

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled quarterly meeting on June 9, 2011 in Caroline County at the Choptank Electric building in Denton. Members in attendance included: Jeff Ghrist, Bill Cooper, Kurt Fuchs, Larry Porter, Rick Price, Walter Chase, Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Robert Hanson, Andy Hollis, Delegates' Eckardt and Haddaway-Riccio, Senator Colburn, Allen Nelson, Gale Nashold, and Talbot County Manager John Craig who was carrying a proxy for Dirck Bartlett. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. Economic Development Directors attending were Keasha Haythe, Paige Bethke and JOK Walsh. Guests in attendance included: Linda Prochaska of Senator Mikulski's office, USDA State Director Jack Tarburton, USDA Farm Services Agency Maryland State Executive Director Charles Cawley, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, Caroline County Technologies Director Jim McCormick, Richard Sossi representative for Congressman Harris, Janice Kerr of the League of Women Voters, Dr. Michael Scott of the ESRGC, Brad Powers and Kevin Deighan of Shore Gourmet, Rachel McCullough-Parker representative for Governor O'Malley, and Tyler Patton of MdBC.

Introductions were made and Chairman Fuchs called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Action Items

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the March 16, 2011 Minutes. Mr. Ghrist made a motion to approve, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

The next order of business was to obtain ratification of the Executive Board November 30, 2010 Minutes. Mr. Ghrist made a motion to ratify, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, and the Minutes of the Executive Board were ratified by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Nelson presented the Treasurer's Report for review. He stated that everything is on track and the Council is well within the allocated budget. Being no questions Chairman Fuchs' accepted the report into record.

Approval of FY12 Scope of Work

Mr. Fuchs stated that the Executive Board met on May 19, 2011 to review the Scope of Work, and had approved the version presented here tonight. Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the FY12 Scope of Work as presented, Mr.

Nelson seconded the motion and the FY12 Scope of Work was passed by unanimous consent.

Approval of FY12 Budget

Mr. Warner stated that on May 19, 2011 the Executive Board reviewed and approved the MSRC FY12 budget presented today, noting the budget had not changed significantly from last year. Mr. Price made a motion to approve as presented, Ms. Spicher seconded and the budget was approved by unanimous consent.

Old Business

Maryland Broadband Cooperative

Vice President for Public Affairs Tyler Patton gave the following updates. The Caroline Technology Park in Ridgely and the Route 213 build will have lit service available as of July 1, 2011. The MdBC is working with Dorchester County to establish a fiber connection at the Dorchester Technology Park. October 20, 2011 will be the MdBC Annual Members' Meeting. MdBC is celebrating its 5th Anniversary and is proud to have helped lay 525 miles of fiber in and around rural Maryland to support regional economic development. MdBC now has 65 members with more signing up on a very regular basis- including those in Maryland and those doing business in Maryland. Also MdBC is working closely with the State to establish the guidelines for moving forward on the BTOP (federal stimulus) funding, equipment purchase, and build out in rural Maryland to make sure that all areas will benefit to the fullest extent possible through the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant – One Maryland.

Business and Technology Parks

Caroline County

Caroline Commissioner and MSRC Third Vice-Chairman Jeff Ghrist stated marketing of the Park has commenced with the efforts of JOK Walsh and the Caroline Economic Development Corporation.

Dorchester County

Dorchester Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe stated that the County is working with the MdBC to lay fiber optics to the Park. Park construction should be completed October 2011. Dorchester County is working on marketing efforts. Presently there is some German based companies interest in the Park.

Regional Medical Facility

Talbot County Manager John Craig stated that he, Economic Development Director Paige Bethke, and Scott Warner met with Ms. Debra Beavin of EDA

and viewed the facility design. At present, the EDA grant application is due to be submitted September 2011. Shore Health System is scheduled to submit a letter of intent in July 2011.

Shore Gourmet

President of the Board Brad Powers stated that on May 11th Denise McLeish, Kathy Beisner and representatives from the Washington, D.C. branch of USDA came to SG for a site visit and to see the truck, whose purchase was made possible by USDA funding – “Powered by USDA”. He along with Kevin Deighan explained what SG is all about. Also a new restaurant has opened in Cambridge called Hot Spots Cool Eats. Presently, SG supplies them with some product and hopes to also supply them with bison hot dogs in the near future. Also, on June 1st Kevin went to Fifer Orchards in Delaware, this is SG’s first venture into Delaware and with this successful collaboration SG will now be venturing there on a regular basis. They will be taking some SG products and SG will be marketing some of theirs as well. Mr. Powers also stated that Cecil County would like to have the concept of Shore Gourmet expand to their area as well and Mr. Deighan stated that he is currently working with two individuals who are interested in starting bison farms here on the shore.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke stated the most recent Shore Venture course has been completed and it was well received. There are two, possibly three, new businesses that may come from it. He is also working on various initiatives to increase access to capital for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the area. Mr. Thielke also gave an update on the approximate funds available in the ESEC and Dorchester revolving loan funds.

Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

In MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General’s absence, Mr. Warner shared the following updates. We have a new MTA representative, Jim Raszewski. Presently work is being completed for submittal of the MUST 2012 grant application, the due date is June 30, 2011. New schedules are to be printed in July. Bus traffic seems to be on the increase at Chesapeake College. Four Upper Eastern Shore proposals for JARC/New Freedom grants were recommended by MUST to the state selection committee and will be funded. Two from DCT and two from Cecil County.

GeoDASH Initiative

Mike Scott of the ESRGC and Salisbury University stated that GeoDASH is continuing to develop dashboards to benefit business, economic, and workforce development in the region. Also, GeoDASH is working with the Tri-County Council for Western MD to expand their services to the other EDA Economic Development District in the State. GeoDASH is working with academic departments at Salisbury University to expand GeoDASH type economic development activities by creating apps for government and non-profit entities.

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

Director Mike Scott gave updates regarding the ESRGC. The first was in regards to the Critical Area Mapping Project. The ESRGC has been contracted by the MD Department of Natural Resources to remap the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, as directed by legislation passed in 2008. Several counties are in various stages of production, with Talbot County and Baltimore County most complete. Currently, new model regulations that incorporate the digital Critical Area map are being written by the Critical Area Commission. Once those are finished, the final draft map and the new model regulations will be delivered to Talbot County. The County and its municipalities will have 2 years to adopt the new ordinance and map. To examine the change from the old to the new Critical Area boundary and how that might affect individual parcels of property, go to http://webmaps.esrgc.org/cbca_talbot/. The second was regarding online mapping capabilities. The ESRGC continues to provide GIS data creation and analysis services for the towns and counties of the Mid-Shore region. In addition, the ESRGC has recently added sophisticated custom web mapping capabilities to its repertoire. From mobile applications to web mapping solutions embedded within an organization's existing website, the ESRGC is committed to serving this critical need for Maryland's Eastern Shore for a fraction of the non-governmental cost. For examples, please visit <http://webmaps.esrgc.org>. For more information, visit the ESRGC homepage, <http://www.esrgc.org>. Dr. Scott provided a very helpful presentation in which he demonstrated how each of these mapping capabilities is utilized.

New Business

None

Other matters

Mr. Warner gave an update on the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). He stated that during the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) meeting on May 12, 2011 the RMC supported as its top priority the funding of the RMPIF. The RMPIF funding effort has unified the regional councils and rural stakeholders' focus to get this legislation funded in the Special Session or the 2012 legislative session. RMC is supporting a marketing campaign that includes booths at the following: MML (Maryland Municipal League) Convention in Ocean City from June 26 thru 28, MACo (Maryland Association of Counties) Convention in Ocean City from August 17 thru 20 and the Maryland Rural Health Conference in Ocean City on November 3 and 4. Lastly, there is an effort to get the display in the hall of one of the State building during the Special Session and the 2012 legislative session, in hopes to bring continued awareness to the topic.

September 15, 2011 meeting – possible tours

Chairman Fuchs stated that the MSRC staff is going to try to schedule a tour to the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School in conjunction with the September 15 quarterly meeting. The guest speaker would be Bill Satterfield, Executive Director of the Delmarva Poultry Industry. Since this trip is local it would only be a half day venture. Also, there is a possibility of a tour with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) to the Dover Air Force Base. This would be a joint meeting with the TCCLES and would be an all day affair. Mr. Fuchs asked the Council to consider the trips and contact the MSRC office with their input.

Member comments/requests

Ms. Bethke stated that the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce had a meeting earlier today about the proposed Bay Bridge toll increases and there was going to be a public hearing regarding the proposed toll increases on June 15th and participation is encouraged. Mr. Fuchs noted there was a public notice available that goes into detail regarding the events and stated he would forward the information to the MSRC office so they in turn can forward the information to the Council.

Adjourn

Mr. Nelson made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. that was seconded by Mr. Chase and unanimously accepted.