

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled quarterly meeting on December 07, 2017. The meeting was held at the Hyatt in Cambridge, prior to our joint luncheon with members of both the Upper and Lower Shore Regional Councils.

Members in attendance included Walter Chase, Don Satterfield, Dan Franklin, Maria D'Arcy, Kurt Fuchs, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Delegate Johnny Mautz, Senator Addie Eckardt, Joyce Harrod, Allen Nelson, Jerome Stanley, Jeremy Goldman, Ricky Travers, Anthony Casey, Burton Wilson, Kelley Cox, Wilbur Levengood, Corey Pack, Dirck Bartlett and Larry Porter.

Guests in attendance included Maryland Department of Commerce representative Deborah Bowden, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism representatives Sam Shoge (Coordinator) and Ryan Snow (Project Manager), RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis, USDA State Director Denise Lovelady, Governor's Eastern Shore Intergovernmental Affairs representative Bunky Luffman, City of Cambridge Economic Development Associate Director Brandon Hesson, Congressman Andy Harris' representative Bill Reddish, Kent County Economic Development Coordinator Jamie Williams, Dorchester County Office of Economic Development Director Jeff Trice, Senator Cardin's representative Kim Kratovil, Melissa Einhorn and Patty Shreves from Senator Eckardt's office, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) representatives Mary Buffington (Project Manager) and Logan Hall (GIS Technician), Shore Gourmet and Chesapeake Culinary Center Development and Education Coordinator Roxanne Wolf, Upper Shore Regional Council Executive Director Susan O'Neill, Maryland Department of Agriculture Director of Government Relations Matt Tefteau, City of Cambridge Planner 1 & Historic Preservation Herve Hammon, and City of Cambridge GIS Specialist Scott Shores. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m., at which time introductions were made. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Carolyn Spicher, Dan Rider, and James Redman who could not attend in person due to other obligations

Approval of September 14, 2017 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval for the September 14, 2017 minutes. Mr. Travers made a motion to approve, Mr. Satterfield seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of Executive Board May 16, 2017 Minutes

The next order of business was to ratify the minutes of May 16, 2017 MSRC Executive Board meeting. Mr. Franklin made a motion to ratify the minutes, Mr. Travers seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of Executive Board May 24, 2017 Minutes

The next order of business was to ratify the minutes of May 24, 2017 MSRC Executive Board meeting. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to ratify the minutes, Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented the current Treasurer's Report stating all expenditures and funding are on track, we are almost half way through the fiscal year. He asked if anyone had any questions, hearing none Chairman Chase said he would entertain a motion to accept the report. Mr. Franklin made a motion to accept, Mr. Travers seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Officer Selection

Mr. Warner stated that at the Executive Board meeting held on November 15 the MSRC Executive Board members discussed and are unanimously recommending the proposed slate for the 2018 officers of the MSRC.

2018 Proposed Executive Board Members

- Chairman: Walter Chase
- First Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)
- Second Vice-Chairman: Dirck Bartlett (Talbot)
- Third Vice-Chairman: Dan Franklin (Caroline)
- Secretary: Allen Nelson
- Treasurer: Kurt Fuchs
- General Assembly: Johnny Mautz
- Member-at-large: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
- Member-at-large: James Redman

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any suggestions or changes, being none a motion will be entertained to accept the slate as presented.

Mr. Travers made a motion to approve the slate as presented; Mr. Stanley seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked if there was any further discussion; being none, he stated all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. The 2018 Executive Board Members were unanimously approved as presented.

Update

FY2018 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Mr. Warner gave a summary of the RMPIF and MAERDAF grant awards over the last two fiscal years by breaking it down to how much of the funds are supporting programs that benefit the mid-shore region.

FY2018 RMPIF

FY2018 RMPIF awards benefiting mid-shore region (11 grants awarded, totaling \$527,746) – this represents 39% of grants, 33% of funds of all RMPIF monies awarded through the program

- MSRC was awarded \$211,133
 - MSRC invested in 7 projects
 - Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)
 - Shore Gourmet / Chesapeake Culinary Center partnership
 - Agricultural GIS Extension
 - Eastern Shore Index
 - Health Data Dashboard
 - Education Data Dashboard
 - Housing Quality Studies
 - Annie's Project
 - Regional Marketing Project

FY2018 MAERDAF

FY2018 MAERDAF awards benefiting mid-shore region (15 grants awarded, totaling \$329,957) – this represents 44% of grants, 48% of funds of all MAERDAF monies awarded through the program

