

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled executive session on September 10, 2010 at the Mid Shore Regional Council office. Members in attendance included: Kurt Fuchs, Allen Nelson, Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Dirck Bartlett, Gale Nashold and Jeff Ghrist. Jane Baynard was in attendance for Dorchester County. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. Others in attendance were Dr. Michael Scott and Michael Thielke.

Chairman Fuchs called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Meet Shore Gourmet's new General Manager

The first order of business was the introduction of the new General Manager for Shore Gourmet, Kevin Deighan. As he was unavailable to attend the meeting Mr. Warner explained that he started part-time when Fred Smyth was the Marketing Consultant for Shore Gourmet and started as the General Manager on a part-time basis at the end of May 2010 increasing his work hours during the summer and, as of September 6, 2010, became Shore Gourmet's full-time General Manager.

Meet the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center's new Executive Director

The next order of business was the introduction of Michael Thielke, who replaced Fred Smyth. Mr. Smyth had requested to the ESEC Board of Directors that he would like to step down as the Executive Director when they found a suitable replacement. A search for the new Executive Director had been going on since the winter of 2009 with the first interviews being conducted on May 7 and 8, 2009. On August 16, 2010 Mr. Thielke took over as ESEC's Executive Director. Mr. Thielke gave a brief overview of his experience and accomplishments as well as his future plans for ESEC and the Dorchester County Revolving Loan Fund.

Action Items

Approval of May 27, 2010 Minutes

Mr. Bartlett made a motion to approve, that was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed by unanimous consent.

Approval of May 27, 2010 Closed Executive Session Minutes

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve, that was seconded by Mr. Nashold and also passed by unanimous consent.

Financial Report

Treasurer Nashold presented the financial report as represented by two graphs showing yearly expenditures as well as monthly expenses. He pointed out that the MSRC was on track with spending. Having no objections entertained the financial report was accepted as presented.

Mr. Warner also alerted the Board that the MSRC had applied for automatic payments thru the State, stating this should speed up receiving payments considerably.

Ratification of an electronic vote “Authorizing Resolution to file an application with the MTA for a FY11 MTA Coordination Grant”.

Mr. Warner stated that he received seven responses from the Executive Board and they were all marked to “Accept”. Mr. Nashold made a motion to ratify the vote, Mr. Ghrist seconded the motion and the electronic vote was ratified by unanimous consent.

Ratification of electronic vote “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 that he had received eight responses from the Executive Board for these requests and all were marked “Accept recommendation” for both. Mr. Nelson made a motion to ratify both requests, Mr. Bartlett seconded the motion and the two electronic votes were ratified by unanimous consent.

Ratification of electronic vote” Authorizing Resolution to apply for a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities grant to assist in the purchase of a refrigerated truck for Shore Gourmet, Inc.”

Mr. Warner stated that seven responses were received from the Executive Board and all were marked “Accept”. He then stated that the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities grant has been approved for \$22,000 (it requires a 45% match), and the MAERDAF grant application for \$18,000 has been approved for \$13,215 so to make up the difference \$4,800 MARBIDCO Local Government Ag/RBI Project Cost Share Program Grant application has been awarded for \$2,400 (requires a 50% match) and the \$2,400 match will come from the MSRC. The MSRC was successful in securing the funds needed by Shore Gourmet to purchase a \$40,000 refrigeration truck. The truck is a 2008 Ford F250 ¾ ton truck with 14,000 miles has been purchased for the chase in the amount of \$22,615.50. The body will be sold to help cover any

additional costs needed for the truck (i.e. signage). A deposit has been placed on a Delivery Concepts HotShot II XL Refrigerated/Ambient Food Transport Unit and is being custom made (total cost \$17,751.00). The completed truck should be assembled and on the road in about a month. The total cost of the truck is \$40,366.50. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to ratify the motion, Mr. Nashold seconded the motion and it was ratified by unanimous consent.

