

The Mid Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a regularly scheduled meeting on June 11, 2008 at the Cambridge Elks Lodge in Dorchester County. Members in attendance were: Andy Hollis, Carolyn Spicher, Effie Elzey, Jane Baynard, Maria Gonzales-Ruiz, Mayor Rippons, Delegate Addie Eckardt, Ellery Adams, Frank Narr, Ricky Travers, Kurt Fuchs, Allen Nelson and Walter Chase. Economic Development Directors present were: Paige Bethke and Keasha Haythe. Mid Shore Regional Council staff present were: Scott Warner, Wenfei Uva and Terry Deighan. Guests present were: Fred Smyth of ESEC, Mike Scott of ESRGC, Memo Diriker of BEACON, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, Mike Pennington of TCCLES, John General of CBRTCE, Debbie Bowden of Freight Logistics, Lee Whaley of Senator Cardin's office, Cynthia Pyron of Caroline County and three representatives that Secretary David Edgerley and Deputy Secretary Clarence Bishop sent from the Baltimore office of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development: Bob Sklar (Director of StateStat Data Systems, Office of the Secretary), Mike Grandel (Manager, Enterprise Information Systems, Office of Information & Technology Management) and Julia Lukens (GIS Coordinator, Division of Business Development).

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. by Second Vice-Chairman Travers, at which time introductions were made.

The first order of business was approval of the March 5, 2008 minutes. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Chase and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The next order of business was ratification of Executive Board February 20, 2008 minutes. Mr. Nelson made a motion to ratify, which was seconded by Ms. Pyron and approved by unanimous consent.

The next order of business was approval of the treasurer's report. Mr. Chase made a motion to approve as presented, Mr. Fuch's seconded the motion and the treasures report was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

The next order of business was approval of FY09 Scope of Work. Mr. Warner explained that the Executive Board had met on May 21, 2008 to review this Scope of Work, at which time they approved this final version. Mr. Warner gave the Board a brief update and asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Pyron made a motion to approve the FY09 Scope as presented, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion and the FY09 Scope of Work was approved by unanimous consent.

The final action item was approval of FY09 Budget. Mr. Warner informed the Board that on May 21, 2008 the Executive Board also reviewed and approved the MSRC FY09 budget. Ms. Pyron made a motion to approve the budget, Mr. Chase seconded the motion and the budget was passed by unanimous consent.

Old Business

The first order of old business is an update on MSRC becoming an EDA Economic Development District (EDD). Mr. Warner explained that the EDD package is still in the review process and we should have a final decision anytime now. He also informed the Board that the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) Philadelphia Regional Office has a new Director Mr. Willie Taylor, in addition, they have hired a new Economic Development Representative (EDR) to cover Maryland and West Virginia her name is Dr. Anne Cavalier. On April 2nd Dan Gillen brought Dr. Cavalier to the MSRC office to meet staff and several economic partners. A map of the four Economic Development Districts was included in member's packets for review; the map was originally made for Anne Cavalier by the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC).

Mr. Warner announced the next Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) next full Committee meeting will be held in July/August 2008.

Mr. Warner updated the progress of the Workforce Issues Task Force Committees stating the Foundations to Enter the Workforce subcommittee finalized the ad in the paper and the ¼ page ad will be run in the Star Democrat on Wednesday, June 18, and Sunday, June 22. The paper distributes in five counties (Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Kent and Queen Anne's). The Star Democrat has a daily circulation of 20,500. This concludes the third and final subcommittee's actions and with other organizations handling the follow-thru the MSRC took the Workforce Issues Task Force off the FY09 Scope of Work. All three subcommittee actions are being handled by other organizations. The Conflict Management/Current Workplace Issues – Mid-Shore Community Mediation, the Child Care has been taken over by the Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center at Chesapeake College and the Foundations to Enter the Workforce is being handled the Vice President of Shore Health Systems.

Current updates of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc. (Mdbc) include the following:

Representatives of the Mdbc Board of Directors and the Mdbc Executive Director met with Comptroller Peter Franchot, Deputy Comptroller Len Foxwell, Assistant Comptroller Jerome Klasmeier, and Deputy Treasurer for External Affairs Howard Freedlander on March 25. The meeting was called by the Comptroller for him to get an update on the progress of the fiber backbone project. The first draft of the business plan has been received by the Mdbc and reviewed. The consultants are updating with more detailed information as requested by the Mdbc. Executive Director Patrick Mitchell served on a panel at the EDA Cleveland Conference. "Building Broadband Economic Opportunity through Broadband Connectivity". The meeting was a joint meeting between the EDA Chicago and Philadelphia regional offices. The Mdbc will be having a meeting with DBED Secretary Edgerley within the next month to update him on the work process and the funding. New members of the Mdbc are MediaMax Wireless Corp., Hagerstown, MD; NEON Optica, Inc., Westboro, MA.; Allegany County Commissioners; Board of Garrett County Commissioners; Southern Maryland Electric Company; 24/7 Cable Company, Salisbury, MD; and Digital Communications Corp., Ashburn, VA, there are currently 29 members of the Mdbc. (7 are in the Mid-Shore Region, 5 are in the Lower Shore region, 3 are in the Upper Shore region, 3 are in the Southern Maryland region, 4 are in the Western Maryland region, 7 are not in any of the above regions). Mdbc will

be on the Board of Public Works agenda at their June 24 meeting as well as on the Critical areas commission agenda for their July 9 meeting. The MdBC has received the non-tidal permits and have bored under railroad in Linkwood. Currently they are waiting to go over Vienna Bridge and are working with Easton Utilities with fiber route and P.O.P. in Easton.

