

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled Executive Board meeting on November 23, 2022. The meeting was held in person and virtually via web conference. The meeting was facilitated from the MSRC office. Walter Chase, Dan Franklin, and Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio were in attendance in person. Members attending via web conference were Kurt Fuchs, Bill Christopher, and James Redman. MSRC staff Scott Warner and Terry Deighan attended in person.

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Action Items

Approval of August 24, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Haddaway-Riccio seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs stated there are three reports making up the total MSRC financial report.

The first report was the MSRC Treasurer's Report (operating report). Mr. Fuchs stated all expenditures and income are on track for being almost halfway through this fiscal year and would entertain any questions.

The second report was the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Report. Mr. Fuchs stated all funds have been fully distributed except for the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center's (ESEC) funds. Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC will release these funds as soon as all back logged ESEC monthly activity reports have been submitted to the MSRC. Mr. Fuchs asked if there were any questions.

The third report was the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund Report. After Mr. Fuchs directed everyone's attention to the report sheet, he deferred to Mr. Warner to explain. Mr. Warner explained line by line how report is broken down to hopefully, clearly report on the funding and disbursements of the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund monies. He asked the Board if this layout was acceptable or if they would like anything further added. The Board agreed that the report was acceptable.

Ms. Haddaway-Riccio made a motion to accept all three reports as presented. Mr. Franklin seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of electronic vote “Resolution accepting the MTA FY23 MTA Coordination Grant”

Mr. Franklin made a motion to ratify the vote. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated that we have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of electronic votes

“Recommendation for Scott Warner to continue to serve as the Mid-Shore Regional Council’s Member Delegate to the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc.” and “Recommendation for Scott Warner to be nominated to the Maryland Broadband Cooperative’s Board of Directors for a two-year term.”

Mr. Warner stated he received 6 responses from the Executive Board; all were marked “Accept.”

Mr. Franklin made a motion to ratify the vote. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated that we have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

MSRC membership

Chairman Chase stated he had a conversation with Senator Addie Eckardt during a recent event. Ms. Eckardt is interested in staying engaged with the MSRC once her term as an elected official is complete. Chairman Chase wanted to know the opinions of the executive board members as to having Ms. Eckardt continue as a member of the MSRC.

Mr. Warner informed the executive board that the MSRC Bylaws state:

- ARTICLE V (Membership)
 - Section 1: The members of the organization entitled to vote shall be as follows:
 - (l) Additional private citizen or public members may be added by the Executive Board.
 - Section 3: Additional private citizen and/or public members may be added by the Executive Board as non-voting members.

The board had a robust discussion highlighted by their pleasure that an individual wants to continue to contribute their talents to the MSRC.

Ms. Haddaway-Riccio made a motion to add Addie Eckardt to the MSRC as a non-voting member. Mr. Franklin seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, the Executive Board discussed other openings on the MSRC.

- Caroline private sector/private citizen

- This position is appointed by the MSRC Executive Board. Mr. Franklin is interested in filling this position as he is committed to the work of the MSRC and will be transitioning off the MSRC as he did not run for reelection as a Caroline County Commissioner. The board was very encouraged that this vacancy could be filled by a valued individual that is interested in staying engaged. It was determined that the vote on this vacancy would take place once the new Executive Board is in place after the December 8, 2022, MSRC meeting.
- Dorchester municipal elective official
 - This position is appointed by their respective municipal corporations or if the municipal corporations located within a County are unable to choose a municipal elected official within a reasonable period of time determined by the Council, the Eastern Shore Municipal Association shall appoint an elected municipal official to represent the municipal corporations of that County. After a brief discussion, Mr. Christopher offered to contact the new Mayor of Cambridge Stephen Rideout. He will set up a meeting for him and Mr. Warner to sit down with Mr. Rideout to explain the MSRC and its scope of work.
- Representative from Maryland Seafood Industries
 - This position is designated by the association. Mr. Christopher offered to contact Aubrey Vincent to establish a meeting for him and Mr. Warner to sit down with Ms. Vincent to explain the MSRC and its scope of work.

