

**Mid Shore Regional Council
Board Minutes, Talbot County
December 08, 2004**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mid Shore Regional Council was held on December 8, 2004 at the Tide Water Inn in Easton Maryland. Members in attendance were Ellery Adams, Mindie Burgoyne, Betty Causey, Terry Deighan, Russell Dize, Delia Gnall, Hope Harrington, Andy Hollis, Father LaBarge, Steve McHenry, Kevin Morse, Mayor Rippons, Hilary Spence, Fred Smyth, JOK Walsh and one guest John Mason.

Call to order:

Ms. Spence called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm after which those present stated their name and affiliations.

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Father LaBarge that was seconded by Mayor Rippons the minutes of the October 27, 2004 meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurers report:

Mayor Rippons presented the treasurer's report pointing out the overage in contractual is due to the Mid Shore Regional Council expecting a check from DBED in the amount of \$25,000.00, Mr. Morse then announced to the board that he received word today the check was being processed and should arrive next week. Father LaBarge made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Ms. Harrington seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Mr. Morse informed the board he attended a presentation by a company called Bay Broadband which has deployed a wireless systems for Kent County and has intentions of providing the same to the entire Eastern Shore. The company must raise an additional \$1,000,000 to be able to proceed and deliver wholesale bandwidth to the entire Shore. The nine counties are proceeding as before. However, if Bay Broadband raises adequate capital to launch their system by February 1st, the Regional Councils will re-examine their cooperative effort. Mr. Morse noted that the Broadband Taskforce has submitted an official request to the Department of Business and Economic Department (DBED) to include \$3M in its capital budget to help finance the wireless network infrastructure.

EDA and DBED applications for ESEC funding:

Mr. Morse explained he expected a request from EDA for a final application for the near equity fund for the ESEC in the near future. At this time he is requesting approval of the board to give him the authority to act on behalf of the MSRC for the ESEC and to carry out the terms and conditions to be set forth for funding established by the EDA and DBED grants. This request was accepted unanimously by all members present.

Mr. Morse then informed the board that he has retained the services of Mr. John Freal to

act as interim director for the loan fund; Mr. Freal has extensive lending experience and will lend credibility and expertise to the startup. This position will grow and expand as the loan fund grows and will eventually require the services of a full time employee. A general discussion ensued covering several topics, including the Center's objectives. One concern was that loan recipients might not take the advice given to them by the ESEC's personnel. Mr. Morse explained that there will be loan conditions spelled out ahead of time that will reduce risk factors.

Workforce Task Force update:

Mr. Morse reviewed the need for a workforce task force that was agreed upon at the last CEDS meeting and informed the board that the steering committee members are: Joe Ross of Shore Health Care, Hope Harrington Talbot County council and Dan McDermott of the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board. The first meeting of this Task force is scheduled for January 7, 2005.

New Business:

Proposed amendment to BYLAWS Article VIII authorizing the Executive Director to sign all agreements and enter into arrangements which have been previously approved by the Mid Shore Regional Council; not limited to intergovernmental contracts re: staffing and professional or consulting services. Mr. Morse pointed out the limitations Article VIII has as written and had an expanded version prepared by legal council that would give him more freedom to act upon issues already voted on by the Board without having to gather their signatures before proceeding. Mayor Rippons made a motion to adopt the amendment, Father LaBarge seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the members present.

Federal designation as an EDA Economic Development District:

Mr. Morse informed the Board he had been contacted by Mr. Neil Noyes of EDA who informed him that the Council is not a federally approved district and, therefore could be in jeopardy of having it's funding terminated. Mr. Morse informed the Board he has started the process to obtain federal approval. The process could take up to a year.

Announcement of County members and appointees for CY05 – County members:

Ms. Spence announced the following persons would be representing their respective Counties.

Talbot County: Hope Harrington, Burton Wilson, Russell Dize and Hilary Spence.

Caroline County: Marty Gangemi, Roger Layton, Father LaBarge and one vacancy.

Dorchester County: Dr. Thomas Flowers, Effie Elzey, Jerome Stanley and Russell Brinsfield.

The Municipal representatives are:

Caroline County: Ellery Adams

Dorchester County: Mayor Cleveland Rippons

Talbot County: Kathy Radcliff (unconfirmed)

Elections:

Ms. Spence pointed out that a quorum was not present to vote on new members. The following individuals were nominated and their names and will be presented to the absent voting members for action.

Officers:

Chairman: (Caroline County) Marty Gangemi

First vice Chair (Caroline County) Roger Layton

Second vice Chair (Dorchester) Dr. Thomas Flowers

Third vice Chair (Talbot County) Hope Harrington

Secretary: (Talbot County) Hilary Spence

Treasurer: (Dorchester County) Mayor Cleveland Rippons

General Assembly Member at Large: Senator Richard Colburn

Results of the absentee voting will be announced at the next Board meeting.

Announcements:

CY05 meeting dates:

The first meeting of the Mid Shore Regional Council will be held on January 12, 2005 in Caroline County.

Member appreciation:

Ms. Spence thanked all of the Board participants for their service over the past year and presented each of them with a small thank you token.

CEDS meeting January 27th:

Kevin Morse announced the next CEDS meeting will be held on January 27th at Chesapeake College AUD-01 at 12 pm and will include a guest speaker. Mr. Eric Pages of Entrenworks will discuss strategy for building entrepreneurial capacity. Ms. Harrington suggested we invite the local press to cover this meeting.

Member Matters:

Delia Gnall thanked the Board for allowing her to participate as she will not be able to provide her services in 2005.

Russell Dize, municipal representative for Talbot County shared his background with the Board which included owning a seafood business, a hardware store, and working as a skip jack captain.

Steve McHenry of Maryland Rural Council reminded the Board that the Rural Council will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in Annapolis at the opening of the general assembly by serving lunch to invited guests.

Adjourn:

By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.