Mid-Shore Regional Council

SERVING CAROLINE, DORCHESTER AND TALBOT COUNTIES, MARYLAND

MSRC

MIDSHORE
REGIONAL COUNCIL
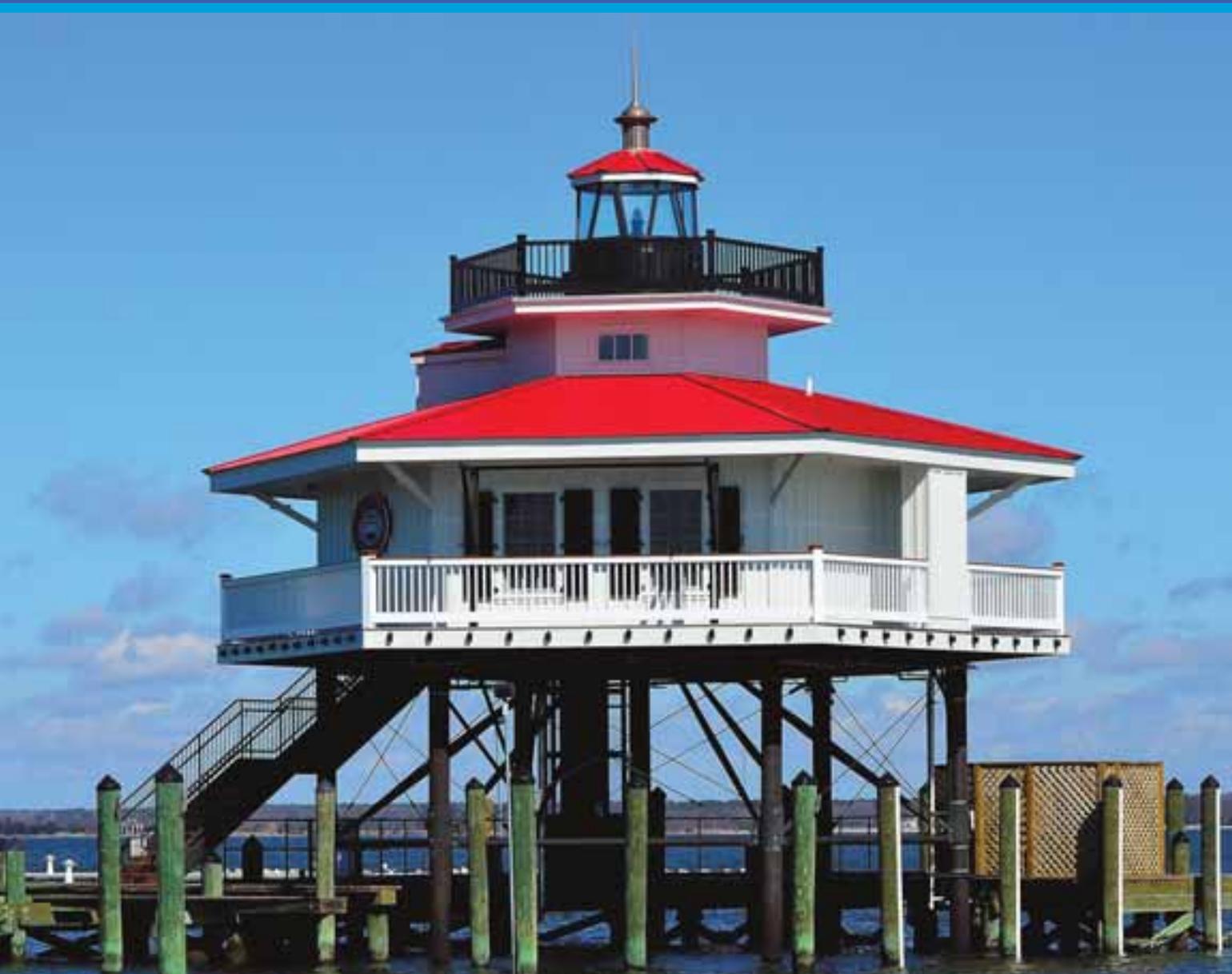
PURPOSE

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) operates as a cooperative regional planning and development agency within Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties to foster physical, economic, and social development.

