

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on June 10, 2009. It was held at the Elks Lodge in Cambridge. Members in attendance included Allen Nelson, Carolyn Spicher, Effie Elzey, Ellery Adams, Gale Nashold, Jeff Ghrist, Jerome Stanley, Kurt Fuchs, Lin Spicer, Maria D'Arcy, Robert Hanson, Walter Chase, Delegate Richard Sossi and Senator Richard Colburn. Economic Development Directors in attendance were: Keasha Haythe of Dorchester County and JOK Walsh of Caroline County and Paige Bethke of Talbot County. County Managers/Administrators in attendance were Andy Hollis of Talbot County, Jane Baynard of Dorchester County and Rick Barton of Caroline County. MSRC Staff present was: Scott Warner, Wenfei Uva and Terry Deighan. Guests in attendance included: John General of CBRTCE, Jim McCormick of Caroline County; Sarah Bunch, Economic Development and Transportation Planner; Linda Prochaska, special assistant to Senator Mikulski; Dr. Scott of ESRGC, Dr. Diriker of BEACON, James Garrity, Eastern Shore Business and Economic Development Dashboard Specialist, Rob Etgen and Amy Owsley of the ESLC, Laura Knickman of Verizon and Tyler Patton, Special Assistant to Senator Frank Kratovil.

Action Items:

Mr. Adams gave a very nice blessing, dinner was served and Chairman Nashold called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at which time introductions were made. The first order of business was approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2009 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Nelson that was seconded by Mr. Chase the minutes were approved unanimously. The next order of business was ratification of the Executive Board October 24, 2008 minutes. Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept as presented, Mr. Spicer seconded the motion and the minutes were ratified by unanimous consent. The next order of business was presentation of the treasurer's report. Mr. Nelson presented the report highlighting a few minor items stating everything was on track. Chairman Nashold asked if there were any questions, being none Chairman Nashold stated the report was accepted and will be filed as presented.

Vote to Amend the Mid-Shore Regional Council Bylaws

Mr. Warner stated at the May 20, 2009 Executive Board meeting the following Bylaw recommendations were adopted and are now being presented to the full Council for approval. Mr. Warner covered the following changes:

Article I, II, III - "Article 20C" to "Title 13 of the Economic Development Article"

Article IX, Section 3 on page 6 - Update to reflect the expanded and diversified membership from December 13, 2006, expanded membership was to follow EDA guidelines.

Article IX, Section 4 on page 6 - clarification – allows the MSRC staff to notify of meetings.

Article XII on page 7 - Clarification – what is currently financial statements have been fine by funding parties (i.e. USDA Rural Development) stating that the MSRC legal counsel and CPA wrote and approved language.

Ms. Bethke questioned the changing of Article IX Section 3; Mr. Warner explained the change would give the Council more flexibility in attaining a quorum which is required of any meeting. Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept the changes as presented, Mr. Chase seconded the motion and the changes were approved unanimously.

Approval of FY10 Scope of Work

The next Action item was approval of the FY10 Scope of Work. Mr. Warner stated that the Executive Board had met on May 20, 2009 reviewing the Scope of Work at that time and had approved this final version. He stated there were only a few changes and they were minor. He quickly stated what they were and Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the FY10 Scope as presented, Mr. Spicer seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. (A copy of the FY10 Scope is attached as part of these minutes.)

Approval of FY10 Budget

The next order of business was approval of the FY10 Budget. Mr. Warner's stated this budget had been reviewed and accepted by the Executive Board on May 20, 2009. Ms. Elzey questioned what the percentage of increase was in personnel. She was told it was COLA + 2%, as stated in Mr. Warner's employment contract. Mr. Ghrist made a motion to accept the budget as presented, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion and the budget was passed with Ms. Elzey opposing.

Old Business:

Update on MSRC becoming an EDA Economic Development District

Mr. Warner gave a brief update of the Mid Shore Regional Council becoming an EDD District stating support letters from the Governor, Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot County Councils were sent to EDA Area Director Calvin Edghill at the end of March 2009. This was the second time the letters have been updated with new dates during this lengthy process. At the end of May Mr. Edghill informed the MSRC that permanent designation should be announced shortly. Once the designation is complete the MSRC will work with Senator Mikulski and the other Maryland federal delegation, as well as the Governor regarding a press event.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Warner stated the next CEDS meeting will be held in August. Two projects that were added to CEDS document this year have been in initial discussion with EDA. EDA Economic Development Representative Anne Cavalier has been reviewing and giving feedback on the initial Investment Summaries. Infrastructure Related to the Commercialization of Denton comprised of the redevelopment from the waterfront up to the town center is a \$4.2 million project but only needs \$500,000 to complete funding. Denton Development Corporation Ellis Davison has been working with JOK Walsh preparing the necessary investment summaries.

