

The Mid-Shore Regional Council held a scheduled quarterly meeting on March 15, 2012 in Talbot County at the Talbot County Senior Center in Easton. Members in attendance included: Allen Nelson, Anne Fleming, Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Dirck Bartlett, Gale Nashold, James Redman, Jeff Ghrist, John Craig, Kurt Fuchs, Maria D'Arcy, William Cooper, and Wilbur Levensgood. Chairman Bartlett was carrying proxies for Senator Richard Colburn, Delegate Addie Eckardt, and Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio who were all in Annapolis for legislation session meetings. Talbot County Manager John Craig was in attendance and was carrying a proxy for Andy Hollis. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. Guests attending were: Kevin Deighan of Shore Gourmet, Mike Thielke of ESEC, John General of CBRTCE and MUST, Chuck Cook, representative for Governor O'Malley, Richard Sossi representative for Congressman Harris, Dr. Michael Scott of ESRGC, Linda Prochaska representative for Senator Mikulski, Sarah Bunch of BEACON and the GeoDASH Initiative, Steve McHenry of MARBIDCO, Melanie Anderson from the office of NAVAIR Ranges Sustainability office at NAS PAX, Rich Tenga, US Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment and Greg Bowen, Acting Regional Planner Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and John Mason of Dorchester County Economic Development.

Introductions were made and Chairman Bartlett called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm. Chairman Bartlett congratulated Kurt Fuchs on the fine job he did as the past Chairman of the MSRC.

#### Action Items

The first order of business was to obtain approval of December 8, 2011 Minutes. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve Minutes as presented, that motion was seconded by Ms. Spicher and the Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

The next order of business was ratification of the Executive Board Minutes dated November 21, 2011. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to ratify the Minutes as presented, Mr. Cooper seconded the motion and the Executive Board Minutes were ratified by unanimous consent.

The next action item was ratification of the revised CEDS document updated February 17, 2012. Mr. Warner stated that all MSRC members are on the CEDS Committee and on January 4, 2012 the MSRC held a full CEDS Committee meeting at the Talbot County Emergency services building at which time revisions were made to the objectives under several goals: Goal 1 – had an addition, Goal 3 – had an update and an addition, Goal 4 – had three additions, and Goal 5 – had a deletion. Also three projects were unanimously moved to the completed section of the document. Mr. Warner stated that the

updated document was e-mail to you on March 12 with this meetings agenda. The MSRC will submit the updated CEDS document to the EDA Philadelphia office once ratified. Chairman Bartlett asked for a motion to ratify the updated CEDS document; Mr. Nashold took ownership of the motion, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion and the motion to ratify the updated CEDS document was approved by unanimous consent.

The final action item was presentation of the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Fuchs presented the report stating all expenses are on track at this time. As there were no questions or comments Chairman Bartlett asked for a motion to approve the Treasurers Report dated March 15, 2012. Ms. Spicher made a motion to approve that was seconded by Mr. Nelson and approved by unanimous consent.

### Old Business

#### Funding Update – FY13 State Budget

Mr. Warner gave the following budgeting update for the MSRC. The regional councils are in the proposed budget for \$73,500 each. Ongoing communication with State representatives and legislators has been made stating the need for \$200,000. Legislative representatives have included Chairman Conway, Senator Middleton, Senator Colburn, Delegate Eckardt, and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio. A presentation to the Eastern Shore Delegation was made on 1/27/12. A presentation was also made to the Rural Caucus on 2/23/12. Support letters to the Governor with copies to legislators were sent from all three counties (Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot), also the Talbot County Economic Development Commission, Town of Easton, Talbot County Chamber of Commerce, S.B. Farms, DCS, and others sent letters. Letters of support were also sent by Senator Colburn and Delegate Eckardt and 2 from Delegate Haddaway-Riccio (10/12/11 and 1/27/12 – the latter went to the Governor and Lt. Governor). Senator Colburn also initiated a phone call to Lt. Governor on 12/21/12 requesting a meeting for him, Delegate Haddaway-Riccio, and Walter Chase to meet with the Lt. Governor or his Chief of Staff. Mr. Chase and Mr. Warner met with Lt. Governor's Chief of Staff on 1/31/12.

#### Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

Mr. Warner stated the RMPIF was not funded in proposed FY13 state budget, working with same individuals as above to get \$4 million into the fund. Presentations have been made to delegations and individuals to explain the need to build capacity. Senator Middleton is the lead on getting RMPIF funded which started this year with a meeting on 8/30/11 called by Senator Middleton and Chairman Conway with Secretaries of Department of Budget & Management, Business and Economic Development, and Agriculture and their staffs and/or representatives.

## Maryland Broadband Cooperative

In MdBC Vice President for Public Affairs Tyler Patton's absence Mr. Warner gave the following updates. The Dorchester County build to the Tech Park is almost complete. They are currently waiting on a rail road crossing permit with the state to finish the project. Work with the State on the Eastern Shore build of the BTOP project is currently underway.

## Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

ESRGC Director Mike Scott stated the ESRGC produced and distributed updated 2012 Legislative District maps (showing Land Use) to representatives in Annapolis; the maps seemed to be greatly appreciated by all who received them. Dr. Scott brought many local district maps to share with the Council. The ESRGC is in support of Maryland Broadband Mapping Initiative, submitting 5<sup>th</sup> round of broadband availability data to the NTIA. The ESRGC is also in final stages of Critical Area Map Updates in Talbot County and are currently working with Caroline County to prepare for public meetings regarding their CBCA changes in early 2012 and Queen Anne's County to verify CBCA changes. They continue to support updates to MSRC website and also hosted MSRC GIS Committee meeting February 14<sup>th</sup>, attended by State Geographic Information Officer (GIO) Barney Krucoff.

## BEACON

BEACON Assistant Director Sarah Bunch was present to give an update on the GeoDASH Initiative. She stated in the first two years alone 80 dashboards have been created. They have completed an update on year three activities in Western Maryland, as well as, new developments regarding Commercialization Opportunities. GeoDASH is also currently working with DLLR on workforce development dashboards.

Ms. Bunch also updated the Council on the Broadband Planning Grant activities. She informed that the Southern Maryland region draft report is ready for review. The other regions drafts are still in process. The goal is to encompass all four regional plans into a single rural plan.

## Business and Technology Parks

### *Caroline County*

Caroline Commissioner Wilbur Levengood stated that marketing the park is still ongoing.

### *Dorchester County*

John Mason was present in Dorchester Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe's absence. Mr. Mason stated he is in charge of marketing the park and a very aggressive campaign is in the works. He also stated Dorchester County is moving forward on the plans to development an incubator. Response has been good, not only within the region, but also outside it as well. Dorchester Economic Development just finished participating in a professional and skilled workers job fair at Chesapeake

College. Activities such as this will hopefully assist in finding technology talent that will benefit the incubator facilitation. Mr. Mason also stated that Dorchester is a HUB zone and SBA has given them great advice on how to utilize this when working with the government.

#### *Regional Medical Facility*

Talbot County Manager John Craig stated they have been in negotiations for the last 2 months with University of Maryland Medical System. The Certificate of Need (CON) should be filed in September 2012; it is a 6 month process once filed. The property has been annexed into the Town of Easton. Talbot County will provide water and sewer to the site, approximate cost is \$8 million to \$11 million. Talbot County plans to apply for a \$2.8 million EDA grant by the June 8, 2012 (EDA deadline for grant submittal for funding cycle 4 of FY2012). Longwoods Road, which currently runs through the site, will be re-routed in September 2012.

#### Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General stated that everything is going well between MSRC and MTA regarding grant reimbursements. New bus schedules are in the final stages of being completed and are scheduled to be printed and delivered in late April. Title IV, ADA, and EEO compliance will be printed on literature and is already posted on website. The advertising RFP is being updated with guidance from MTA. The Local Management Board (LMB)/Health Transportation Network (HTN) Project has been making significant progress: the MUST video has been updated, there has been the creation of 30 and 60 second commercials, and Non-rider and Medical Provider Surveys have been completed by the Handy Group. The DCT Community Transportation Advisory Council (CTAC) meeting was held on Wednesday, March 14 at Chesapeake College.

