

September 14, 2005
Mid Shore Regional Council
Holiday Inn Express
Talbot County

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mid Shore Regional Council was held on September 14, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Express in Easton Maryland. Members in attendance were:

Marty Gangemi, Charles Cawley, Andy Hollis, Father LaBarge, Delegate Eckardt, Delegate Sossi, Delegate Haddaway, Ellery Adams, Gale Nashold, Hilary Spence, Hope Harrington, Jerome Stanley, Mayor Rippons, Mindie Burgoyne, Brad Broadwell, Walter Chase, Paige Bethke, Mike Pennington, Jim Gring, JOK Walsh, Steve McHenry, Fred Smyth, Dr. Michael Scott, James Rzepkowski and Terry A. Deighan. Several guests were also in attendance tonight including members of the League of Women Voters of Talbot County.

Call to Order

Chairman Gangemi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at which point those present stated their names and affiliation.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Hilary Spence that was seconded by Walter Chase the minutes of May 11, 2005 were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

On a motion by Hope Harrington that was seconded by Delegate Haddaway the treasurer's report presented by Mayor Rippons was approved by unanimous consent.

Old Business

Up Date on Executive Director Search

Chairman Gangemi informed the Board that selection of a new Executive Director was progressing nicely as the formal interview process had started with in person interviews of four candidates having been conducted on Monday with the final four being scheduled for this Friday. The Selection Committee hopes to announce their decision shortly after that.

Update on eCommerce Project

Fred Smyth who is the Economic Development Director of Talbot County informed the Board the eCommerce Project is underway and a business plan and feasibility study is

being conducted by Benchworks of Worton, MD and should be completed and presented at our next meeting. Mr. Smyth noted to date he has 47 products interested in participating with a launch date of October or November. The MSRC's involvement would be for the first two years only.

Broadband Project update

Mr. Pennington, Executive Director of the Tri County Council for the Lower Shore gave the Board an overview of where the Broadband effort stands to date highlighting accounts of a letter sent to Mr. Hance, Federal Policy Director for the Governor's office. (A copy of this letter is attached as part of these minutes). Hilary Spence announced that in certain areas of Easton that Easton Utilities has expanded its DSL service.

CASA Meeting at MACo

At this year's MACo Conference in Ocean City Gustavo Torres of CASA made a presentation to the Executive Board of the Mid Shore Regional Council and several guests. Economic Director of Talbot County Fred Smyth informed the Board that there is a feasibility study underway right now to further these efforts, that study is being funded by a \$25,000.00 private donation. At that meeting Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, Hope Harrington President of the Talbot County Council and Brad Broadwell, Economic Development Director of Dorchester County all spoke in favor of pursuing this effort. Delegate Haddaway announced legislation is being addressed for this problem also. Caroline County Administrator Charles Cawley said Caroline County was in favor of partnering with CASA three or four years ago but at that time not all the Counties were in agreement. We hope to present the feasibility study at our December meeting.

Growth Impact Assessment Model

Dr. Michael Scott of Salisbury University gave a Power Point presentation showing how they are helping various Counties with growth impact assessment studies. This allows the separate Counties to take into account all variables allowing for future planning in all pertinent areas having to do with growth (traffic, sewer, schools etc.) Dr. Scott's model's take each individual Counties information and builds a model dealing with their needs. Counties are encouraged to utilize this concept when dealing with growth. At present Caroline County is utilizing this method.

Other Matters

Steve McHenry reminded everyone the 8th Annual Rural Summit will take place in Garrett County at WISP on October 26-28 and encouraged attendance.

Chairman Gangemi announced the new MSRC Website is up and running at www.midshore.org and encouraged everyone to visit it. A suggestion was made to track the hits to the site. Dr. Scott graciously volunteered to keep the site up to date for the MSRC.

The next joint meeting date is tentatively set for November 17, 2005 and will be at a location on Kent Island. Details will be shared when they are completed.

The Mid Shore Regional Council's next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2005 and will be held at the Caroline Country Club in Caroline County

Member comments/requests

Delegate Sossi and Hilary Spence both commented favorably on Dr. Scott's Growth Impact Assessment Project stating it will be an invaluable use to all who participate.

Adjourn

On a motion by Hope Harrington that was seconded by Marty Gangemi the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Attachments:

Agenda
Treasurer's Report
Letter to Tom Hance