

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled meeting on September 14, 2023, in conjunction with their annual field trip. This year the Council went to businesses in Talbot County including Tilghman Island Seafood in Tilghman Island, Ferry Cove Shellfish in Sherwood, Chesapeake Landing in St. Michaels, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, and Classic Motor Museum in St. Michaels. We would like to thank Cassandra Vanhooser for all her assistance in arranging these visits.

MSRC members and guests met at the Council's office at 8:00 a.m. to board the buses and head to our first stop in Tilghman Island. Some individuals drove separately due to their work schedules and other commitments. A big thank you to Delmarva Community Transit (DCT) for providing the buses and bus drivers, Greg Brooks and Greg Wilson.

MSRC members in attendance included: Carolyn Spicher, Joyce Harrod, Walter Chase, James Redman, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Maria D'Arcy, Senator Johnny Mautz, Mike Detmer, Jeff Powell, and Clay Stamp.

Guests in attendance were: Maryland Senator John Mautz's Legislative Director Cindy Yost; Shore Gourmet Program Director Roxanne Wolf; Shore Gourmet Project Manager Pamela Meredith; Talbot County Economic Development Corporation Board members Jim Jaramillo and Ted Bautz; Maryland Department of Commerce Senior Business Development Representative Nancy LaJoice; Congressman Andy Harris' Operations & District Outreach Director Keith Graffius; Congressman Andy Harris' Community Liaison Mike Arntz; Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism Director Cassandra Vanhooser; Caroline County Economic Development and Tourism Director Debbie Bowden; Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES) Executive Director Greg Padgham; U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's Field Representative Kim Kratovil; U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen Eastern Shore Regional Director Alyssa Hastings; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation (DLLR) Labor Exchange Administrator Terenda Thomas; DLLR Business Services Supervisor Thomas Rider; Maryland Cooperative Extension Educator Shannon Dill; Talbot County Nutrient Management Advisor Sam Harrison; People for Change Coalition (PFCC) Executive Director Sandy Pruitt; PFCC Founder/Business Development Jerry McLaurin; TEDCO Rural Business Innovation Initiative Mentor Bill Bernard; Lawrence Harrod of St. Michaels; Comptroller of Maryland Public Engagement Officer, Eastern Shore Mary Handley; Delmarva Community Services President and CEO Santo Grande; Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Dan Schneckenburger; Governor Wes Moore's Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison Madison Bryce; Trappe Town Commissioner Mike Sullivan; Salisbury University ESRGC Project Manager Ryan Mello; and SG Insights, LLC principal Sarah Guy. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

The first stop was on Tilghman Island.

Tilghman Island Seafood - 6129 Tilghman Island Road, Tilghman, MD 21671

We were greeted by Nick Hargrove, owner of Tilghman Island Seafood. Mr. Hargrove explained to the MSRC and its guests the challenges the Chesapeake Bay faces due to the Blue Catfish. His operation is one of a few that processes the invasive species. Tilghman Island Seafood is a USDA approved processor. He provided a history of how he has grown the company and the relationship he has with the local watermen. With assistance of many organizations, including Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Chesapeake Culinary Center, and Shore Gourmet, the business has been growing. With the demand for the product increasing the watermen are making many times more per pound than they were a couple of years ago. With the expansion of markets, the Blue Catfish can become a significant income stream for the watermen. After providing a thorough background on his business, Mr. Hargrove took the group inside the facility to see processing center.



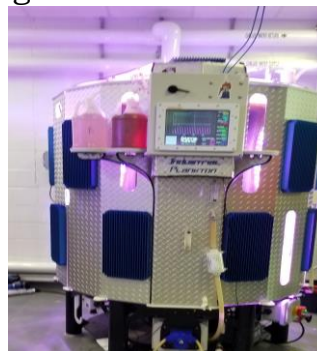
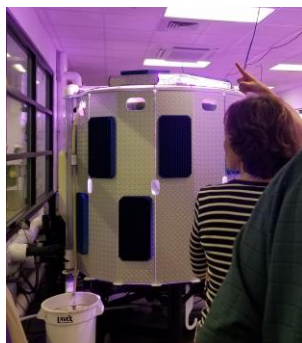
After the tour in Tilghman, we took a short drive to our next stop in Sherwood.

Ferry Cove Shellfish - 21770 Lowes Wharf Road, Sherwood, MD 21665

<https://ferrycove.org>

We were greeted by Stephan Abel, President, and CEO of Ferry Cove Shellfish. Ferry Cove Oyster Hatchery is one of the newest and most advanced hatcheries in the country. They raise larva and produce seed for use by the commercial fishing and aquaculture industries throughout the region. Their mission is committed to the long-term viability of the commercial shellfish industry and a thriving Chesapeake Bay. They collaborate with scientists, watermen, business owners and policy makers to address the current and future needs of this fast-growing industry. The facility is designed to produce shellfish and to study, implement and demonstrate innovative techniques and processes needed to advance the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the aquaculture community throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

We then split up into two groups to tour the facility with Alex Golding, hatchery technician, and Matthew Martin, phycologist.



Containers that algae are grown in.

Our next stop was Chesapeake Landing - 23713 Saint Michaels Road, St. Michaels, MD 21663. <https://chesapeakelandingrestaurant.com>

We traveled to Chesapeake Landing to tour their processing facility and to hold the meeting portion of the day. We were met by the owner, Joe Spurry. Mr. Spurry stated that he started Bay Hundred Seafood in 1984, by purchasing one of the last locally operating seafood processing plants in all of Delmarva. The seafood processing plant that Mr. Spurry took over in the center of the Bay Hundred region was in danger of being shut down at the time. He saw an opportunity to do more than just sell freshly picked crabmeat and oysters to vendors up and down the Atlantic coast. By working hand in hand with local watermen throughout the year, and by personally traveling the entire east coast to find new places to ship to, or purchase from, he was soon able to expand his wholesale seafood business to include much more in the way of live crabs and oysters. Today, just about everything shucked or picked and processed at Bay Hundred Seafood is packaged under Spurry's own Miles River Brand label.

