

The Mid-Shore Regional Council held a scheduled quarterly meeting on June 7, 2018 at the Caroline County Library in Denton. Members present included: Allen Nelson, Andy Hollis, Jeremy Goldman, Jerome Stanley, Joyce Harrod, Kurt Fuchs, Rick Price, Senator Addie Eckardt, Walter Chase, Burton Wilson, Dan Rider, Wilbur Levensgood, and Delegate Johnny Mautz. Guests in attendance included: Maryland Cooperative Extension Talbot County Educator Shannon Dill, Shore Gourmet and Chesapeake Culinary Center representatives Roxanne Wolf (Development and Education Coordinator) and Holly Foster (Community Outreach & Hunger Coordinator), Dorchester County Office of Economic Development Director Jeff Trice, Caroline County Director of Economic Development Deb Bowden, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism Project Manager Ryan Snow, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES) Executive Director Michael Pennington, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) Executive Director Michael Thielke, Salisbury University's School of Science & Technology Interim Dean and ESRGC Director Michael Scott, Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Program Manager Meredith Donaho, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director Denise Lovelady, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) Project Manager Erin Silva, Chesapeake College President Clifford Coppersmith, Senator Chris Van Hollen's Eastern Shore Regional Director Melissa Kelly, and Lawrence Harrod. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Chairman Chase was in possession of Delegate Chris Adams' proxy. Wilbur Levensgood was carrying a proxy for Dan Franklin. Jeremy Goldman was carrying a proxy for Don Satterfield. Andy Hollis was carrying a proxy for Chuck Callahan. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Ricky Travers, Dirck Bartlett, Kelley Cox, Maria D'Arcy, Carolyn Spicher, James Redman, and Anthony Casey who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of March 8, 2018 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval for the March 8, 2018 minutes. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve, Mr. Stanley 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 November 15, 2017 Minutes

The next order of business was to ratify the minutes from the MSRC Executive Board meeting of November 15, 2017. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve, Mr. Levengood 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.

Treasurer's Report

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented the current Treasurer's Report stating all expenditures and funding are on track and we are nearing the end of the fiscal year. He stated that he would entertain any questions. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve, Senator Eckardt 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.

Approval of FY19 Scope of Work

Mr. Warner stated that during the Executive Board's May 18, 2018 meeting they reviewed, discussed, and approved for the full Council's consideration the FY19 Scope of Work. The only recommended change to the FY19 Scope of Work is on page 2, Objective 2, Deliverable bullet 5;

Change "Establish a Health Cluster Economic Impact Work Group" to "Monitor the State of Maryland's Rural Health Collaborative Pilot (created by Senate Bill 1056 during the 2018 General Assembly Session) particularly the stated purpose to "Enhance rural economic development in the mid-shore region"."

Mr. Warner stated that the reasoning for this change was so the MSRC is not duplicating or competing against the efforts of the state endorsed rural health collaborative that encompasses the mid-shore region. He further stated that if the MSRC is not satisfied with the Rural Health Collaborative's work regarding the health cluster economic impact the Council can always reinstate in its scope of work to "Establish a Health Cluster Economic Impact Work Group." He also informed the Board that he has been contacted by individuals that are forming the Rural Health Collaborative that once their organization is in place they want to have the MSRC and ESRGC come and discuss the Collaborative's use of the Health Dashboard. Mr. Warner has also included the University of Maryland School of Public Health (UMD-SPH) into that discussion as the UMD-SPH and ESRGC/Salisbury University are trying to establish a partnership with data and dashboard development.

There were no other suggestions or discussion. Senator Eckardt made a motion to accept the revised Scope of Work, Mr. Fuchs 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.

Approval of FY19 Budget

Similar to the current fiscal year (FY18) the MSRC will be receiving Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) monies in FY19 so two budgets are being presented for consideration, the traditional MSRC operating budget and a RMPIF budget. Both budgets were distributed in the meeting packets. Mr. Warner stated that on May 18, 2018 the Executive Board reviewed and approved the MSRC FY19 operating budget. He explained the proposed MSRC operating FY19 budget line item changes as compared to the FY18 budget.

