

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled meeting on December 6, 2018. It was held in Dorchester County at Delmarva Community Services building in Cambridge.

MSRC members in attendance included: Allen Nelson, Jerome Stanley, Senator Addie Eckardt, Walter Chase, Burton Wilson, Dan Rider, Carolyn Spicher, Chuck Callahan, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Ricky Travers, Robby Hanson, and Delegate Johnny Mautz. Guests in attendance included: Chesapeake Culinary Center Executive Director Beth Brewster and Shore Gourmet Product Development Manager Holly Foster, Dorchester County Office of Economic Development Director Jeff Trice, Caroline County Director of Economic Development Deb Bowden, Talbot County Economic Development and Tourism Office Coordinator, Sam Shoge, Governor Hogan's Eastern Shore Outreach Coordinator Ryan Snow, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES) Executive Director Mike Pennington, TCCLES Assistant Executive Director Greg Padgham, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) Executive Director Michael Thielke, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) Practice Manager Lauren McDermott, ESRGC Project Manager Erin Silva, Senator Chris Van Hollen's Eastern Shore Regional Director Melissa Kelly, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Dan McDermott, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA) Business and Cooperative Program Director Letitia Nichols, Congressman Andy Harris' Community Liaison Mike Arntz, Delmarva Community Services President & CEO Santo Grande, Vets Helping Vets of Delmarva Secretary Stephanie Hallowell, Untangled Minds representatives Alan Stein and Nicole Mihalos. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Anthony Casey, James Redman, Gale Nashold, Kurt Fuchs, and Kelley Cox who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of September 20, 2018 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of September 20, 2018 Minutes. Mr. Travers made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Rider seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed has the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried with all in favor and one abstention.

Ratification of Executive Board May 18, 2018 Minutes

The next order of business was to ratify the minutes from the MSRC Executive Board meeting of May 18, 2018. Mr. Nelson made a motion to ratify the minutes, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed has the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried with all in favor and one abstention.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Warner presented the Treasurer's Report as Mr. Fuchs was unable to attend the meeting. He stated that all expenses and income are on track and entertained any questions. Being none, Mr. Travers made a motion to approve the report, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed has the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried with all in favor and one abstention.

Officer Selection

Mr. Warner stated that at their last meeting held on November 27 the MSRC Executive Board members discussed and is unanimously recommending the proposed slate for the 2019 officers of the MSRC.

2019 Proposed Executive Board Members

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

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any suggestions or changes. Being none, Mr. Travers made a motion to approve the slate as presented, Mr. Rider seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed has the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates/Progress Reports

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

Mr. Warner introduced ESRGC Practice Manager Lauren McDermott and Project Manager Erin Silva to give reports.

Ag GIS Extension

Ms. Silva stated that they have been working with Delmarva Land and Litter Challenge (DLLC) to develop a dashboard to explore the current status of the poultry industry on Delmarva, identify historic patterns and trends, and compare poultry industry data to other agricultural practices.

They are also working to solidify scope and data. DLLC has identified specific questions to explore and suggested some resources to gather data. Primary data sources include DPI, NASS, AgriStats, MDE. The ESRGC has reached out to contacts within these agencies and is working with them and DLLC to acquire data.

The project schedule is December–April but is highly dependent on data acquisition.

The ESRGC has been contacted by a George Mason PhD candidate interested in the DLLC and this project as it relates to mapping and conflict resolution.

Housing Study

Ms. McDermott stated that the housing study commenced in July to measure risk variables in residential neighborhoods throughout the region. Everything from at-risk roofs to deteriorating foundations and crumbling sidewalks were scored and combined with historical property value trends and vacancy rates to create a score that was mapped using GIS results for Denton, Easton, Goldsboro and Henderson. The total number of surveys collected was 10,179.

ESRGC received a new plotter on November 29, so large format maps will be printed and mailed the first week of December.

GIS Circuit Rider

Ms. McDermott explained that this position was created to assist local jurisdictions in the Mid-Shore with GIS related tasks. Logan Hall and Jeremy Gencavage are the ESRGC leads on this project. Meetings have already taken place with the GIS Managers from each of the three counties and the Towns of Denton and Goldsboro.

Meetings with Trappe and Ridgley are forthcoming, as are others.

The GIS Circuit Rider position has provided on-site training because of a request for immediate assistance in Denton.

The ESRGC is discussing the development of training opportunities/documents for towns that would assist with execution of routine GIS tasks.

The position has also provided map for Goldsboro to include in town landscaping contract bid for 2019.

A meeting is being scheduled with the Maryland Department of Commerce to discuss the need for a searchable repository of commercial and industrial real estate for sale in each county.

Eastern Shore Index

Ms. Silva stated the first advisory committee meeting was held on September 25 at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center. It included invited representatives from Lower and Mid-Shore counties. Five out of eleven invited members attended the initial meeting.