Discuss/approve recommendation of the 2023 MSRC Executive Board

Mr. Warner reminded the board of the automatic changes to the Vice Chair positions that occur due to the MSRC By-Laws. They are 1st Vice Chair will be Talbot County, 2nd Vice Chair will be Caroline County, and 3rd Vice Chair will be Dorchester County. Additionally, he stated the General Assembly member will be Delegate Chris Adams. After a brief discussion the following 2023 MSRC Executive Board slate was proposed.

- Chairman: Walter Chase
- First Vice-Chairman: Chuck Callahan (Talbot)
- Second Vice-Chairman: Frank Bartz (Caroline)
- Third Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)
- Secretary: James Redman
- Treasurer: Kurt Fuchs
- General Assembly: Chris Adams
- Member-at-large: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
- Member-at-large: Bill Christopher

Mr. Franklin made a motion to accept the Executive Board slate as presented. Mr. Redman seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously. The proposed slate will be presented to the full council at their December 8, 2022, meeting for consideration.

Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund

Mr. Warner provided the following information.

Notice of Award letter

- The MSRC received the letter on October 24, 2022.
- The letter states in the first paragraph, “Please note that information contained in this letter is embargoed and confidential until such time as the State of Maryland issues a formal press announcement regarding funding approvals. Any disclosure of the information in this letter before that has occurred may result in revocation of the approval.”
- The MSRC Signed and returned it on October 28, 2022.

Grant Agreement

- The MSRC received grant agreement on October 31, 2022.
- The MSRC signed the revised agreement on November 9, 2022.
- The MSRC received the executed grant agreement on November 16, 2022.

Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with counties

- The MSRC and Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland executive directors worked with their attorneys to draft MOUs between their respective regional councils and the individual counties. This work started on September 21, 2022.
- After calling and speaking with each county administrator/managers, the MSRC executive director sent draft MOUs to the county administrator/managers on October 27, 2022.
- The MOUs were updated to include the grant agreement and Notice of Award letter.
 - Updated MOUs were sent the counties on November 16, 2022.
 - On November 17, 2022, Mr. Warner had to resend the MOUs because the latest version was not included in the prior days email.
 - November 21, 2022, Mr. Warner signed the MOU with Caroline County and emailed it to them. The Caroline County Commissioners signed it and emailed the fully executed document to the MSRC on November 22, 2022.

On November 18, 2022, the regional councils received an email from the Maryland Department of Commerce stating, “We received notice that the Governor's press release will go out after Thanksgiving. If I hear what day, I will notify you immediately. I understand everyone is eager to get the word out.”

Upcoming Meetings

- Mid-Shore Regional Council Meeting
 - 12/8/22 (Thursday) 5:00pm – Chesapeake Grove, Cambridge
- Eastern Shore Regional Councils’ Joint Luncheon Meeting
 - 1/4/23 (Wednesday) 12:00pm – Hyatt, Cambridge
- Mid-Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting
 - 1/9/23 (Monday) 12:00pm – Easton Firehouse
- Tentative 2023 MSRC Meeting Dates
 - Mr. Warner stated that a document with the tentative meeting dates is included with this meeting’s materials. The dates are:
 - Thursday, March 9, 2023 – Talbot County
 - Thursday, June 8, 2023 – Caroline County
 - Thursday, September 7, 2023 – MSRC Meeting & Tour
 - Thursday, December 6, 2023 – Dorchester County (during Winter MACo)

Member comments/requests

Chairman Chase asked Ms. Haddaway-Riccio to convey a big Thank You to Governor Hogan for all he has done for the rural areas and all of Maryland over these past 8 years. Ms. Haddaway-Ricco said she would be happy to convey the message to the Governor and be assured he definitely knows the dedication and the great things the MSRC does to serve the citizens of Maryland.

Mr. Franklin expressed his thanks to the board stating it has been his pleasure serving on the Executive Board and he has made some great connections over his tenure.

Chairman Chase and Mr. Warner provided a brief update on the progress/meetings with the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) regarding the Public Safety Dashboard. They thanked Mr. Franklin for his assistance in reaching out to Caroline County police chiefs.

Mr. Warner stated that the video of this past year's Summer Career Enrichment Program is in its final edits. He is planning on showing it at the upcoming MSRC meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:20 a.m.