#### Shore Gourmet

Shore Gourmet General Manager Kevin Deighan stated he attended the Maryland Buyer Grower Event at the Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis and met many new contacts. He also participated in Delaware Ag Day at the Museum in Dover; First Rate First State Summit where he met good contacts including possible new producers. He stated an article in Star Democrat was the result of a day spent with Carolyn Swift Lasko. He took her to visit both Chapel Farm and SB Farm and the article was about the two producers. Mr. Deighan discussed that business is beginning to steadily pick up and Shore Gourmet has added a couple of new customers and is currently working with producers on several new products. Mr. Deighan also stated that he and others associated with Shore Gourmet went to the Rural Caucus meeting in Annapolis to show their support for the regional councils, Rural Maryland Council, and RMPF.

## Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke gave an update on several projects that encompass the Eastern Shore Entrepreneur Ecosystem. Under Technical Assistance he informed the Council that the Entrepreneur Web Portal is scheduled to go online in a couple of weeks and the Annual State of the Entrepreneur is making progress. Under the next category, Training, Shore Venture courses are in full swing. The inaugural course at Wor-Wic Community College recently concluded and the fourth course at Chesapeake College starts next Wednesday. ESEC is working on a Student Business Plan Competition for college and high school. The establishment of an after school entrepreneurship program for middle school students to be offered at the YMCA of the Chesapeake was pushed back by the delay of USDA funding being received. ESEC is also working on a Youth Summer Camp. On the Capital front ESEC has been busy working on the USDA RMAP loan fund, as well as, working to establish the Eastern Shore Angel Fund. ESEC is working to establish two receptions – one on the mid-shore and one on the lower shore – to bring together qualified investors. Regarding Administration, ESEC is constantly looking for opportunities to fundraise.

## New Business

### Presentation – Proposed Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) relating to the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS PAX)

Mr. Warner stated that the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) is working with the U.S. Department of Defense and NAS PAX to assist with a JLUS relating to the NAS PAX and its Inner Atlantic Range (Chesapeake). The TCCSMD reached out to the MSRC and TCCLES to partner in the JLUS since our counties are impacted by NAS PAX. TCCSMD Executive Director Wayne Clark spoke to the MSRC and TCCLES at the luncheon held at MACo on 1-5-12 about this proposed study. On 1-30-12 an introductory meeting in which several stakeholder counties representatives in Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore of Maryland, and Virginia were invited.

Representatives invited included county planning directors and economic development directors.

There are two main parts of the study: the Flight range over the Eastern Shore – Inner Atlantic Range (Chesapeake) and windmill heights that affect NAS PAX radar systems. The TCCSMD has approved cooperating with JLUS for NAS PAX. MSRC and TCCLES are being asked if they would cooperate as well as the six counties they represent. What is needed is a good faith commitment that jurisdictions will participate in the study and highly consider the recommendations that come from the study. The cost to MSRC, TCCLES, and Eastern Shore counties is zero as the TCCSMD and its counties are matching all federal grant funds.

Chairman Bartlett introduced the presenters: Gregory Bowen, Acting Regional Planner for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Richard Tenga, Project Manager for the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), and Melanie Anderson of NAVAIR Ranges Sustainability Office at the Naval Air Station Patuxent River. A PowerPoint

presentation had been created to help us better understand the need for the study. Several areas were touched upon with the presentation including Atlantic Test Range – Open Air Laboratory, potential operations of interest and a viewshed of instrumentation Radar Area of Concern. The presenters said that they will work with the MSRC to follow up with the mid-shore counties in the near future regarding their participation with the JLUS.

Other matters

None

Member comments/requests

Steve McHenry shared that MARBIDCO has invested in 178 projects in the state and that 59 of them have been in the three mid-shore counties. That represents 1/3 of the total projects – the top region in the state.

Adjourn

By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.