

Draft Meeting Minutes December 05, 2005

Mid Shore Regional Council Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, Stevensville

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mid Shore Regional Council was held on December 05, 2005 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville Maryland .

Members in attendance were:

Scott Warner, Marty Gangemi, Charles Cawley, Father LaBarge, Ellery Adams, Gale Nashold , Hilary Spence , Hope Harrington, Mayor Rippons, Mindie Burgoyne , Brad Broadwell, Paige Bethke , Fred Smyth, and Terry A. Deighan. Several guests were also in attendance tonight including James Rzepkowski DBED, Kathy Magruder DBED, Maurice Kirwan TEDCO, Vanessa Orlando of RMC, Jim Waters USDA and two members of the League of Women Voters of Talbot County.

Introductions were made and Mr. Gangemi called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Action Items

Approval of September 14, 2005 Minutes

On a motion by Father LaBarge that was seconded by Hope Harrington the minutes of September 14, 2005 were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Rippons presented the treasurer's report upon which Ms. Harrington made a motion to accept as presented, Fred Smyth seconded the motion and the treasurer's report was passed by unanimous consent.

Old Business

Up date on eCommerce Project

Executive Director Scott Warner told the Board he had an opportunity to travel to Worton and visit Benchworks which is owned and operated by Thad Bench at which time he, Fred Smyth and Terry Deighan went over the eCommerce report prepared for them. After reviewing, it was determined that a few minor changes still had to be made and we will present the finished report and its findings at a later meeting but the initial findings are very encouraging.

New Business

Endorsement of 2020 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

Mr. Warner asked the Council members to turn their attention to the handout from the Rural Maryland Council which is seeking the Council's endorsement for this effort that would help to ensure funding is available to foster economic prosperity in Maryland's traditionally disadvantaged and underserved rural communities. He stressed they are only seeking an endorsement of the council at this time. After a brief discussion among the council it was decided that many of the council members have not had a sufficient amount of time to review the document so this request has been tabled pending review and Mr. Warner was instructed to call a meeting of the Executive Committee at a later time if they decide to endorse it. A time limit of December 25, 2005 was set for the council's input.

County Chamber Memberships

Mr. Warner is seeking the Boards permission to join the Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce and the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce. He informed the Board the dues for Dorchester would be \$111.00 a year and Talbot Counties due would run \$150.00 a year. Ms. Harrington questioned the benefits of such an endeavor and Mr. Warner explained it would help to alert businesses in the areas as to what the Mid Shore Regional Council's purpose is. Mr. Warner also added that this was one of the suggestions Mr. Youngquist made after evaluating the council last year. Mr. Gangemi spoke in favor of such an endeavor. Mayor Rippons made a motion to enter into both chambers for a one year time period, Hilary Spence seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous consent.

Review/Approve Mid Shore Regional Council activities

Mr. Warner prepared an up dated Scope of Work for FY 06 highlighting his goals and objectives and is seeking the Boards approval of the path he would like to take. He did have one addition and that was to add the organization CASA to the section under Latino workforce. Mr. Gangemi said he did not have time to review the document in detail so he suggested that additional time be afforded the Council members to review and then get back to Mr. Warner with their approval or not of his path for the Mid Shore Regional Council. Once again a time limit of December 25, 2005 was imposed for members to respond to Mr. Warner.

Ellery Adams – Bypass issue

Mr. Adams who is the Preston Town Commission President and the Mid Shore Regional Council's Caroline County municipal representative asked the Council for its endorsement for a bypass in Preston . He stressed that the traffic is equal to that of Rt. 404 in Denton at times pointing out a study has already been conducted on the topic. He is seeking a written endorsement of the council he can include with his official request to the state. Ms. Spence made a motion to endorse the Town of Preston 's request for a bypass, Father LaBarge seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous consent. Mr. Warner is to prepare a written endorsement for Mr. Adams to use.

Set 2006 Meeting Dates

Mr. Warner viewed the 2006 meeting dates for the Mid Shore Regional Council that included date and county the meeting is to be held. Those dates are March 15, 2006 , June 14, 2006 , September 13, 2006 and December 13, 2006 .

Officer Selection

As customary this time every year Mr. Gangemi entertained motions from the Board for 2006 Board appointments.

The first category was Chairman; Father LaBarge nominated Mr. Gangemi to serve a second term as chairperson, Mr. Adams seconded the nomination and Mr. Gangemi accepted the position for a second year.

First Vice Chairman – Mayor Rippons was unanimously nominated for this position and he accepted.

Second Vice chairman – Ms. Spence nominated Ms. Harrington for this position, Mayor Rippons seconded the nomination and Ms. Harrington accepted.

Third Vice chairman – Mr. Adams nominated Mr. Nashold for this position and Mr. Nashold accepted the nomination.

Secretary – Mr. Gangemi made a motion to reappoint Ms. Spence as Secretary, Father LaBarge seconded the motion and Ms. Spence accepted the appointment.

Treasurer – The Board suggested appointing Mr. Travers of Dorchester County to this position, since he is not in attendance Mr. Gangemi said he would call him and alert the Board of his decision.

As the General Assembly Member with Majority rotates automatically each year this year's delegate is Addie Eckardt.

Member at Large – Ms. Harrington made a motion to reappoint Paige Bethke to this position, Mayor Rippons seconded the motion and Ms. Bethke accepted the reappointment.

Other matters

Mr. Warner had two flyers to share with Board members one from MARBDICO and another from TEDCO anyone wishing to have one should see him after the meeting.

Mr. Gangemi introduced Andy Andrews of American Farmland Trust, he has asked for a few minutes of the Council's time to ask for funding support for an Ag person that would service the Mid Shore area thru the Mid Shore Regional Council. He is requesting that

funding be put in place in the up coming budgeting sessions. Ms. Spence suggested that a representative for each county be put in place to plea Mr. Andrew's case in each respective County for FY 07. Mr. Waters of USDA encouraged passing this concept and said they might have funding available for this concept. Mayor Rippons wanted clarification as to whether or not watermen would be included in the “ag” classification. Mr. Gangemi made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Spence that the Mid Shore Regional Council supports the concept of establishing an Ag office (Economic Development person for Ag/resource based economic development) that would work for all three counties. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

On a motion by Mayor Rippons that was seconded by Ms. Harrington the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:06 a.m.

Attachments:

Agenda

Treasurer's Report

2020 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Report

Meeting Dates

Officer Selection Ballot Form