

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled Executive Board meeting on November 21st at the Mid Shore Regional Council office. Members in attendance were Kurt Fuchs, Walter Chase, Gale Nashold, Dirck Bartlett, and via conference call Senator Colburn. MSRC staff present was Terry Deighan and Scott Warner. Chairman Fuchs called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Approval of September 2, 2011 Minutes

The first order was approval of the September 2, 2011 Minutes. Senator Colburn made a motion to accept, Mr. Nashold seconded the motion and the Minutes were passed unanimously.

Financial Report

The next order of business was presentation of the current financial report. In the Treasurer's absence Mr. Warner presented the report, noting all expenditures were on track at this time. He then explained where funding stands at this time. He received an e-mail from Delegate Norman Conway on October 27, regarding the Department of Budget and Management approving the extra \$26,500 for each regional/tri-county council (\$132,500 total). At this time the regional/tri-county councils are still waiting for DBED to accept the \$100,000 grant documents. No regional/tri-county council signed or sent in the amended grant documents for \$73,500. There was one additional expense – the MSRC purchased workman's comp insurance from IWIF, it was effective November 3, 2011 with a \$732.00 annual premium. This purchase was in response to the USDA grant, requiring us to carry it. Being nothing further, Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the report, Senator Colburn seconded the motion and the report was accepted into record by unanimous consent.

New members to the Council

Chairman Fuchs stated the Council has two vacancies that need to be filled. The first is a private business representative from Dorchester County; the second is a private business representative from Talbot County. Chairman Fuchs then presented the Board with bios for Anne Fleming for the Dorchester vacancy and one for Mike Zimmerman for the Talbot vacancy. After a short discussion Senator Colburn made a motion to accept both recommendations, Mr. Bartlett seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Discuss/approve recommendation of the 2012 MSRC Executive Board

Chairman Fuchs stated the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice Chairs change according to the MSRC bylaws. The 1st Vice Chair will be from Dorchester, 2nd Vice Chair will be from Talbot, and 3rd Vice Chair will be from Caroline. The General Assembly member will be Delegate Addie Eckardt. As Mr. Fuchs' has served

two years as Chair, suggestions were taken for a replacement. Mr. Bartlett stated he would be willing as long as it was acceptable to the other counties and his Talbot County counterpart Mr. Hollis. Mr. Warner said he would check and get back to him. In addition, Mr. Warner informed the Executive Board that due to time constraints James Redman asked to be removed for the Executive Board as an At Large Member. After further discussion, the proposed 2012 slate will be:

Chairman: Dirck Bartlett

1st Vice – Ricky Travers

2nd Vice – Andy Hollis

3rd Vice - Jeff Ghrist

Mr. Chase agreed to stay as Secretary; Mr. Fuchs would become Treasurer, General Assembly member will be Delegate Eckardt, and Mr. Nashold and Mr. Nelson will be At Large Members.

Old Business

CEDS projects - Regional Medical Facility update

Mr. Warner stated that on Thursday, November 10 he went with Talbot County Manager John Craig and Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Bethke to the EDA Philadelphia Regional Office to meet with EDA Economic Development Specialist Alma Plummer to discuss the Regional Medical Facility project. Ms. Plummer is the new EDA representative for Maryland. They had a chance to explain the project to Ms. Plummer and for Ms. Plummer to advise/answer questions regarding the EDA grant application process. ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke and TCCLES Executive Director Mike Pennington also attended the meeting. Mr. Thielke updated Ms. Plummer on ESEC, EDA helped with the initial operational funding of ESEC. Mr. Pennington gave an update regarding the TCCLES' new building renovation. The GeoDASH Initiative was also discussed.

Incubator

Mr. Warner stated that Dorchester County made an inquiry on November 16, 2011 about possibly submitting a grant application to EDA. On November 21, 2011 he spoke to EDA Specialist Alma Plummer. There are many questions regarding the scope of the project. Also, two projects from the same region do compete with one another so the timing of grants for the Regional Medical Facility and an incubator would be a major consideration.

Shore Gourmet status/update

Mr. Warner stated that SG has been approved by the IRS as a 501c4 corporation. SG currently has 22 producers and 20 vendors, ranging from Annapolis to Ocean City to Rehoboth, DE.

He then gave a summary of the SG grants received via MSRC:

USDA Rural Development – 5 grants totaling \$255,800

FY10 – 1 grant equaling \$100,000 (part paid for the MSRC Agricultural Economic Development Specialist who received December 2009)

FY11 – 3 grants totaling \$140,800

FY12 – 1 grant worth \$15,000 (a Delaware RBEG)

MAERDAF (Maryland Agricultural Education & Rural Development Assistance Fund) – 2 grants totaling \$32,215.

FY10 – 1 grant equaling \$19,000

FY11 – 1 grant for \$13,215

MARBIDCO (Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation)

FY11 – 1 grant equaling \$2,400

Total received: 8 grants, totaling \$290,415.

MSRC submitted an application for a DE RBEG on October 28, 2011 to assist SG's continued marketing expansion into Delaware in the amount of \$49,900, time period would cover 12/1/11 through 9/30/12. Mr. Warner also stated that the Landlord gives an in-kind contribution of \$15,600+ per year.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

Chairman Fuchs stated a strong Marketing Campaign is underway utilizing handouts, one page overview, website, and a display booth. Mr. Warner informed the Board that Delegate Norman Conway would like to have a display outside the House Appropriations meeting room similar to the one that Senator Middleton had outside the Senate Finance Committee meeting room during the Maryland Special Legislative Session in October and will have again during the regular legislative session starting in January. The Rural Maryland Council is sending a letter of request to House of Delegates Speaker Michael Busch for permission.

All three counties included the funding of the MSRC and RMPF as top legislative priorities when they met with the Mid-Shore State Delegation in October. Senator Colburn, Delegate Eckardt, and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio all sent letters of support to the Governor and the MSRC forwarded the letters to Senator Middleton and Delegate Conway. Mr. Warner stated that with the Executive Board's approval the MSRC will request that Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot County Governments should send a letter(s) of support to the Governor. The Board agreed to have the MSRC send the requests.

New Business

Chairman Fuchs stated the FY11 independent financial statements for MSRC and Shore Gourmet should be completed by the end of the month. They are prepared by certified public accountant Darian Sump, owner of Sump & Associates, and they will be presented to the Executive Board at the next Executive Board meeting.

Other matters

MSRC and TCCLES member's luncheon at the Winter MACo Conference:
The MACo staff automatically duplicated the announcement from last year's agenda regarding a luncheon meeting of the MSRC and TCCLES. It is scheduled for January 5, 2012 at the Hyatt in Cambridge starting at 11:45am. Mr. Warner asked if the Executive Board was okay with this meeting. There was unanimous consent to have the meeting.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

Being no further business Mr. Nashold made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Chase. The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m. by unanimous consent.