The Council initiates and coordinates plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources.

CREATION

The Mid-Shore Regional Council was created in 2001 via enabling legislation proposed by the Eastern Shore Delegation.

ECONOMIC RETURN OF THE MSRC

The MSRC is a federally designated Economic Development District (an economically distressed area) that enables federal funding to the region through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

MSRC FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED TO SUPPORT SEVERAL REGIONAL PROJECTS

- Broadband Infrastructure
- Small Business Development
- Ag/Resource-based Industries
- Technology Parks
- Public Transportation
- GIS (Geographic Information Systems) support to local governments
- GeoDASH Initiative

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MEMBERSHIP

- 50% elected officials
  - General Assembly Members
  - County Commissioners/County Council Members
    - County Administrator/County Managers
  - Municipal Representatives

- 38% private industry
  - Private Sector/Business Representatives from each county
  - Representatives from Maryland Seafood Industries, Association of Forestry Industries, and Maryland Farm Bureau

- Minority representation
  - Minority Leaders from each county

41 MEMBERS ON THE COUNCIL

26 voting members

15 non-voting members

EXECUTIVE BOARD

9 members on the Executive Board

STAFF

Executive Director

Executive Assistant

KEY INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Economic Development Districts, like the MSRC create Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) for their federally recognized and approved economically distressed regions. Federal statutes requires that a CEDS be in place before a region can receive U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) public works and infrastructure funds.

The CEDS process is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic development roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy.

The CEDS document is updated annually through a collaborative process facilitated by the MSRC.

For more information, contact Terry Deighan at terry@midshore.org

Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MdBC) is a non-profit (501c12) working to enhance broadband services across Maryland with a hyper focus on rural areas. The MSRC is a proud, founding member of the MdBC.

Its mission is to drive economic development through universal, open access to broadband services via a fiber optic network that serves rural Maryland by building an advanced, world-class broadband network across the rural communities of Eastern, Southern, and Western Maryland supported by its Members who provide Last Mile service.

For more information, contact Tyler Patton at tpatton@mdbc.us

For internet service providers (ISP's), offering services in rural areas is challenging. Compared to urban areas, rural areas face longer distances between residents, increasing the cost of construction paths and materials required to provide services, with to recuperate costs.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative has established fiber paths across rural Maryland in order to help serve rural residents. Through membership any ISP or able entity can utilize resources to cost-effectively serve rural areas. Resources are not limited to rural areas.

KEY INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

EDA
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

As a federally recognized U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Development District (EDD) the Mid-Shore Regional Council advocates and assists with EDA grant processes. This brings money and jobs to the Mid Shore region.

3.2 MILLION

MARYLAND BROADBAND COOPERATIVE
in association with the Mid-Shore Regional Council and the Tri County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of MD to assist in fiber optic builds on the Eastern Shore

3 MILLION

DORCHESTER REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY PARK

2.1 MILLION

MID-SHORE TECHNOLOGY PARK IN RIDGELY

621,200

8 GRANTS
assisting in economic development planning and program implementation

607,750

PROJECT GREEN BOX
An Investment in Advancing and Enhancing the Green Economy in Dorchester County

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

The Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by the MSRC in 2004 to help advance an entrepreneurship ecosystem on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This includes the counties of Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester.

ESEC has three initiatives currently underway that are part of an overall strategy to encourage the organic development of high-growth, innovative, and scalable businesses and the jobs they create, with an emphasis on the region's traditional industries of agriculture and seafood.

For more information contact: Mike Thielke at 410.770.9330 or mike@hotDesks.org

www.esecfund.org

PROGRAMS

- ■ **Revolving Loan Fund Portfolio**
- ■ **Technical Assistance**
- ■ **hotDesks coworking network**
- ■ **F³ Tech Accelerator**

FOCUS ON HIGH-GROWTH, INNOVATIVE, AND SCALABLE STARTUPS AND ENTREPRENEURS

hotDesks is a network of coworking spaces that serves the needs of entrepreneurs and innovators throughout the Eastern Shore. Through programs and events targeted to innovative, high growth, and scalable startups, hotDesks helps connect the Eastern Shore with the rest of the statewide innovation and startup ecosystem in the Baltimore/Washington corridor.

