

The Mid-Shore Regional Council held a scheduled Board meeting on June 12, 2014 in Caroline County at the Choptank Electric Building. Members in attendance included Allen Nelson, Andy Hollis, Carolyn Spicher, Daniel Rider, Gale Nashold, Larry Porter, Bill Cooper, Maria D'Arcy, Kurt Fuchs, Walter Chase and Wilbur Levengood. Guests in attendance included Economic Development Directors Angela Visintainer (Caroline County) and Keasha Haythe (Dorchester County), John General of CBRTCE, Mike Thielke of ESEC, Bill Barnes of ESMC, Mike Pennington of the TCCLES, Michael Scott of SU, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, Linda Prochaska of Senator Mikulski's office, Kim Kratovil of Senator Ben Cardin's office, Denise Lovelady of Congressman Andy Harris' office, and John Mautz. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Chairman Chase brought the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and introductions were made. Mr. Warner announced Chairman Chase was in possession of proxies from Senator Colburn, Delegate Eckardt and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio. Mr. Warner also stated that he was in possession of electronic votes from Ricky Travers and Jerome Stanley who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

#### *Approval of March 12, 2014 Minutes*

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the March 12, 2014 minutes. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated he had a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying Aye, and those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

#### *Ratification of Executive Board November 22, 2013 Minutes*

The next order of business was to ratify minutes from November 22, 2013 meeting of the Executive Board. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to ratify, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated he had a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying Aye, and those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

#### *Treasurer's Report*

Treasurer Fuchs presented the Treasurer's Report stating that all expenditures are on track with the exception of one overage in insurance which is due to a billing date change. Ms. Spicher made a motion to accept the report, Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated he had a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying Aye, and those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

### *Approval of FY15 Scope of Work*

Mr. Warner stated that the Executive Board met on May 28, 2014 to review the Scope of Work and that there were no changes from FY14 Scope of Work. Mr. Thielke suggested that Eastern Shore Manufacturing Council be added under Diversify the Economy, so Mr. Fuchs made a motion to accept the FY15 Scope of Work with the additional deliverable stating "Support the Eastern Shore Manufacturing Council," Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated he had a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying Aye, and those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

### *Approval of FY15 Budget*

Mr. Warner stated that on May 28, 2014 the Executive Board also reviewed and approved the MSRC FY15 budget which only has a few changes from the FY14 budget. He then highlighted most of the changes which included an increase in funding from the EDA, an increase in personal and related expenses, and that contractual includes \$3,000 for an ESRGC intern (same as the FY14 budget) to continue development of Mid Shore CEDS communication platforms, i.e., Website, app, and booklet size version of the document. Ms. Spicher made a motion to accept the FY2015 budget as presented, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated he had a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying Aye, and those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

### Old Business

#### *Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)*

MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General gave the following updates about MUST.

He stated that the MTA MUST 2014 grant has gone very smooth and is wrapping up this month. He noted that there has been a significant increase in transfers this year. The MUST FY2015 grant application was submitted to MTA on May 6, 2014. The due date for the Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance (SCATA) grant applications to be at the Office of Local Transit Support (OLTS) was May 9, 2014. The MSRC submitted the application to MTA Program Manger Jeannie Fazio and MTA Regional Planner Jason Kepple.

Bus advertising RFP is being divided between Shore Transit and DCS/DCT. Shore Transit has done everything required by MTA to publicize the RFP. DCS/DCT is preparing a separate RFP to submit to MTA. As stated at the March 12, 2014 MSRC quarterly meeting, the MUST program is included in both RFPs.

Outreach efforts have included increasing distribution of the MUST video. It is now being shown on Easton Cable and will soon be on Bay Country Cable. The MUST promotional DVD includes a 30 and 60 second commercial, as well as, a 6 ½ minute ad. Additional funds have been requested in the FY2015 SCATA grant application to be used for increased outreach.

MUST is planning to conduct a rider survey to include Chesapeake College students and senior center attendees.

Chairman Chase asked for a motion to accept Mr. General's report which was taken by Mr. Fuchs, and seconded by Mr. Nelson. The report was accepted into record by unanimous consent.

### *Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)*

ESRGC Director Mike Scott informed the Council and attendees of the ESRGC's activities.

He stated that the ESRGC just hired their 15<sup>th</sup> staff member, Josh Souders. He's a Salisbury University graduate in computer science and will be working on site in Annapolis with the Geographic Information Office in the Department of Information Technology.

Some highlights of some important projects that have recently begun are:

- The ESRGC was asked by SHA to help them determine where the water level will likely be in 2050 and 2100, both on average and at a spring tide. Then, if we were to have a flood on top of that, how deep would the water be and where. Finally, what portions of our counties might be cut-off due to flood water?
- Also, the ESRGC was asked by the State Police to help them plan for the implementation of a dedicated wireless broadband network for emergencies, known as FirstNet. This will involve the mapping of tower locations and heights and then predicting the wireless signal strength nearby, both inside and outside buildings.