Route 50 Corridor Committee Grant Applications

Mr. Warner stated that facilitation may possibly be needed, and the MSRC was asked to act as a mediator only if needed. The Committee would like to include in grant documents that the MSRC could assist in resolving conflicts that may arise by acting as a mediator. They hope this would not be needed but need a plan to resolve conflict. The MSRC could appoint a Committee on an as needed basis. In addition, BEACON agreed to assist by serving as a “credible policy researcher” to the Committee. Mr. Bartlett stated he felt it should be reworded replacing “mediator”, he also questioned how much work would be involved and possibly Mid Shore Mediation could be consulted to possibly step in to handle. Other mediators suggested were Salisbury University’s conflict resolutions organization or the State of Maryland’s MACRO (Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office). It was suggested that the MSRC step out and suggest these other options as they are better qualified for something of this caliber.

Old Business

Regional Medical Facility update

Mr. Warner stated that on Monday, August 30, 2010 he was asked by the Town of Easton Mayor Robert Willey if he could attend a Closed Session of the Town Council regarding the EDA grant process being held at 5:30pm that afternoon. He did attend and answered question regarding the grant process. Since Monday he had been in contact with Paige Bethke, Jessica Morris, Ray Clarke, and Mike Pullen to give an overview of the EDA grant process. EDA is implementing a new process on October 1, 2010. Mr. Warner explained the first step with any project is the project’s eligibility as Talbot County does not qualify by PCI or unemployment, but does qualify as a substantial direct benefit to the entire Economic Development District (Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot) and using Dorchester County’s current economic distress levels. The applicant must then give the reason(s) why the Regional Medical Facility has to be located in Talbot County. Mr. Bartlett stated that this project is much bigger than just a hospital; it would include a nursing school, medical related facilities that will create much needed jobs for the region. Delegate Haddaway – Riccio stressed utilizing the certificate of need available.

Hazardous Mitigation Plan

Mr. Warner stated that at the MSRC Executive Board meeting on May 27, 2010 the Board wanted more information about the plan before it would agree to have the MSRC act as grant administrator to the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Climate Program so he asked Dr. Michael Scott of Salisbury University to attend this meeting. Mr. Warner informed the Executive Board that Dr. Scott has been involved in this grant application process since the MSRC was originally contacted by Talbot County in May 2010. Dr. Scott's expertise is in environmental hazards. Dr. Scott stated that a Hazardous Mitigation Plan focuses on climate change specifically sea level rise. It would help homeowners decide how to mitigate potential threats that may present themselves. Mr. Warner also informed the Board that Talbot County has been working with the non-profit organization Center for Watershed Protection to write the grant application. Also, that he was told the grant would be for \$300,000 over two years and that grant administration would be five percent. A lengthy discussion ensued at which time many issues were addressed. Dorchester County Manager Baynard voiced her concerns of the effect this may have on long term planning. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to proceed, that motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed unanimously. Mr. Nelson then stated that the project should go forward and be able to withdraw or opt out of the project. Mr. Ghrist stated he felt this should be supported by the Board. Dr. Scott stated that if this were awarded each individual County would have to make the decision to opt in or out of the project.

New Business

Mr. Warner stated he has been asked to have the MSRC participate on the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board (USWIB) facilitation of the U.S. Department of Labor's Career Pathways for ESOL, ABE/GED. ESOL, ABE/GED (English for Speakers of Other Languages, Adult Basic Education/General Education Development). The USWIB would like the Executive Director to serve on the Committee to bring a regional economic development approach to the process, this initiative would be ongoing. Mr. Nelson made a motion to enable Mr. Warner to participate if he thinks it is worth the investment of his time, Mr. Bartlett seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous consent.

Other matters

Mr. Warner reminded the Board that our next full Board meeting will be to PAX Naval Air Base with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) and asked for feedback to let this count as our joint meeting or another alternative would be to have a meeting with the TCCLES during the

Winter MACo in Cambridge the first week of January. The Board was in complete agreement with either of these suggestions.

Mr. Warner also alerted the Board that www.mdbroadbandmap.org/map/ is up and accessible.

There was some discussion about how to publicize the www.mdbroadbandmap.org website. Dr. Scott stated that the site is highly utilized by realtors.

Member comments/requests

Delegate Haddaway-Riccio reminded everyone that she would be hosting a fundraiser on October 14th at the Oaks in St. Michaels. This would benefit MAEF (Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation) educational programs in K-12, and provide mobile labs to each county. A suggestion was made that Shore Gourmet provide a gift basket for the silent auction.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.