Met with project partners to discuss the direction of the site and weighed the options of expanded data versus functionality. The group all agreed that functionality should take precedence over attempting to gather an exhaustive repository of data in the initial phase of the project. The functionality of the site will be largely based on that found on the Long Island Index historic census mapping application <http://historiccensus.longislandindexmaps.org/>

A data survey was developed to help prioritize datasets. Feedback was solicited from advisory committee members, asking them to assign a value 0-5 for approximately 60 different datasets. Seven out of eleven responses were received. Top ranked datasets were:

- Population, totals
- Population, by age
- Broadband Availability
- Median Household Income by year 2006-2016 + % change 2006-2016
- Number of Businesses by Sector
- Number of Jobs by Sector
- Aggregate Payroll by Sector
- Labor Force Participation Rate
- Cost of Living Index
- Average Housing Sale Price
- Mean Commute Time

Currently, the ESRGC is downloading, cleaning, and preparing the above datasets.

Education Dashboard

Ms. Silva stated that the ESRGC shared the Education Dashboard press release with all Maryland superintendents on November 8.

ESRGC is also tentatively scheduled to demo the education dashboard with the Talbot County Council on January 8.

During the questions and answer period Mr. Shoge suggested the index and dashboards be promoted and released to the press. He would like to see these tools used by media and others as a place to commonly reference data. Central data sources would allow for discussions/dialog to use the same referenced, non-bias information.

Mr. Rider added that as the tools grow in usage, it would be good to capture and publish success stories.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

Mike Thielke, Executive Director of ESEC, gave the following progress reports.

hotDesks co-working spaces:

- There are 6 locations currently: Cambridge, Chestertown, Denton, Easton, Pocomoke City, and Salisbury. The Denton location should be up and running next month or so. The final step to being operational is high speed internet access. Efforts to open facilities in Stevensville; Exmore, VA; and Delaware are being discussed. Currently, there are 150 members. A membership to one location gains you access to all locations.

Mr. Thielke presented a PowerPoint on F³ Tech, a new statewide industry sector focus on agriculture, aquaculture, and environmental technologies.

- A Pipeline of activities include: Challenge events, Pre-accelerator program, Accelerator program, and Symposiums.
- Some lessons learned. Regarding Rural/Urban Collaboration, it is a “Pull” versus “Push.” The technology companies are being created in the urban areas and need to be attracted to the rural areas as they ramp up and go to market. Additionally, F³ Tech is being seen as an innovation broker for industry. The industry is looking to provide its problems/challenges to F³ Tech so the companies involved in the pipeline can create solutions.
- ESEC is advocating that Maryland position itself as a nationally-recognized leader in agriculture, aquaculture, and environmental technologies. ESEC is requesting that this message be communicated to a wide audience including the Maryland General Assembly, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Department of Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, TEDCO, industry, and funders.

Presentation

Mr. Warner introduced Alan Stein who is the co-founder, President, and Director of Architecture of Tanglewood Conservatories in Denton. Mr. Warner stated that for many years there have been meetings to discuss manufacturing workforce development needs. Mr. Stein has been a part of several of those meetings and a few years ago he led an effort to create an organization to address those needs. Mr. Stein and Nicole Mihalos co-founded Untangled Minds. Members of the MSRC over the last two quarterly meetings have spoken about the issue of workforce training, so Chairman Chase and Mr. Warner thought it would be a good idea to invite Mr. Stein and Ms. Mihalos to address the Council.

Mr. Stein and Ms. Mihalos shared a presentation to convey their mission. The Untangled Minds Foundation recognizes the challenges students' face as they consider steps toward their futures. Our mission is to empower young minds and educate them about the importance of leadership and entrepreneurial skill

opportunities that lie beyond traditional mediums. Driven to help young minds, we provide guidance for students to develop imperative life success and technical skills to successfully compete in a global economic setting. They shared a video of the AMP (Advanced Manufacturing Professionals) program that is in partnership with Caroline County School System. The program is approved by the State of Maryland. Untangled Minds partners include several manufacturers in the mid and upper shore region as well as the Mid-Shore Community Foundation. Their website is www.untangledminds.org.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Warner asked everyone to note the following upcoming meetings. They are listed on this meetings agenda.

The 2019 MSRC tentative meeting dates are in your packets.

The next Mid Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton.

The Eastern Shore Regional Councils' Joint Luncheon Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 11:30am at the Hyatt in Cambridge.

The "Taste of the Eastern Shore" legislative reception will be held on February 14, 2019 at 5:30pm at Hotel Annapolis (formerly the Loews Hotel). This is the same day as Rural Maryland Council's Advocacy Day in Annapolis.

Member comments/requests

Mr. Warner took a minute to express not only his, but the entire Council's appreciation for Mr. Pennington's time shared with us, as this will be his last Council meeting before his retirement.

Mr. Warner also reminded everyone to grab a gift bag before leaving as a small gesture of gratitude from MSRC for your continued service and participation throughout the year.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. by unanimous consent.