Projects that are on-going include:

- The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Remapping project continues, although we've made significant progress in the last couple months with the Talbot County Planning Commission approving their maps and Prince George's is on the cusp of approving theirs. Queen Anne's County and Caroline County are expected to move to the approval process in this fiscal year.
- The GeoDash project continues, albeit in a much different form, as we don't separate it from the core work of the ESRGC. The DBED Data Explorer dashboard that was developed as part of the EDA grant last year has been targeted by the Governor's Office to be replicated across every state agency.
- The ESRGC continues to be the state center for highly-detailed elevation data. GIS users (and others) can logon to [lidar.salisbury.edu](http://lidar.salisbury.edu) and access it. Currently, we are serving more than 2 TB of data statewide.

Projects that are ending:

- The Maryland Broadband Mapping Initiative is coming to an end. This 5-year, nearly \$6 million project is coming to an end on October 31. Plans to maintain all the data collected after that date are very tentative. We are particularly concerned about losing the labor of our Broadband Implementation Coordinators, John McQuaid and Ed Vitalos, as they are really starting to make good headway after about a year on the job. We would welcome ideas from the group about how to keep the project going after October but particularly the broadband capacity building component.

### *Regional Medical Center Campus EDA grant*

Mr. Warner reminded everyone that Talbot County and Town of Easton received a \$1.65 million EDA grant to support Medical Center Campus. It was awarded on August 16, 2013. Interested parties in the Mid-Shore region have met to discuss concerns over the delay in construction of the new hospital and the direction of Shore Regional Health. MSRC members and affiliates requested to meet with Shore Regional Health Board via a March 19, 2014 letter. This gathering and dialog among interested parties in the Mid-Shore region could be the start of the establishment of the Health Cluster Economic Impact Work Group; the MSRC's Scope of Work in FY14 included the exploration of establishing such a group. Mr. Hollis stated that Shore Health is due to give a presentation to Talbot County and suggested the Health Group meet directly after that meeting to discuss findings.

### *Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)*

Mr. Warner stated that on May 15, 2014 he, Doris Mason and Mike Pennington attended the Governor's bill signing of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund – Revisions and Extension of Termination Date (SB137/HB1024) in Annapolis. The Rural Maryland Council will continue its efforts to get the RMPIF funded.

Mr. Chase asked if anyone had questions on any of the following:

- Business and Technology Parks: Caroline County or Dorchester County
- Maryland Broadband Cooperative
- Broadband Implementation Coordinators
- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)
- Shore Gourmet
- Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Air Station Patuxent River

There were no questions posed.

### New Business

None

### Other Matters

Mr. Warner stated there will be an Eastern Shore Regional Councils Joint Luncheon Meeting during the MACo Summer Conference, same as last year's meeting. It will be held on Friday, August 15, at the Ocean City Convention Center. Anyone who is attending MACo is welcome and if you are not attending contact the MSRC office and we will get you a ticket to attend the luncheon.

Mr. Warner stated the next MSRC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, as this has become our field trip meeting. We will be taking a tour of the ESRGC office, Broadband POP, and Maryland Broadband Cooperative's (Mdbc) Corporate Office. This is a wonderful way for MSRC members and other interested parties to personally experience some of the initiatives the

Council invests in to provide critical services for the region. We will depart the MSRC office in Easton at 10:00am; the tentative schedule is:

- 10:00am – depart MSRC office in Easton
- 11:00am to 11:45am – tour/presentation of ESRGC office
- 12:00pm to 12:15pm – tour broadband POP
- 12:30pm to 1:00pm – tour MDBC corporate office
- 1:00pm to 1:30pm – lunch at MDBC
- 1:30pm to 2:00pm – Maryland Broadband Mapping presentation
- 2:30pm – depart MDBC
- 3:30pm – arrive at MSRC office in Easton

Mr. Nashold and Mr. Nelson, both past Chairman of the MSRC, commented on how valuable and eye opening such a tour can be. They each participated in similar tours over the last few years.

#### Member comments/requests

Mr. Levengood stated he would like assistance with two things in Caroline County:

1. To develop a Community on Aging Group again in Caroline County. There had once been such a group but it disbanded some time ago.
2. To establish a more effective way to deal with trash and recycling in Caroline County. He would like to establish an energy process utilizing “gasification”.

Ms. Burgoyne stated her next Business Resource Network (BRN) meeting will be on June 26, 2014. One of the main topics at the meeting will be a discussion of alternatives to the current state business initiatives which DBED has been utilizing for some time. Anyone who is not on her list can contact her if they are interested in attending.

#### Adjourn

Mr. Nelson made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion and the meeting of the Mid-Shore Regional Council was adjourned at 6:32 p.m. by unanimous consideration.