- Increases
 - Personnel
 - Payroll Taxes
 - Computer Supplies and Tech Support
 - Meeting Expenses
 - Supplies
 - Travel
- Decreases
 - Fringe Benefits (Health, Dental, Life & IRA)
 - Contractual
 - Insurance
 - Memberships
- Remaining the Same
 - Accounting
 - Advertising
 - Legal
 - Postage
 - Rent
 - Telephone
 - Utilities
 - Indirect

Mr. Hollis stated that he would find it helpful to have the proposed budget sent a week or two prior to the meeting for reviewing. Mr. Warner explained that the proposed budget has never been electronically sent prior to the meeting with the meeting materials since the distribution goes to a wide range of people, many of whom are not MSRC members and the Council has not yet formally adopted the budget. However, Mr. Warner suggested that the proposed budget could be sent under separate email to the members when the meeting materials are distributed. Mr. Hollis was in favor of that suggestion. Being no other questions, Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the MSRC operating FY19 budget, Mr. Fuchs 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.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Funds Budget

Mr. Warner stated that during the Executive Board's May 18, 2018 meeting they reviewed and approved the budget investing the RMPIF FY19 budget. Mr. Warner then went through the budget asking each organization/partner to give an update and plans of their activities.

Eastern Shore (Delmarva) Index: \$30,000

The ESRGC is building the Index.

This is a continued partnership with the TCCLES.

These funds will be used to continue the development of the Index. The Health Dashboard and Education Dashboard are encompassed by this project.

Ms. Silva gave an overview on work that has been done so far and insight on what will be done to develop the Index this year.

Agriculture GIS Extension: \$24,500

The Agriculture GIS Extension is integrated within the ESRGC.

This program is also a continued partnership with the TCCLES.

The TCCLES also plans to contribute.

Dr. Scott gave a status update on the program and how these funds may be utilized to assist the resource-based industries this year.

GIS Circuit Rider: \$60,000

The GIS Circuit Rider is a new project incorporated within the ESRGC.

The funds will be used to hire a GIS specialist that will work in the mid-shore region to assist the counties and municipalities with GIS projects.

Dr. Scott stated that many jurisdictions do not have the human resources to work on various GIS related projects and that this position will be able to assist in that effort.

Housing Quality Studies: \$25,000

The Housing Quality Studies are performed by the ESRGC.

These funds will be used to execute housing quality studies for municipalities that were unable to be completed last summer.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC): \$105,000

This is an increase to the support operational funding.

TCCLES also plans to contribute funds.

ESEC is a 501c3 corporation that was created by the MSRC.

Mr. Thielke reviewed ESEC's initiatives of operating a revolving loan fund portfolio, technical assistance, hotDesks coworking spaces, and F3 Tech Accelerator. He stated that F3 Tech has gained significant traction and the funding will help him to hire much needed assistance to further ESEC programs.

Shore Gourmet/Chesapeake Culinary Center Partnership: \$88,500

This is an increase to support operational funding.

Shore Gourmet (SG) is a 501c6 corporation created by the MSRC.

Mr. Warner stated that the Shore Gourmet Board reviewed the plans and budget for SG/Chesapeake Culinary Center partnership for the upcoming fiscal year and voted to assist with the requested financial support and guidance. The SG Board has submitted this funding support to the MSRC for consideration.

Shore Gourmet Board President Kurt Fuchs made a few comments and then asked Ms. Wolf and Ms. Foster to share some of the progress and plans for the future. They covered the success that over 30,000 “One Sheet Meals” have been sold since the fall. Ms. Wolf explained efforts to research and expand niche products/crops for farmers and aquaculture. Ms. Foster shared the efforts in creating cheese boards for marketing and sales of local cheeses. They also spoke about expanded processing and the creation of gift boxes to promote local goods.

Annie’s Project: \$9,000

This project is in partnership with the Maryland Cooperative Extension. The funds will pay for the cost of executing the program in the mid-shore region.

Ms. Dill explained that Annie’s Project is a national program designed to empower women in agriculture to manage information and learn about agriculture in a relaxed local network. The target audience is women with a passion for business, agriculture and involvement in the farm operation. She further explained that this funding will allow additions to the 2019 program: farm record keeping workshop and farm tour.

