

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled meeting on December 8, 2022. It was held at the Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center in Cambridge, Maryland.

MSRC members in attendance included: Walter Chase, Bill Christopher, Carolyn Spicher, Senator Addie Eckardt, Delegate Johnny Mautz, Delegate Chris Adams, James Redman, Ricky Travers, Lenny Pfeffer, Allen Nelson, Jerome Stanley, Joyce Harrod, Kurt Fuchs, Pete Leshner, Caroline County Administrator Jeremy Goldman, and Talbot County Manager Clay Stamp.

Guests in attendance were: Delegate-elect Thomas Hutchinson; U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's Field Representative Kim Kratovil; Salisbury University Dean and Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) Director Michael Scott; ESRGC Project Manager Erin Silva; University of Maryland Extension Educator Shannon Dill; Dorchester County Economic Development Director Susan Banks; Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism Director Cassandra Vanhooser; Easton Town Councilman Al Silverstein; Rural Maryland Council Executive Director Charlotte Davis; Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board (USWIB) Executive Director Daniel Schneckenburger; Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES) Executive Director Greg Padgham; USDA Rural Development Cooperative Programs Director Letitia Nichols; Choptank Electric Government Affairs Manager Matt Tefteau; CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield External Affairs Manager Melissa Kelly; Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) Executive Director Mike Thielke; Delmarva Community Services President and CEO Santo Grande; Maryland Broadband Cooperative President and CEO Drew Van Dopp; Upper Shore Aging Executive Director Andy Hollis; Chesapeake Culinary Center Executive Director Beth Brewster; Shore Gourmet Program Director Roxanne Wolf; Shore Gourmet Project Manager Pamela Meredith; BEACON Director John Hickman; SG Insights, llc principal Sarah Guy; University of Maryland Shore Regional Health President and CEO Ken Kozel; Delegate Mautz's Legislative Director Sara Kilmon; and Lawrence Harrod. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. and introductions were made. Pete Leshner was carrying a proxy for Chuck Callahan. Jeremy Goldman was carrying proxies for Frank Bartz and Larry Porter. Pete Leshner was carrying a proxy for Chuck Callahan. Clay Stamp was carrying a proxy for Lynn Mielke. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Anthony Casey.

Chairman Chase introduced Santo Grande and thanked him for hosting the meeting at the new Delmarva Community Services facility. Dr. Grande welcomed everyone to the Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center and gave a brief background on the history of its creation and build. He also spoke about the programs and activities that are housed in the Center. Additionally, he introduced the staff who prepared and served the delicious dinner.

## Presentation

Chairman Chase asked Mr. Warner to introduce the guest speaker to provide an update on the progress to build a new regional medical facility in the mid-shore. Mr. Warner introduced University of Maryland (UM) Shore Regional Health President and CEO Ken Kozel.

Mr. Kozel thanked the Council for the opportunity to present. He gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the actions over the last decade plus that has led to the preparation of building a new regional medical facility. UM Shore Regional Health serves five counties (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot) with several facilities:

- UM Shore Medical Center at Cambridge (freestanding medical facility)
- UM Shore Medical Center at Chestertown (rural hospital)
- UM Shore Medical Center at Easton (hospital)
- UM Shore Medical Pavilion at Easton
- UM Shore Medical Pavilion at Denton
- UM Shore Emergency Center at Queenstown
- UM Shore Medical Pavilion at Queenstown.

The new regional medical facility will be a Regional Medical Center (hospital) replacing the UM Shore Medical Center at Easton. The Center will be built in Easton off of Route 50 adjacent to the Talbot Community Center near the Easton Airport. The presentation included access roads, explanation of the departments located in the planned structures twin towers, and the ability to add to the structure if and when necessary. Mr. Kozel provided an overview of the timeline from submission of the Certificate of Need (CON) to the Maryland Health Care Commission by January 6, 2023, to the anticipated opening of the facility in 2028. The current draft of the CON application includes 127 bed with 25 observation beds (total beds today is 125). The anticipated cost is approximately \$500 million.

After fielding a couple of questions, Mr. Kozel thanked the MSRC for allowing him to present and invited the MSRC to reach out if he could answer any further questions.

## Action Items

### *Approval of September 8, 2022, Minutes*

The first order of business was to obtain approval for the September 8, 2022, minutes. Senator Eckardt made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Stanley seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion passed unanimously.

### *Ratification of Executive Board August 24, 2022, Minutes*

The next order of business was to ratify Executive Board minutes from August 24, 2022. Mr. Stamp 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 those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion passed unanimously.

### *Treasurer's Reports*

Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented three reports.

#### MSRC Operating Budget

The first report was the MSRC operating budget. He stated that all income and expenses are on track.

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

Mr. Fuchs then addressed the RMPIF budget stating that the RMPIF funds have been received and all the funds to support the programs have been dispersed as noted on the budget sheet.

#### Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund Budget

After Mr. Fuchs asked everyone to look at the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund budget sheet, he asked Mr. Warner to explain. Mr. Warner stated that this is the beginning of a two-year budget report on these funds and that he went over this with the Executive Board. He continued by explaining the format of the report line by line. He asked if this layout was acceptable to the Council. The board was in favor.

Delegate Adams made a motion to accept all three reports. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion passed unanimously.

