

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled Executive Board meeting on May 27, 2022. The meeting was held in person and virtually via web conference. The meeting was facilitated from the MSRC office. Chuck Callahan and Kurt Fuchs were in attendance in person. Members attending via web conference were Senator Addie Eckardt, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Bill Christopher, and Dan Franklin. MSRC staff Scott Warner and Terry Deighan attended in person.

In Chairman Chase's absence Vice-Chairman Chuck Callahan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Action Items

Approval of May 5, 2022, Minutes

Senator Eckardt made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Mr. Callahan stated we have a motion and a second. Call for a vote; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of May 5, 2022, Closed Executive Session

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the closed session minutes. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Mr. Callahan stated we have a motion and a second. Call for a vote; motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented the financial report in three sections.

The first report was the MSRC Treasurer's Report (operating report). Mr. Fuchs stated that all expenses and income are on track for this time of year. Ms. Deighan stated that the final funding request had been submitted to EDA this past week as well.

Next, Mr. Fuchs presented the 2022 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Report. He stated there are no changes to this report since it was last presented.

Lastly, Mr. Fuchs presented the Eastern Shore Economic Recovery COVID-19 Project Report. He deferred to Mr. Warner for an update. Mr. Warner stated that this report had one change since the last report. Talbot County submitted some expenses.

Hearing all the reports, Mr. Callahan asked for a motion. Senator Eckardt made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Mr. Callahan stated we have a motion and a second. Call for a vote; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Approval FY23 Scope of Work

Mr. Warner stated that nothing has changed since the Executive Board's review of the FY23 scope of work during their last meeting. This is the same scope as last year.

Senator Eckardt asked if water and wastewater was an item included in this scope. Mr. Warner stated that it is addressed in the Mid-Shore CEDS. Senator Eckardt said she would like to have a conversation with the region regarding water and wastewater needs, challenges, and opportunities. Mr. Warner asked if she would like the topic added to the upcoming June 9 MSRC meeting's agenda. Senator Eckardt responded yes, and the committee agreed. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the Scope of Work as presented. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Mr. Callahan stated we have a motion and a second. Call for a vote; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Approval FY23 Budget

Mr. Warner stated the only changes to the FY23 budget made since the last Executive Board's meeting was to personnel, taxes, and fringe to incorporate the generous cost of living increase given to the MSRC employees. Senator Eckardt made a motion to approve the budget presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Mr. Callahan stated we have a motion and a second. Call for a vote; motion passed unanimously.

Including Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Funds (RMPIF)

Mr. Franklin joined the meeting.

Mr. Warner stated that in FY23 the MSRC will be receiving \$600,000 in RMPIF funding. Mr. Warner stated that there are two documents in your packets regarding the MSRC's RMPIF proposed projects. One document is the proposed budget sheet and the other document entitled Mid-Shore Regional Council's request for funding support in FY2023 from the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) describes the projects. The project descriptions are in the same form as the actual grant that is being prepared.

Mr. Warner then reviewed each project and its funding amount.

Delmarva Index – \$35,000

This is a continued partnership with The Tri County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES). The recommended funding includes new tools (State Parks Dashboard, Healthcare Cluster Application, and Economic Snapshots) and maintenance of existing tools (Mid-Shore Hires, Mid-Shore CEDS, EDA tools, workforce infographics, and economic snapshots).

GIS Circuit Rider - \$30,000

This is to continue the GIS assistance to counties and municipalities. The funding amount is the same as FY22.

Mid-Shore Public Safety Dashboard - \$23,900

Develop a dashboard to visualize crime data in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties. It will enable users to analyze crime data by type in the Mid-Shore counties and major municipalities for five years (2015-2019). The dashboard will also offer regional comparisons for the other six regions in Maryland over this same time period.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) - \$175,000

This is continued support and partnership with the MSRC created ESEC.

Shore Gourmet (SG)/Chesapeake Culinary Center (CCC) - \$175,000

During the Shore Gourmet Board of Directors meeting on May 20, 2022, the Board unanimously voted to continue the SG partnership with CCC to assist with financial

support and guidance. The vote included SG's desire to financially support the partnership with this requested funding amount.

Annie's Project - \$9,000

This is the continued partnership with Maryland Cooperative Extension.

Summer Career Enrichment Programs (SCEP) - \$90,000

This project will expand on the SCEP that MSRC facilitated and helped fund last year. This year the SCEP will be held at the Dorchester Career and Technology Center and include students from Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties. As the program last year was a pilot program for Dorchester County this year's program is a pilot program for Caroline and Talbot Counties. This year's SCEP includes nine different class offerings in 2-week sessions. Each class will be offered twice over a total of 4 weeks.

Senator Eckardt made a motion to approve the FY23 RMPIF budget as presented. Mr. Fuch's seconded the motion. Mr. Callhan stated we motion and a second. Call for a vote; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Christopher had to leave the meeting due to another commitment.

Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund

Following through from the May 5, 2022, Executive Board meeting discussion with regards to hiring a consultant to help manage the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund, Mr. Warner updated the board on his conversations with Dr. Sarah Guy, principal of SG Insights, LLC. Included in the meeting packet was a contract with SG Insights, LLC.

Mr. Franklin stated that Dr. Guy does good work, but he would like the MSRC to put out a notice to see if any other company would like to give a proposal. Mr. Callahan agreed, and the board discussed how they would like to proceed. The conclusion was for the MSRC to distribute an email to its big distribution list notifying that the MSRC is seeking to engage a consultant/project management company to assist in the administrative, oversight, and reporting requirements regarding the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund. Included in the email it should also state to please forward this email to firms that may be interested in undertaking this work. The email will be sent on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, and request a response to Scott Warner by Monday, June 6, 2022. The results of the solicitation will be presented to the Executive Board.

Upcoming Meetings

The MSRC full council meeting will be on Thursday, June 9, at 5:00 p.m. in Caroline County.

Member comments/requests

There were no comments/requests.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m. by unanimous consent.