Mr. Warner informed everyone that Ms. Dill and fellow University of Maryland Extension Educator Jenny Rhodes are the Maryland co-chairs of the program and in the last ten years over 6,000 women in Maryland have participated in Annie’s Project.

Regional Marketing: \$15,000

Mr. Warner stated this line item represents \$10,000 for the continued support of the Regional Marketing Initiative of the three counties (Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot) and \$5,000 in support of the Taste of the Eastern Shore (TOTES) legislative event. TOTES is in partnership with TCCLES and USRC. TCCLES is the lead organization.

CEDS – Economic Resiliency Element: \$13,000

Mr. Warner explained that EDA is requiring CEDS to include economic resiliency into the strategies. Dr. Scott assisted the MSRC two years ago to establish a resiliency section in the Mid Shore CEDS, but due to his time commitment as the Interim Dean he cannot embark on researching, writing, and presenting to the CEDS Committee an encompassing section. Dr. Scott did put Mr. Warner in contact with Ms. Deepa Srinivasan, President of Vision Planning & Consulting, LLC, who Dr. Scott has worked

with on various projects over the years. Mr. Warner has communicated with Ms. Srinivasan by phone and email regarding her company's ability to execute an economic resilience element. She has experience working on CEDS documents and has worked with Dorchester and Talbot Counties in the past. These funds will allow the MSRC to hire Vision Planning & Consulting, LLC to develop the economic resilience element for the CEDS.

Chairman Chase asked for any further discussion, if none he would entertain a motion. Mr. Rider made a motion to accept the RMPIF FY19 budget as presented, Ms. Harrod seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by stating aye, those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Items of Concern/Interest

H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Workers

Mr. Warner stated that during the MSRC Executive Board's May 18 meeting Delegate Johnny Mautz asked if this issue could be discussed at this Council meeting. As Delegate Mautz had to leave early to attend another function Mr. Warner introduced the discussion. Originally there were 33,000 H-2B visas. Ms. Kelly said that on May 30 an additional 15,000 visas were released and they are awarded on the basis of a lottery selection. Mr. Goldman stated that there are four processing plants in Dorchester County affected by this program. After further discussion Mr. Goldman stated that there is not anything that the MSRC can contribute at this time. The Council agreed.

Center of Applied Technology South trip

Once again Mr. Warner stated that during the MSRC Executive Board May 18 meeting Delegate Johnny Mautz asked to mention this issue. Delegate Mautz would like to tour the Center of Applied Technology South (CAT-South) located in Anne Arundel County and was wondering who else may be interested in joining him. A discussion ensued where great interest in the subject of training for trade vocations was expressed, including visiting CAT-South, tech schools in Delaware, and trade programs offered at local high schools and Chesapeake College. Several people in attendance showed an interest in participating on a tour of the Center of Applied Technology South, www.catsouth.org. Mr. Warner asked those interested to let him or Ms. Deighan know. The MSRC will create a list of those interested and share with Delegate Mautz' office.

Updates

Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

Mr. Warner provided the following information:

The MUST FY2019 grant application was submitted to MTA on April 3, 2018. The Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance (SCATA) grant application is due to the Office of Local Transit Support (OLTS) by April 13, 2018. The MSRC submitted the application to KFH Group Program Manager Nancy Huggins and copied MTA Regional Planner Jason Kepple.

Kiosks

- 25 kiosks purchased
 - MTA gave MSRC/MUST concurrence to purchase 18 kiosks
 - DCS partnered to purchase an additional 7 kiosks
- Kiosks that have been placed
 - Health departments (4)
 - Caroline County Health Department in Denton
 - Dorchester County Health Department in Cambridge
 - Talbot County Health Department in Easton
 - Queen Anne's County Department of Community Services
 - UM Shore Regional Health (11)
 - Chestertown hospital (ED & main lobby)
 - Easton hospital (ED, Outpatient, & main lobby)
 - Shore Medical Pavilion (A & B lobbies)
 - Diagnostic and Imaging Center (main lobby)
 - Shore Medical Pavilion at Chestertown (main lobby)
 - Dorchester hospital (ED & main lobby)
 - Public libraries (5)
 - Caroline County Public Library in Denton
 - Caroline County Public Library in Greensboro
 - Kent County Public Library in Chestertown
 - Talbot County Free Library in Easton
 - Dorchester County Public Library in Cambridge
 - American Job Centers (1)
 - Easton
- Kiosks that need to be placed
 - Health departments (1)
 - Kent County Health Department (Chestertown – Lynchburg Street)
 - UM Shore Regional Health (1)
 - Shore Medical Pavilion at Queenstown (main lobby)
 - Public libraries (2)
 - Caroline County Public Library in Federalsburg
 - Queen Anne's County Library in Centreville
- Future kiosks locations
 - Public libraries (5)
 - Dorchester County Public Library in Hurlock
 - Talbot County Free Library in St. Michaels
 - Queen Anne's County Library on Kent Island
 - Kent County Public Library – North County
 - Kent County Public Library in Rock Hall
 - Department of Social Services (2)

