held at the Easton High School auditorium.

Adjourn

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m., by unanimous consent.