Business and Technology Parks updates:

Caroline County – Caroline Technology Park Marketing Director Cynthia Pyron gave a brief update on the Park stating everything was on track and they were getting ready to market to clientele.

Dorchester County – Dorchester County Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe gave an update of the technology park stating that everything was on schedule. Ms. Haythe also informed the Board the Mid-Shore Business and Technology Incubator is on track stating TEDCO is holding the \$1 million until the end of December 31, 2008 and that TEDCO has asked the MSRC to keep them abreast of the progress. EDA needs some items updated for the federal grant for the Tech Park and Incubator at this time.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC):

ESEC Executive Director Fred Smyth gave a brief update stating the Center currently has four loans and he is working with three or four more people who are in need of funding.

Eastern Shore Economic Development/Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) partnership:

Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Bethke informed the Board there was a March 12 conference held at the Krystal Q in Easton. It was very successful with federal research agencies, economic development organizations, academia, and some Eastern Shore companies attending. Discussions are now going on regarding focused technology forums that can be held on the Eastern Shore, forums between local companies and federal labs and each forum would have a specific technology focus.

MUST (Maryland Upper Shore Transit):

MUST Coordinator and Chesapeake Bay Region Technical Center of Excellence (CBRTCE) C.E.O. John General gave an update stating CBRTCE was awarded a Workforce ONE Maryland BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) grant to address the impact of BRAC on commuter patterns on the Eastern Shore also MUST is moving forward with Delmarva Community Transit (DCT) on an advertising Request for Proposal (RFP). The scheduling and asset allocation system is currently being tested with DCT through the Caroline and Dorchester dispatch offices. On May 20 a MUST Business Plan/Strategic Planning meeting was held on Kent Island with a facilitator from Towson University, officials from Maryland Transit Administration, DCT, Queen Anne's County Ride, the MUST Coordinator, and MSRC representative Scott Warner, the initial draft of the plan is now being finalized.

Agricultural Economic Development Specialist:

Wenfei Uva gave an update on her activities since the last MSRC meeting. She updated progress on the Farmers Markets and the Buy Local Challenge going on right now. She

informed the board that the Mid-Shore Retail Agriculture Directory is on schedule and should be going to the printers in the near future.

New Business

Eastern Shore BRAC impact study for the Eastern Shore Partnership
Grant application to Workforce ONE realizing economic impact of BRAC on Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties. The Eastern Shore Partnership includes MSRC, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES), Upper Shore Regional Council (USRC), Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board (USWIB), Lower Shore Workforce Alliance (LSWA). The MSRC Executive Board approved the MSRC to be the grantee by an electronic meeting in April and ratified at the May 21 meeting. The USWIB was the lead organization.

Other matters

Regional Councils meeting on August 13, 2008 at Maryland Association of Counties (MACo):

Mr. Warner explained that this meeting was usually held at the Embers Restaurant in Ocean City on the Wednesday night of MACo, however this year it may be held at the Shorebirds game, the TCCLES usually coordinates this event. Mike Pennington added that the TCCLES will know definite arrangements by the middle of July.

Possible tour of Patuxent River Naval Air Station (PAX NAS):

Mr. Warner informed the Board that the PAX NAS representatives at the MSRC March 5 meeting asked if the MSRC would like to tour the naval base, they made the same invitation to the TCCLES on May 21. The TCCLES is looking to take a boat from Crisfield over to PAX NAS in September. Mike Pennington explained that the TCCLES has been communicating with PAX NAS regarding a lunch and tour of the base. Mr. Warner asked the Council if they would be interested in going on the tour, as well as, conducting their meeting while on the tour since the next MSRC Council meeting is scheduled for September 17. The Council encouraged Mr. Warner to work with Mr. Pennington to establish a tour of PAX NAS in conjunction with the MSRC September meeting.

Presentation on the Economic Development and Transportation Planner and the Eastern Shore Business and Economic Development Dashboard Specialist positions: Dr. Mike Scott, Director of the ESRGC, and Dr. Memo Diriker, Director of BEACON (Business, Economics, and Community Outreach Network, Franklin P. Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University), gave a power point presentation giving clarity and detail about what these new positions will be capable of and how it will offer all the Board members and many local organizations (public and private) a multitude of information for use in future projects.

Mr. Warner explained that following the MSRC FY08 Scope of Work to "Explore the possibility of adding a Regional Transportation Planner" the MSRC has been in lengthy discussions with EDA Senior Community Planner Calvin Edghill. Mr. Edghill helped to guide the evolution of this project. In addition Mr. Warner followed through on a conversation initiated by DBED Secretary David Edgerley at the Joint Regional Councils' meeting on November 8, 2007 regarding the possibility of economic

development capacity building with the MSRC. On February 21 a discussion/presentation was made to Mr. Calvin Edghill and on March 20 a presentation was made to DBED officials including Secretary David Edgerley, Deputy Secretary Clarence Bishop, and Assistant Secretary Dominick Murray. Both presentations explained these joint economic development and GIS positions. The presentations were made by Mike Scott, Memo Diriker, Mike Pennington and Scott Warner. On April 1 a presentation was made to members of the MSRC Executive Board. On April 25 a pre-application for a grant was submitted to EDA for the position of Economic Development and Transportation Planner, EDA has invited the final application for submittal. The MSRC was notified last week that DBED received a slot to fund the Eastern Shore Business and Economic Development Dashboard Specialist. The position is being advertised on DBED's website www.choosemaryland.org. DBED has shown interest to have a joint announcement with EDA on funding these positions. In summary – these positions are capacity building positions within the four organizations (MSRC, TCCLES, ESRGC and BEACON) to help the Eastern Shore and be a model for the entire state and EDA region.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

Allen Nelson made a motion to adjourn, Carolyn Spicher seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.