F³ TECH accelerator program
Agritech · Aquatech · Envirotech

F³ Tech Tech Accelerator advances innovation and technology in the sectors of agriculture, aquaculture, and the environment. Through a pipeline of proof of concept and commercialization programs, participating F³ Tech organizers and partners strive to position Maryland as a nationally-recognized leader in agritech, aquatech, and envirotech.

$ REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

ESEC manages a portfolio of revolving loan funds available to entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout the Eastern Shore. A non-traditional funding source that is more accessible than traditional bank financing, startups and existing businesses are invited to apply for loans up to $200,000. Applications are accepted every six weeks.

esec
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

Serving Innovative, High Growth, and Scalable Startups and Entrepreneurs throughout Maryland's Eastern Shore

IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

ESEC

- Technical Assistance provided to an average of 54 entrepreneurs and startup businesses per year

- Over 175 individuals have gone through ESEC's entrepreneur training resulting in 27 new businesses and 50+ jobs over the past six years

hotDesks

- A strong startup community and ecosystem throughout the Eastern Shore 100+ member entrepreneurs or startup companies

- Leadership role in the Maryland Business Incubation Association (MBIA)

- Active collaborator with Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)

- Innovation and commercialization training resulting in projected impacts of $571,429 in new sales, $514,286 in retained sales, $728,571 in cost savings and $728,571 in new investment per company

- Programs and events resulting in 7 new startups, 3 provisional patents, and an excess of $750,000 of new investment during 2016

F³ Tech

- Quarterly symposiums having 100+ attendees, successfully connecting industry with entrepreneurs and innovators

- Twelve Challenge Events annually, attracting up to 36 teams of students, entrepreneurs, and innovators developing solutions and innovations to industry problems and needs

- Up to 20 idea-stage startups annually participating in a 6-week pre-accelerator program

- Up to 5 pre-commercialization startups annually participating in a 4-month accelerator program, preparing them for commercialization, investment, and customer-acquisition

LOCAL FOOD MARKETING PROGRAM

The Shore Gourmet Denton Market is located in the Chesapeake Culinary Center (CCC). The market is a partnership between CCC, Caroline County Public Schools, Shore Gourmet and MSRC.

Shore Gourmet (SG), a food-based business development initiative of the MSRC, is a non-profit (501c6) corporation whose purpose is to promote and sustain the food and agricultural value-added businesses located on Maryland's Eastern Shore by providing focused assistance to start, grow and diversify regional value-added products.

As the foundation of the Eastern Shore's culture and business is based on agriculture and natural resources, the ultimate goal of this project is to maintain the quality of life and rural heritage in the region by serving to maintain sustainable agricultural and resource-based industries and a viable food business sector.

Since 2016 the CCC and SG formed a partnership to reach out to food based entrepreneurs and local farmers to assist in creating added value products. The MSRC supports this effort by utilizing the funds provided it via the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund.

For more information, contact Roxanne Wolf at roxanne.shogo@gmail.com

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative: ESRGC

The Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) is an organization that seeks to provide access to geographic information system (GIS technology, data, technical support and training to the local governments of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

As an outreach entity of Salisbury University, the ESRGC is a joint effort between the Mid-Shore Regional Council, the Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland and the University.

The goal of the ESRGC is to improve the GIS technology capabilities of the county and municipal governments of the six counties of the middle and lower Eastern Shore (Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester). This includes providing advice on GIS implementation, technical support, equipment loans, data collection efforts, data analysis exercises, cartographic services

and GIS training. These services are provided at either no cost to the county or municipality or at a significantly reduced cost. Typically, the resources provided by the two regional councils, the University and the cooperative organization structure means that local governments can avail themselves of ESRGC services for a fraction of their true cost.