The other project is the Mistletoe Hall Project in Talbot County. \$1.5 million is needed to develop a 68 acre technology park. Easton Economic Development Director Maureen Scott-Taylor has been working with Paige Bethke in preparing the Investment Summary for this project.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MdBC)

Mr. Warner stated the fiber connection is complete from Wallops Island across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. At present work is being done from the Bay Bridge to Parole to reach the carrier hotel where the hub of carrier internet service providers are co-located, it should be operational by end of this calendar year. Also engineering is underway from Elkton to Chesapeake College with connection being made to the Ridgely Technology Park. Construction should be complete by end of calendar year as well and operational in first quarter of the next calendar year. At this point in time the MdBC is waiting for the federal procedures to be finalized regarding the stimulus

package. The details will be coming from NTIA (National Telecommunications & Information Administration) and USDA. The MdBC is staying in contact with federal and state officials. Dr. Diriker stated he remembered the start of this initiative back in 1995.

Business and Technology Parks

Caroline County Administrator Rick Barton stated the Caroline County Tech Park is currently in a holding pattern. The County is revamping their marketing strategy for the Park. They are also looking forward to the vital key of having the MdBC reach the park with the fiber optic backbone.

Dorchester County

Mr. Warner stated that the pre-application was submitted by Dorchester County to EDA in April and currently they are working through questions with EDA officials, i.e. engineers, etc. Ms. Haythe stated that final approval was obtained last week on the development plan and incubator on lot 8.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

In Fred Smyth's absence President of the Board of Directors Allen Nelson gave the following updates: Mr. Smyth is on the Denton Redevelopment Committee. Cambridge, Denton and Easton Main Street Directors were invited to address the graduating students of the Shore Venture program. ESEC is working with several potential micro loan applicants; 2 in Cambridge, 1 in Caroline County and 2 in Talbot County. ESEC brain capital consultants continue to work with businesses in all three counties. ESEC has added three persons to SCORE and the brain capital group in the past twelve months. With the Shore Venture graduating class there are five opportunities in process. Mr. Smyth has been working with the Dorchester Chamber to establish a 'brain capital' group to focus on Dorchester since a majority of the requests have come from Dorchester in the past six months. ESEC is also working to establish a Latino Chamber of Commerce under the Dorchester Chamber, this effort may extend over the three counties as there is a great deal of synergy among Latino groups on the Mid-Shore. A Dorchester CEO Roundtable will launch in conjunction with the Economic Development Office and the Dorchester Chamber, hopeful the same will happen in Caroline County.

Shore Venture entrepreneurship preparatory program is an initiative of ESEC partnering with Chesapeake College and SCORE implementing the FastTrac program by the Kauffman Foundation. The enthusiasm and response was far greater than anticipated. Classes were held at Chesapeake College and the first session graduated 37 participants on May 13, 2009 at Chesapeake College. The graduates were comprised of 9 people from Caroline County, 12 people from Dorchester County, 10 from Talbot County and 6 from Kent County. 20% of the class determined that they should not start a business. This is a success since they did not invest and lose money. A third of the class will continue working on their plan with individual brain capital consultants. There are several that have sent their plans to ESEC and other organizations for loan programs, and many look very good. This first time effort was far more successful than originally planned. The students had the opportunity to present their business plans and in the process expressed their thanks for the opportunity. This would never have gotten off the ground if it were not for TEDCO and EDA's financial support. Shore Venture has people already signed up for the fall program. ESEC is searching for funding to continue this program.

MUST (Maryland Upper Shore Transit)

MUST Coordinator and Chesapeake Bay Region Technical Center of Excellence C.E.O. John General stated the MUST program FY10 budget requests were submitted prior to

the MSRC March meeting. The MSRC should be notified shortly regarding FY10 funding.

Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)/New Freedom (public transportation funding) grants were reviewed by the state committee (John General serves on the committee) on March 26 and recommendations were forwarded to MTA officials. Two local grants were approved – both from DCT. Mr. General stated he attended the Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee for Transportation meeting on March 24. He was appointed by Talbot County Council to represent the county. The scheduling and asset allocation system advanced technology demonstration project final report is being reviewed by the MTA. The Maryland Coordinating Committee for Human Services Transportation meeting was held on May 20; 5310 applications were reviewed and two were submitted from the mid-shore region. Bus schedules to be printed in July and again in the fall after the October public hearings. The schedules will use smaller paper to minimize the size. The MUST website was updated and back online in May; MUST outreach specialist Irene Hunter is coordinating with DCS Mobility Manager and One Stop Manager Mary Handley. Bus advertising RFP in being reviewed by the MSRC attorney and will then be issued to MTA for final approval before being released. The CBRTCE's BRAC Impact on Eastern Shore Commuting Patterns Study final report is under final review. The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) Building a Vision for Regional Transportation Committee finalized the study briefs. The ESLC presented them to the Upper Shore Regional Council during their last meeting.

