

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled quarterly meeting on June 11, 2015 at the Choptank Electric building in Denton. Members in attendance included Dan Franklin, Dirck Bartlett, Chuck Callahan, Walter Chase, Senator Addie Eckardt, Delegate Johnny Mautz, Delegate Christopher Adams, Maria D'Arcy, Dan Rider, Kurt Fuchs, Carolyn Spicher, Debbie Rowe and Jeremy Goldman. Guests in attendance included Economic Development Directors Angela Visintainer (Caroline County), Paige Bethke (Talbot County) and Keasha Haythe (Dorchester County); John General of CBRTCE, Mike Thielke of ESEC, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, Dr. Michael Scott of the ESRGC, Denise Lovelady of Congressman Andy Harris' office, Mike Pennington of the TCCLES, Stephen McHenry of MARBIDCO, and EEDC representatives Tracy Ward and Ted Bautz. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Ms. Haythe said the blessing, dinner was enjoyed and Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Mr. Warner stated he was in possession of electronic votes from Ricky Travers and Don Satterfield who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of March 18, 2015 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval for the March 18, 2015 minutes. Ms. Spicher made a motion to approve, Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked if further discussion, all in favor to signify aye, all opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of Executive Board December 5, 2014 Minutes

The next order of business was ratification of the December 5, 2014 Executive Board minutes. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to approve, Mr. Franklin seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked if further discussion, all in favor to signify aye, all opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs stated the MSRC is right on track. Almost all funding has been received. Expenses are also on track with the exception of two overages. One is insurance due to the fact a payment that used to be billed in two installments, one in the current fiscal year and the other in the next fiscal year, is now being billed in one installment occurring in the current fiscal year. This caused a category overage. The other overage was in advertising as an ad had to be run for a comment period for the updated CEDS document and that was not taken into consideration when the budget was cast. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to accept the

report, Delegate Mautz seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked if further discussion, all in favor to signify aye, all opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY16 Scope of Work

Mr. Warner stated that the Executive Board met on May 19, 2015 to review the Scope of Work and that no changes were suggested. He asked if anyone had any additional input. Being none, Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the FY16 Scope of Work as presented, Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked if further discussion, all in favor to signify aye, all opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY16 Budget

Mr. Warner stated that on May 19, 2015 the Executive Board also reviewed and approved the enclosed MSRC FY16 budget. He then explained any line item changes as compared to the current FY15 budget. He stated the rate increases were included in the following line item categories: Health, Life Insurance, Dental, Insurance, Telephone, and Utilities. He stated that Contractual included \$3,000 for an ESRGC intern (same as FY14 and FY15 budgets) to continue development of Mid Shore CEDS communication platforms and document revision. He further stated that the MSRC did not pay the allotted \$3,000 to the ESRGC in FY15 because Dr. Scott did think he had an appropriate intern for the task, as well as, due to the lack of available time/resources by the MSRC staff to work on the project. Meeting Expenses are increased while Memberships and Postage are decreased. Rent is being increased the exact amount to cover the cost if ESEC decides to no longer rent the back office.

Chairman Chase asked if there were any questions on the proposed budget, as there were no questions Mr. Bartlett made a motion to approve the FY16 budget as presented, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked if further discussion, all in favor to signify aye, all opposed are afforded the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Burgoyne stated her observation of broadband discussions in recent meetings she has attended and asked a question about local broadband plans. This spurred a dialogue on various initiatives and task forces that the mid shore and other Eastern Shore counties are currently undertaking.

Updates

Eastern Shore Innovation Center

Mr. Warner stated that the groundbreaking took place yesterday, June 10, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Warner added that it was a very nice event and well attended and

that Caroline Commissioner and MSRC 3rd Vice Chairman Dan Franklin spoke on behalf of the MSRC.

Dorchester County Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe stated the event had seventy-five attendees and five businesses have committed to utilize the facility. The projected opening is the end of December 2015/early January 2016. She added that Eastern Shore Innovation Center has been ten plus years in the making. Ms. Haythe thanked the MSRC and all their partners for their support.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke stated that the first Accelerator Program took place April and May 2015. This was a six week program followed by a demo day. Five teams participated. The participating companies have had follow on investment totaling \$275,000. Because of the success of this program, two more programs have also been scheduled.

Mr. Thielke stated that hotDesks has two new locations: Easton and Pocomoke. There is now a retired business owner who is the entrepreneur in residence at the Pocomoke and Salisbury locations. hotDesks also has six new memberships, two sponsored by the Talbot County Economic Development Office.

Mr. Thielke stated the ILP Revolving Loan Fund has successfully loaned all of its money to clientele. He is currently looking for additional funds to increase the ESEC loan fund. He then stated that ESEC was the recipient of an SBA audit. ESEC passed the audit. During the process Mr. Thielke was honest about ESEC's shortcomings due to the fact that it ESEC operates with such a small staff. The auditors applauded Mr. Thielke for his honesty. After the audit the reviewers shared with Mr. Thielke that they called each of the ILP fund clients to inquire about their experience on working with ESEC. 100% of the clients reported a positive feedback regarding their experiences with administration of the loan fund and the technical assistance they receive. Mr. Thielke also thanked Terry Deighan for her assistance with ESEC as she handles all of the loan fund portfolios.

Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General stated the MTA MUST 2015 grant has gone very smooth and it will be wrapping up this month. The Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance (SCATA) grant application was submitted to MTA on May 21, 2015. The funds will operate MUST in FY2016.

Shore Transit's bus advertising RFP, which includes QACR, was awarded this past fall. The program is going well. DCS/DCT is preparing their advertising RFP for submittal to MTA. The MUST program is included in both RFPs.

Mr. Warner stated that the Upper Eastern Shore Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan is a needs assessment document modeled after the

Mid Shore CEDS. The plan was officially released in 2007 by the KFH Group for the MTA. MUST was a key facilitator that worked with KFH Group transportation planners. The community transportation needs that are described in the plan are used to weigh the Section 5310 and Senior Rides Program (SRP) grant applications. MUST worked along side KFH Group and MTA when the plan was updated in 2010. MUST then brought the plan to the MSRC and Upper Shore Regional Council for their approval. MUST is again working with KFH Group as the plan is currently being updated. To date meetings have been held on March 4, 2015 and May 6, 2015. Follow through input has been received via an interactive survey sent May 27 and closed June 5. Mr. Warner added that with communication he has received at the office regarding interest in public transportation, he has put two key health institutions in the region in touch with the coordinated plan's facilitator, KFH Group's Senior Transportation Planner Dan Dalton.

Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Air Station Patuxent River

Mr. Warner stated this will be the final update on this study as it was completed in January 2015. The study can be viewed on the project website www.paxjlus.com. The study is also available in print form and on CD.

Presentations

Eastern Shore Food Hub update (Easton Economic Development Corporation)

Tracy Ward, Executive Director of the Easton Economic Development Corporation (EEDC), was present to give an update to the Council on food hub initiative. Ms. Ward last addressed the Council at the December 2014 meeting in Dorchester County. Ms. Ward presented a PowerPoint where she showed the name and logo, Chesapeake Harvest, which has been designed to represent this project. She mentioned that this project is a great branding opportunity for the region. The name Chesapeake Harvest has been registered as a certification mark which is similar to a trademark, but producers can keep their name on the product as well. Ms. Ward stressed Chesapeake Harvest will work on three promises:

1. Grown Local (which means within a 200 mile radius),
2. 5% give back to Food Deserts (pantries),
3. Food will be grown in a way to protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Ms. Ward also touched on a grant application that has been submitted and the EEDC is waiting to see if they will be awarded the funds. These funds will help to buy 116 hoop houses to put on participating farms. For one hoop house the grant will pay \$20,000 and the farmer will pay \$10,000. The farmer will also agree to hire one full time person. The total jobs to be created are approximately 76. At the end of the four year commitment, the houses will be the property of the farmers. Ms. Ward

stated that in a two week time frame they have MOUs for 76 hoop houses. The project will need to generate between \$2 million and \$3 million to breakeven. Ms. Ward entertained several questions and comments. Ms. Ward was accompanied by Mr. Ted Bautz.

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

Mr. Warner stated we had Dr. Michael Scott, Professor of Geography and Geosciences at Salisbury University and Director of the ESRGC and the newly appointed Associate Dean of the Henson School of Science and Technology, joining us tonight to give an update. He also thanked Dr. Scott for the ESRGC's Broadband Implementation Coordination program that ended in April 2015 due to funding. However, it would have ended in October 2014 if it wasn't for the partnership of the ESRGC, Maryland Broadband Cooperative, and MSRC. Every effort was made to continue the program but unfortunately funding could not be secured. Mr. Warner also stated that the MUST website is now being housed by the ESRGC. It is enabling cost savings, as well as, quicker update times. Terry Deighan of the MSRC has been working with the ESRGC staff to get the site updated. Once again the partnership between the MSRC and ESRGC is proving to be a valuable asset.

Dr. Scott first gave a brief PowerPoint highlighting the various projects the ESRGC is currently working. He then gave a PowerPoint presentation showing Maryland's water tables and the expected changes to Maryland's coastlines in the next 100-500 years. This is a project the ESRGC is working on with the Maryland State Highway Administration. He also stated that he is contacted by many farmers wanting to know what parcels of land they own maybe under water in the next 50 or more years so they can sell them now while they are still useable parcels. As always Dr. Scott's presentation was very informative and somewhat disturbing seeing how much of Maryland's shoreline and properties could be fully underwater in the not to distant future.

Before concluding his presentation, Dr. Scott added that nearly 100 GIS professionals have been trained through the ESRGC in the last ten years, many working in Maryland and on the Eastern Shore.

Upcoming Event

Mr. Warner stated there may be an Eastern Shore Regional Councils joint luncheon meeting during the MACo Summer Conference for those attending the event. It would be held on Friday, August 14, at the Ocean City Convention Center. Details will be sent when they are finalized.

Announcements/ comments

Steve McHenry stated that MARBIDCO is in its 8th year already. To date, MARBIDCO has assisted with 307 projects statewide, 86 projects in the Mid-Shore with funding totaling \$10.5 million. Kurt Fuchs thanked Steve McHenry for his leadership and MARBIDCO's great work.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:12 p.m.