

Mid-Shore Regional Council FY08 Scope of Work

Federal Identification Number: 52 - 2340230

Background

The Mid-Shore Regional Council is a cooperative planning and economic development agency that was created via enabling legislation that was enacted in July of 2001. The organization is a public body corporate and politic as defined in Article 20 C of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The mission of the MSRC is to promote the interests and goals which unite Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties in order to enhance the physical, economic, social and cultural well being of the region.

Objectives and Activities

1. Develop strategies to ensure proper physical infrastructure and economic development plans are in place.

Actions:

1. Facilitate annual CEDS process and coordinate project implementation.
2. Communicate regularly with Federal, State, regional and local economic development partners to foster and enhance coordination of the region's economic development initiatives.
3. Facilitate/oversee the implementation of the Eastern Shore Broad Band plan and policy recommendations.
4. Provide necessary grant writing, strategic planning and legislative assistance.
5. Continue to convene infrastructure advisory committee meetings as needed.
6. Upon receipt of funds, meet requirements of funding agreements to ensure access to these sources on an ongoing basis.
7. Support policies and business development strategies that promote alternative approaches to profitable agriculture.
8. Provide governance of the regional transit project Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST).

Deliverables:

- Update CEDS and ensure eligibility for EDA funds.
- Continue to partner with the Maryland Broadband Cooperative to promote their services, such as working with the local Chambers of Commerce in an effort to promote services as they become available.

- Assist/facilitate EDA applications and implementation of CEDS projects.
- Assist Dorchester County with the submission of EDA applications for their Technology Park.
- Establish the regional agricultural related added value products e-commerce web site www.ShoreGourmet.com.
- Administer regional transit program and disseminate results to member counties.
- Explore the possibility of adding a Regional Transportation Planner; utilizing recently completed studies in the Mid Shore Region.

Timeframe: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

2. Diversify the local economy.

Actions:

1. Coordinate private sector/government partnerships for constructing and funding sophisticated business facilities and that enable the recruitment of innovative world class companies into the Mid-Shore region.
2. Serve as a liaison between private sector and public policy makers to remove local barriers to economic development – CEO roundtables.
3. Continue to evaluate and provide solutions to integrate immigrant workers into local companies.
4. Evaluate Work Ethic and Child Care issues study recommendations.
5. Assist with implementation of the recommendations in the Mid-Shore Economic Adjustment Strategy.
6. Provide grant writing, strategic planning, and legislative assistance to develop entrepreneurial infrastructure and access to private capital.
7. Identify needs and opportunities for future projects.

Deliverables:

- Convene work force advisory committees as needed.
- Help disseminate the recommendations of the Workforce Issues Study subcommittees to local businesses and public officials.
- Work with the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center to establish an entrepreneurial education training program.
- Support the resource based industries in the Mid-Shore Region (Agricultural Economic Development Specialist)
- Facilitate the establishment of a Mid-Shore Business & Technology Incubator

Timeframe: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

3. Maintain operations and funding for MSRC.

Deliverables:

- Acquire state, local, and federal funding to support ongoing operations and existing commitments.
- Submit grant applications to EDA for planning assistance funds.
- Coordinate and host all MSRC quarterly meetings and events.

Timeframe: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

4. Regional Planning

Actions:

1. Continue the support of a regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center.
2. Collaborate with other Regional Councils, state and federal agencies, and universities to leverage assets and acquire essential data and create relevant databases.
3. Support the development of a Professional Science Master's (PSM) Degree program that trains the next generation of geographic information administrators by linking the educational opportunities at Salisbury University with the GIS community service provided by the Regional GIS Center.

Deliverables:

- Regional Growth Impact Assessments initiated.
- Increased communication between towns and counties regarding MSRC activities and opportunities to address growth impacts.
- Regional GIS center operational.
- Continue to fund the Eastern Shore Regional GIS cooperative.
- Facilitate the completion of a county or municipal GIS administration project by the PSM graduate students via the Regional GIS Center.
- Future projects and funding sources identified.
- Monthly activity reports to board members and town officials.

Timeframe: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

5. A strong, unified, and effective voice in the state legislative process.

Actions:

1. Coordinate an annual legislative forum and develop a Mid-Shore legislative agenda.
2. Facilitate a joint meeting with all Eastern Shore Regional Councils.
3. Collaborate with the Rural Maryland Council and other Regional Councils to support statewide initiatives/policies that benefit rural communities.
4. Serve as a liaison between General Assembly members and local elected officials.

Deliverables:

- FY08 Mid-Shore Legislative priorities developed.
- Communication and partnerships maintained with key rural leaders and stakeholders.
- Enhanced communication with General Assembly members.
- Organize and host annual meeting and legislative forum.

Timeframe: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008