Agricultural Economic Development Specialist

Wenfei Uva stated she has been working on a Four-Season Agricultural Tour series with Easton Club East; it continues to be a great success – The 2009 Spring Tour was held on May 6th at Chapel's Country Creamery, 52 people participated. In support of the 2009 Buy Local Challenge, MSRC is sponsoring the Mid-Shore Buy Local Week County Agricultural Tours – Talbot County on July 21, Caroline County on July 22, Dorchester County July 23. She is also collaborating with Chesapeake Culinary Center to submit recipes for the Governor's Annual Cook-out. Dr. Uva stated the Eastern Shore Wine Trail is in development to be launched this year. A proposal titled "From Our Farm to Your Table" to the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program has been submitted for funding to support development of Agri-tourism in the region.

The Mid-Shore Regional Council received a \$1,000 award to develop agriculture tourism marketing materials for the Mid-Shore region. Shannon Dill at Talbot Extension Office has a Talbot Agriculture web-site that is running out of funding so the two offices will collaborate on a Mid-Shore Agriculture Web-site.

Farm to School Effort: Caroline County School System's participation in the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Snack Program will take place at two elementary schools in Caroline County to start.

Shore Gourmet Status Update: The USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant for (\$100,000) is pending at this time and looks very favorable. A USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program grant was submitted to start the e-commerce portion of the program (\$51,928). The current Operation and Work Plan includes working closely with Chesapeake Culinary Center on Shore Gourmet Denton Store as well as Shore Gourmet operating support. The Shore Gourmet Easton Market at Easton Market Square will open the end of June. Shore Gourmet vendors participated in the St. Michaels Food and Wine Festival. A Board of Directors meeting to finalize legal and operation details will be scheduled soon.

New Business:

Mr. Warner approached the Board regarding a request he received offering a presentation regarding the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP). Cathy Bassett from CM Bassett Consulting LLC contacted the MSRC office on Monday, June 8 to see if the MSRC would be interested in such an event. They are contracted by Pepco Holdings, who owns Delmarva Power. If interested a Delmarva Power employee would assist Ms. Bassett with the presentation. Mr. Adams stated he was in favor of such a presentation so we can have an opportunity to due diligence as to growth in the area. An overhead power line and unnecessary growth should be avoided and a presentation such as this would afford many different points of view needed to make an informed decision. Senator Colburn also pointed out it would be an appropriate time to present opposing points of view at the same time. He suggested Mr. Warner contact Libby Nagel. After a short discussion it was agreed that Mr. Warner set up a special meeting.

Other matters:

Possible tour of NASA Wallops Island Facility

Mr. Warner stated he has been speaking to the Lower Shore Regional Council about possibly having another joint field trip similar to the Patuxent Naval Air Station tour last year and would appreciate direction on whether he should pursue this or not. This year the MSRC would travel by bus to Wallops Island Virginia and conduct the quarterly meeting on the way down. The meeting should coincide with the September 9 scheduled meeting. Tyler Patton stated he thought it was a great idea and thinks everyone should visit Wallops Island, Dr. Scott concurred with Mr. Patton. Mr. Nashold asked for a show of hands of interested parties and the response was very much in favor of Mr. Warner pursuing this idea further.

Presentation on Sustainable Transportation

Rob Etgen and Amy Owsley of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy were present to give the Board a presentation regarding the study reviewed by the Eastern Shore Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council entitled: "Where are the Eastern Shore's Roads Taking Us? An Exploration of Cross-Bay Travel Demand Management and Regional Transportation-Land Use Solutions". Mr. General and Mr. Warner both served on the Advisory Council of that Board. After the PowerPoint presentation a lengthy discussion ensued as to directions to pursue that would best get this project off the ground. Dr. Diriker cited a model that BEACON uses that might be the best approach. He also stated that Sarah Bunch with the GeoDASH Initiative could help as the discussion moves forward. Partnering with other organizations was also discussed. Ms. Owsley stated that having at least 5 roundtable discussions per year could possibly be a first step. Chairman Nashold suggested the level of commitment on the MSRC behalf is a topic that should be discussed by the Executive Board.

Presentation on the GeoDASH Initiative

A demonstration of progress to date on the GeoDASH initiative was presented by Mr. James Garrity, Eastern Shore Business and Economic Development Dashboard Specialist, and Ms. Sarah Bunch, Economic Development and Transportation Planner. The presentation showed how they have been able to interact with a variety of items from tracking sales tax to foster homes. Dr. Mike Scott, Director of the ESRGC and Dr. Memo Diriker, Director of BEACON explained that at this time the purpose is to get the graphs and charts created, documenting where all the data is extrapolated from and in the future to update and expand the network as more data is made available and more entities become aware of the project and the sharing data becomes larger.

This is a pilot project for the entire East Coast. Mr. Warner stated that on July 9th a presentation is planned for the new Secretary of DBED to bring him up to date on the project.

The GeoDASH Initiative's goal is to provide technical assistance to community leaders in matters involving economic development and transportation planning. It is facilitated by BEACON and the ESRGC in partnership with the MSRC and the Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore, and funded by EDA and DBED.

Member comments/requests:

Laura Knickman of Verizon thanked the Board for including her and stated that she is available if anyone needed assistance with anything from Verizon.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.