### *Officer Selection*

Mr. Warner stated that at their last meeting held on November 23, 2022, the MSRC Executive Board members discussed and are unanimously recommending the proposed slate for the 2023 officers of the MSRC.

- 2023 Proposed Executive Board Members
  - Chairman: Walter Chase
  - First Vice-Chairman: Chuck Callahan (Talbot)
  - Second Vice-Chairman: Frank Bartz (Caroline)
  - Third Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)
  - Secretary: James Redman
  - Treasurer: Kurt Fuchs
  - General Assembly: Chris Adams
  - Member-at-large: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
  - Member-at-large: Bill Christopher

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any suggestions or changes.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the slate as presented. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second,

any further discussion? All those in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion passed unanimously.

## Updates

### *Summer Career Enrichment Program*

Mr. Warner stated that on November 14, 2022, the MSRC held a meeting with the mid-shore superintendents and People for Change Coalition (PFC) at the MSRC office to review this past summer's Summer Career Enrichment Program (SCEP) and discuss the 2023 SCEP. The superintendents want to hold the 2023 SCEP at the Dorchester Career & Technology Center. The group is contemplating the number of 2-week sessions and the programs to be offered. Attendees were:

- Derek Simmons, Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools
- Dave Bromwell, Superintendent, Dorchester County Public Schools
- Sharon Pepukayi, Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools
- Walter Chase, Chairman, Mid-Shore Regional Council
- Scott Warner, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Regional Council
- Sandy Pruitt, Executive Director, People for Change Coalition
- Jerry McLaurin, Founder, People for Change Coalition

The Council and guests then viewed a video promotional video made from this past summer's Summer Career Enrichment Program. The attendees were in awe of what a wonderful program and are fully supportive in expanding it in the future.

### *Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund*

Mr. Warner stated since the last week in October the MSRC has been working through the final steps of the grant process. The process has included:

- Working with the Maryland Department of Commerce regarding the Notice of Award letter and grant agreement.
- Working with Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties' County Administrator/Managers and the economic development directors regarding Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) between the MSRC and each county.

Mr. Warner personally thanked TCCLES Executive Director Greg Padgham as the MSRC and TCCLES offices worked together through this process.

Mr. Warner informed everyone that the Notice of Award letter from the Maryland Department of Commerce stated in the first paragraph, "Please note that information contained in this letter is embargoed and confidential until such time as the State of Maryland issues a formal press announcement regarding funding approvals. Any disclosure of the information in this letter before that has occurred may result in revocation of the approval."

Mr. Warner stated that he kept the MSRC Chairman informed through the process and gave an in-depth report to the MSRC Executive Board during their November 23, 2022, meeting.

The regional council executive directors received an email from the Maryland Department of Commerce on November 28, 2022, that the Governor's office is looking to hold a press conference in December to announce the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund awards. This communication again stated that the information regarding the grant "remains confidential and embargoed until the Governor's formal announcement."

- Mr. Warner shared this email with the MSRC Executive Board, Counties' Administrator/Managers, and Economic Development Directors.

### *Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)*

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke gave a presentation to help the group understand all of the projects and activities ESEC is involved.

- hotDesks co-working spaces has been handed over to other entities (individual counties or private sector) to administer. All locations have been transitioned with the exception of Easton. Easton was closed.
- ESEC has been working with the Chesapeake Culinary Center to establish a food processing center in Caroline County. Caroline County is utilizing some of its Rural Maryland Economic Development Funds to support this effort. Additionally, ESEC worked with the MSRC and Easton Economic Development Corporation (EEDC) to transfer the ownership of Chesapeake Harvest from the EEDC to ESEC. The Food Safety Training component of Chesapeake Harvest will be transferred under ESEC's Ag Innovation Center programming. The processing facility will utilize the branding of Chesapeake Harvest specifically for the produce processing and aggregation project.
- ESEC will be utilizing F3 Tech to start an agbiotech manufacturing facility in Talbot County. Talbot County is supporting this effort with monies from the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund.

Mr. Thielke thanked the MSRC for their continued support.

### Upcoming Events

Mr. Warner noted the upcoming meetings.

2023 tentative MSRC Meeting Dates are in your packets. The dates are:

- Thursday, March 9, 2023 – Talbot County
- Thursday, June 8, 2023 – Caroline County
- Thursday, September 7, 2023 – MSRC Meeting & Tour
- Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – Dorchester County (during Winter MACo)

The Eastern Shore Regional Councils' Joint Luncheon Meeting will be held on January 4, 2023 (Wednesday) at 12:00pm at the Hyatt, Cambridge, Maryland.

The next Mid-Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting will be held on January 9, 2023 (Monday) at 12:00pm at the Easton Firehouse, 315 Leonard Rieck Drive, Easton, Maryland. (The Google maps address is 315 Aurora Park Drive, Easton.)

The "Taste of the Eastern Shore" legislative reception will be held on February 9, 2023 (Thursday) at 5:30pm at the Graduate Annapolis, 126 West Street,

Annapolis, Maryland. Invitations will be going out soon, directly from the TCCLES.

*Member comments/requests*

Mr. Warner gave a big thank you to Senator Addie Eckardt for all her work and support as part of the MSRC as a founding member of the Council. The group then gave Senator Eckardt a heartfelt standing ovation.

*Adjourn*

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:58 p.m.