FY2017 RMPIF

FY2017 RMPIF awards benefiting mid-shore region (8 grants awarded, totaling \$438,343) – this represents 44% of grants, 53% of funds of all RMPIF monies awarded through the program

- MSRC awarded \$111,113
 - MSRC invested in 5 projects
 - ESEC
 - Shore Gourmet / Chesapeake Culinary Center partnership
 - Agricultural GIS Extension
 - Health Data Dashboard
 - Education Data Dashboard

FY2017 MAERDAF

FY2017 MAERDAF awards benefiting mid-shore region (18 grants awarded, totaling \$230,881) – this represents 43% of grants, 42% of funds of all MAERDAF monies awarded through the program

Mr. Warner summarized the awards in FY2017 and FY2018 outlining:

RMPIF and MAERDAF grant awards for 2 years (FY2017 and FY2018)

- Total applications submitted 310, totaling \$11,100,454.29
- Total grants awarded 122, totaling \$3,653,432
 - The above figures do not include the regional councils' (MSRC) grants
- Benefitting mid-shore region
 - Grants awarded 52 (43% of all awards)
 - Total funds \$1,526,927 (42% of funding)
 - Including MSRC, total funds awarded were \$1,849,173

Project Demonstrations / Discussion

Chairman Chase asked Mr. Warner to introduce the presenters.

Mr. Warner stated that everyone should be aware of the work that is being done on various projects and dashboards commissioned by the MSRC and TCCLES. Today we will get an overview and progress on two of them.

The first is the Agricultural GIS Extension project being conducted by Mary Buffington. Ms. Buffington gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting how the project has progressed and showed demonstration slides of the AgGIS Web Map. The AgGIS Web Map is an online web map for Mid and Lower Shore farmers to view agriculture GIS layers. Layers include parcels, soils, zoning, protected lands, elevation, slope, floodplains, and more. In the past farmers were advised to search several different websites to view data about their farm. This web map provides one location for farmers to view multiple data layers and print maps of the data. University of Maryland Cooperative Extension advisors have provided valuable feedback on how to grow the application to further help farmers on the Mid and Lower Shore.

Ms. Buffington received valuable, positive feedback from the MSRC including suggestions on various constituent groups that will probably be interested in receiving her presentation.

The second presentation was on the Housing Quality Studies conducted over the summer. ESRGC GIS Technician Logan Hall began with a slide presentation summarizing the studies that ultimately encompassed 13 municipalities on the mid shore. He explained the studies' goal of identifying contributing factors leading to property degradation. City of Cambridge Associate Director of Economic and Community Development Brandon Hesson then explained why Cambridge initiated the pilot study and how they are using the data to secure public and private funds to implement programs to address housing blight. City of Cambridge GIS Specialist Scott Shores, the initial designer of the project, spoke of its origins and how it has grown in such a short period of time. Mr. Warner also asked Mr. Shores to mention that the City of Cambridge recently received a national ESRI SAG (Special Achievement in GIS) Award for housing quality studies. Additionally, Mr. Warner informed

those in attendance that Mr. Hall, Mr. Hesson, and Mr. Shores just returned this week from the ESRI Public Sector GIS Conference in Philadelphia where they were asked to give a presentation on the Housing Quality Studies.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Warner stated that a sheet with the tentative 2018 MSRC quarterly meeting dates is in everyone's folders for reference. The dates are:

- Thursday, March 8, 2018 – Talbot County
- Thursday, June 7, 2018 – Caroline County
- Thursday, September 13, 2018 – MSRC meeting and tour
- Thursday, December 6, 2018 – Dorchester County

Mr. Warner also stated that the next Mid Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton.

Announcements/comments

Mr. Bartlett stated that the MSRC is also working with the ESRGC to develop an Education Dashboard. He said that putting benchmarks including test scores on a dashboard and being able to compare among counties should be helpful.

Ms. Harrod stated that she is a new member of the MSRC and she was happy to join us today. She welcomed everyone to visit St. Michaels for their upcoming event Christmas in St. Michaels.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m. so the joint luncheon could begin.

Joint Regional Councils Luncheon 11:45 AM

Speakers

- Office of the Governor of Maryland
 - Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Deputy Chief of Staff
 - Wendi Peters, Special Secretary of Smart Growth

Announcement:

- "Taste of the Eastern Shore" legislative reception at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 5:30 pm
 - On the same day will be the Rural Maryland Council Advocacy Day in Annapolis starting at 9:00 am