During Mr. Spurry's talk, he took the group inside the processing center where they saw hard crabs being processed.



Next, the MSRC and guests went into the restaurant for lunch.

The MSRC meeting was held prior to lunch. Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Chairman Chase was carrying proxies from Delegate Chris Adams and Delegate Tom Hutchinson. Mr. Detmer was carrying a proxy from Ricky Travers. Mr. Powell was carrying a proxy from Lenny Pfeffer. Mr. Stamp was carrying proxies for Chuck Callahan and Lynn Mielke. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Ricky Travers, Frank Bartz, Anthony Casey, Bill Christopher, and Kurt Fuchs.

Action Items

Approval of the June 8, 2023, Minutes.

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the June 8, 2023, minutes. Mr. Stamp made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's reports

In Treasurer Kurt Fuchs' absence, Secretary James Redman presented the three reports.

MSRC Operating Budget

- Mr. Redman stated all expenditures and income are on track for this time of year.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Budget

- Mr. Redman stated that the RMPIF budget report includes all line items that the MSRC approved during its June 8, 2023, meeting. Mr. Warner added that the MSRC received the RMPIF monies earlier this week, after the report was prepared and distributed last Friday.

Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund (RMEDF) Budget

- Mr. Redman deferred to Mr. Warner for explanation. Mr. Warner explained the disbursements of the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund monies, highlighting that Caroline County and Talbot County have recently executed addendums to their MOUs with the MSRC regarding the additional \$60,000 each provided for administration. Dorchester has not yet requested their allocation of those funds.

Ms. Harrod made a motion to accept all three reports as presented. Ms. Haddaway-Riccio seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates

Summer Career Enrichment Program (SCEP)

Mr. Warner stated that this program has been completed and he encouraged anyone who has never made time to go on one of the tours to make sure to do so next year. This year's program was a tremendous success. He asked Mr. McLaurin and Ms. Pruitt, the SCEP administrators, to comment. They spoke passionately about the SCEP and how grateful they are for the partnership with the MSRC in bringing this dynamic program to the youth of the mid-shore region. They expressed how committed their instructors are to the SCEP. They along with Mr. Warner highlighted one concern, that the program was not full to capacity. Mr. Warner stated that a meeting has been scheduled with the public schools' superintendents of Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot counties to review this past year's program and to plan for next year's. Mr. McLaurin is working with the videographer who is creating a video of this year's program. Mr. Warner thanked everyone for supporting the SCEP.

Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund (RMEDF)

Mr. Warner stated that the RMEDF is supporting 28 projects in the three counties – most of the projects are underway and some have been completed. He recognized the MSRC's consultant who is assisting in the management of the RMEDF, Sarah Guy. He stated she is doing a fantastic job in working with the county economic development directors and tracking the projects' progress. Additionally, Mr. Warner stated that Caroline County wants to change some of their projects, so the MSRC has been working with the County and the State of

Maryland to get the new projects approved and reallocate the funds. Everything has been very positive and the process is nearing completion.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Warner reminded everyone of the upcoming meetings.

- Mid-Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting October 11, 2023 (Wednesday) at 12:00pm at the Easton Firehouse
- Mid-Shore Regional Council meeting December 6, 2023 (Wednesday) at Hyatt, Cambridge in conjunction with the Eastern Shore Regional Councils Joint Luncheon Meeting

Announcements/comments

There were no comments or requests.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

After lunch, the tour continued to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) - 213 North Talbot Street, St. Michaels, MD 21663. <https://cbmm.org>

This organization is a recipient of Rural Maryland Economic Development Funds for their New Visitor Center. We were fortunate enough to get a glimpse of the still under construction CBMM Visitors Center which includes exhibition space and museum store. This project represents Phase II of their Master Plan, scheduled to open in fall 2023. Although it is not yet completed, it is full of boats, exhibits, and a beacon light from a former working lighthouse and when you step into the building you are standing on a concrete floor modeled after the Chesapeake Bay. There is also a wonderful outside space to relax at tables under sail canopies with wonderful views of the campus.



We left the museum for our final stop at the Classic Motor Museum in St. Michaels.

Classic Motor Museum - 102 E. Marengo Street, St. Michaels, MD 21663
<https://classicmotormuseum.org>

This organization is another recipient of the Rural Maryland Economic Development Funds for their Automotive Technician Apprenticeship Program. The Classic Motor Museum (CMM) is dedicated to appreciating, preserving, and showcasing America's heritage of automotive innovation and adaptation while at the same time exposing future generations of Talbot County and Eastern Shore young adults to that heritage and its contributions. CMM volunteers, working with local Talbot County auto repair shops and the State of Maryland Labor Department, have created a State sanctioned apprenticeship program for young adults who are interested in a career in vehicle repair and restoration. Students receive necessary tools at the start of the program, the Automotive Technician Apprenticeship Program (ATAP). Students attend class at CMM and do apprentice work at local automotive establishments. Upon completion of the course, students are allowed to keep the tools as well as other resources provided during the apprenticeship.



We departed the museum and returned to the MSRC office.

The consensus once back to the office was it was a wonderful, educational field trip highlighting local businesses.

We arrived back to the Mid-Shore Regional Council office at approximately 3:30 p.m.