The ESRGC also partners with state agencies on a variety of local and statewide initiatives. Projects have been completed in partnership with Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Information Technology, State Highway Administration and Maryland Department of Agriculture, among others.
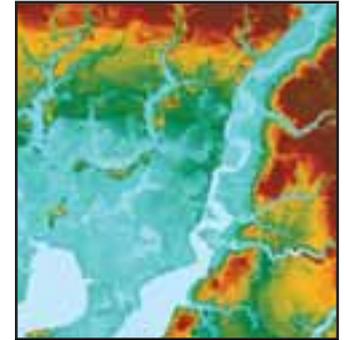
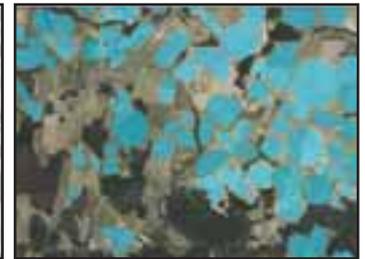*Lidar derived elevation*
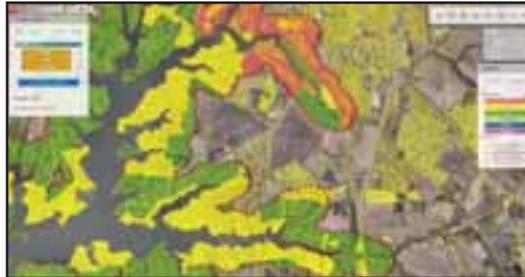
Chesapeake Bay Critical Area mapping

Dashboard development

Flood vulnerability analysis

Utility database development

Pivot irrigation mapping

RECENT PROJECTS

- Education & Healthcare Dashboards
- Agriculture Mapping (Poultry/Irrigation)
- Municipal & County-wide Utility Database Development
- Flood & other Hazard Vulnerability Assessments
- Website and Mobile Application Development

GIS OUTREACH SERVICES

- Data Collection/Conversion
- GIS Data Development
- Dashboard Development and Maintenance
- Spatial Analyses/Modeling
- Data Distribution
- Software Training
- Cartographic Services

www.esrgc.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lauren McDermott
ldmcdermott@salisbury.edu
410-677-5390

Governance of Maryland Upper Shore Transit

MUST is a collaborative public transportation effort between Delmarva Community Transit and Queen Anne's County, County Ride providing fixed route and deviated fixed route services to the general public throughout Maryland's Mid-and-Upper Eastern Shore.

MUST IS ADMINISTERED BY THE MSRC

- Facilitate meetings of the transportation providers, MTA, MSRC, and the outreach and media providers.

- Bilingual (English and Spanish) informational brochures and bus route schedules

- Bilingual toll free information line for customer needs: 866-330-6878

- Maintains a bilingual, mobile device friendly, website www.mustbus.org

- Provides outreach promoting the availability of public transportation

- Participates on the Maryland Coordinating Committee for Human Services Transportation

- MSRC is the regional review authority for 5310 grant program for the six counties of the Upper Eastern Shore. 5310 are Federal Transit Administration (FTA) / (Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) grants to assist in transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities.

  - FY2018/2019 endorsed six applications totaling over $1.28 million

  - FY2016/2017 endorsed five applications totaling over $1.77 million

- Assists with the Upper Eastern Shore Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

www.mustbus.org

CAROLINE COUNTY
(410) 479-3867

DORCHESTER COUNTY
(410) 221-1910

KENT COUNTY
(410) 778-5187

TALBOT COUNTY
(410) 822-4155

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
(410) 758-2357

MUST
(866) 330- MUST
(6878)

OPERATIONAL FUNDING

THE COUNCIL RECEIVES FUNDING FROM:

- State of Maryland

- U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

- Caroline County

- Dorchester County

- Talbot County

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 410-770-4798 **I** Fax: 410-770-5398

Executive Director: Scott Warner **I** swarner@midshore.org   Executive Assistant: Terry Deighan **I** terry@midshore.org

www.midshore.org

MID-SHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL I 8737 BROOKS DRIVE, SUITE 101 I EASTON, MARYLAND 21601

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