- Queen Anne's County (want 2)
- American Job Centers (4)
 - Cambridge
 - Denton
 - Centreville
 - Chestertown
- Health Departments (2)
 - Queen Anne's County Health Department in Centreville
 - Kent County Health Department (A.F. Whitsitt Center, Scheeler Rd.)

Please let the MSRC know if your organization would like a kiosk(s).

Maryland Broadband Cooperative

Mr. Warner stated he received an update from Maryland Broadband Cooperative Vice President for Public Affairs Tyler Patton. Mr. Warner read the following statements.

Earlier this spring, approval of funds by the federal government will allow for the completion of our fiber connection under the Chesapeake Bay between Calvert County and Dorchester County. This build will take place over the next few months. MdBC has been working with the U.S. Navy and the State of Maryland for several years regarding this fiber build and the membership is very excited about its availability to serve rural Maryland.

MdBC continues to work with local counties in the Mid Shore region and across the state to implement broadband needs including planning and construction.

Mr. Warner emphasized how long MdBC has been working to secure the fiber connection under the Chesapeake Bay. He reiterated how excited the MdBC is to seeing this project nearing completion and mentioned how valuable it is to have another fiber connection between the Eastern Shore and Western Shore of Maryland.

Events

September 20, 2018 MSRC meeting and Tour of the Port of Baltimore

Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC field trip this year will be to the Port of Baltimore. He mentioned that the Port of Baltimore's executive director presents the Port's activity every year at Eastern Shore Delegation meetings and it is always very interesting to learn about this economic driver in the State. Mr. Rider and Mr. Fuchs both shared that they have been on tours to the Port and it is well worth the time.

Mr. Warner informed everyone that a bus has been secured. He stated that 23 people have informed the MSRC staff that they are interested in attending. Follow up emails will be sent from the MSRC staff. Full names and driver's license information will need to be collected and shared with the Port of Baltimore for security purposes.

ESRGC new location ribbon cutting

Dr. Michael Scott stated that the ESRGC will be moving to their new location the middle of June and a ribbon cutting will be planned in the near future. The new location is in downtown Salisbury in the Gallery building. The ESRGC is very excited about the move. He stated that Salisbury University's (SU) commitment to the ESRGC, and therefore the partnership with the MSRC and TCCLES, is very evident by SU investing in excess of \$1,200,000.

Mr. Warner added that Dr. Scott had informed the MSRC Executive Board that attendance at the ribbon cutting would be a great time to meet and emphasize to the new SU President the importance of the ESRGC and MSRC partnership.

Presentation

Coastal Flooding Impact of the Upper Delmarva Peninsula

Dr. Michael Scott (Interim Dean of the Henson School of Science and Technology at Salisbury University, Professor of Geography and Geosciences, and Director of the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative) was the presenter.

This report was contracted by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC). The purpose was to determine the scope of the flood vulnerability of the built environment (present and future) of five Maryland counties on the Upper Delmarva Peninsula. The presentation was immensely interesting and showed the progression of shorelines in 10 years, 50 years, and 100 years. Dr. Scott did not spend too much time on the 100 year information as he said it was not pretty and hopefully solutions for the possible devastation then will be addressed before then. This information is very helpful to the counties affected by flood waters and the information can help them to address future problems now; before they happen. As always the group appreciated and enjoyed the information and presentation.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

Chairman Chase adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.