

MSRC Office

The Mid Shore Regional Council Executive Board was called to order at 12:22 p.m. by Chairman Fuchs. The meeting was held at the Mid Shore Regional Council office. Members in attendance included Kurt Fuchs, Jeff Ghrist, Gale Nashold, Walter Chase and Allen Nelson. Jane Baynard was in attendance for Dorchester County and Andy Hollis was in attendance for Talbot County. MSRC staff present were Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items*Approval of December 21, 2009 Minutes*

Mr. Ghrist made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Mr. Nashold and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Financial Report

Treasurer Gale Nashold presented two charts to the board for approval. The first being the MSRC monthly budget vs. actual expenses the second yearly budget vs. actual expenses. He pointed out the budget was on track at this time. Mr. Nelson moved to accept the report, Mr. Ghrist seconded the motion and the financial reports were unanimously accepted as presented.

Resolution to accept participation in the Maryland Broadband Cooperative's successful grant award for broadband planning activities

Mr. Warner explained that if the MSRC agrees to participate in the execution of this grant the MSRC would contract with BEACON for Event Management Services to include generating the required minutes, reports, and plan. BEACON, who has expertise in this type of work, is also being contracted by the other participating regional councils. In addition, the MSRC will get meeting facilitation assistance from the Upper

Shore Regional Council (USRC). The MSRC will receive funding over the next three years for its participation and in turn compensate BEACON and the USRC accordingly. The Board all agreed that these broadband planning activities are within the MSRC Scope of Work and a very good venture to be involved in, so Mr. Nelson made a motion to adopt the resolution to participate in Maryland broadband planning activities, Mr. Chase seconded the motion and it was accepted by unanimous consent.

Approval of Unlawful Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

Mr. Warner explained that LGIT requires the MSRC to have such a policy. The MSRC obtained samples of such policies from LGIT which were forwarded to MSRC attorney and he approved the policy in your packets. Mr. Chase made a motion to approve the policy presented, which was seconded by Mr. Nashold and approved by unanimous consent.

Executive Director's bond

Mr. Warner explained that the LGIT insurance representative advised the MSRC that the Executive Director is covered under liability insurance because he is hired not appointed; therefore, the MSRC does not need to purchase additional bond insurance as it has been doing for several years. This would save approximately \$1,400 a year. A letter from LGIT stating the issues of coverage was distributed in the Executive Board packets. The MSRC's attorney's advice was for the Executive Board to make the decision. Mr. Warner also stated that if the Board eliminates this coverage the MSRC's attorney suggests the Executive Board amend the Executed Director's contract waiving Section 16 that states "The Executive Director shall give bond for the faithful performance of duties of the office. The bond amount and provider shall be approved by the Council. The premium on the bond is to be paid by the Council." Mr. Nashold made a motion to discontinue the liability insurance; the motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed unanimously. Mr. Nelson made an additional motion to amend Mr. Warner's contract, that motion was seconded by Mr. Chase and passed unanimously as well.

Old Business

Dorchester County Technology Park

Mr. Warner stated at this time Dorchester is working with all the stakeholders to progress through the EDA procedures and the project will be going to bid soon, the tentative ground breaking is scheduled for April 16.

Infrastructure Related to the Commercialization of Denton

Mr. Warner stated that on January 26 he took Dr. Anne Cavalier to the Denton waterfront so she could receive a tour of the project location by JOK Walsh, Ellis Davison, Kathy Mackel, and Andy Mackel. They then had a very productive dinner meeting at the Rural Life Museum. MSRC has been working with Denton Development Corporation through grant writer Jan Willis since the visit and a signed grant should be submitted this week.

Mistletoe Hall & Regional Medical Facility

Mr. Warner took Dr. Anne Cavalier to visit both sites on January 27th; they were joined by Mayor Willey, Maureen Scott-Taylor and Paige Bethke.

New Business

CEDS document to be ratified at MSRC quarterly meeting

Mr. Warner stated that this step to ratify the CEDS Committee decision just adds another layer of approval to the document, it tightens up the process. He also stated that all of the MSRC members are also on the CEDS Committee, so everyone is already aware of the process.

Presentation of FY09 independent financial statements

A copy of the MSRC financial statement for 2009 was given to each Executive Board member present; Mr. Warner stated it was prepared by certified public account Darian Sump owner of Sump & Associates. This year the report is clearer than past years as Mr. Sump cleared up discrepancies left on the books that occurred the first year MSRC was formed. Mr. Sump also had Ms. Deighan create separate companies so each will stand alone, where as they were all as one account in the past, this will make tracking and budget much cleaner in the future.

EDA Global Climate Change Mitigation Fund

Mr. Warner stated that he had been approached regarding a mid-shore company who was seeking funding assistance from EDA. Interstate Corrpac in Cambridge is renovating and expanding their building for approximately 7 million dollars, the building is owned by Dorchester County and the agreement in the lease is that the company pays for work done on the building. Because Dorchester County owns the building they would be responsible for applying for such funding. The grant would be at the 50% match rate and the applicant would have to check off that is a single company that is the beneficiary. This requires extra burden in the grant of why public money is being used to benefit a single company. Dorchester County Council is aware that Keasha Haythe was investigating the Global Climate Change Mitigation Fund. Since then the company's consultant has continued to make contact with EDA Atlanta and Washington, DC offices. Keasha will update the Dorchester County Council at their March 16 Executive Session, she had requested Mr. Warner to attend with her to discuss conversations he has had with EDA representative Anne Cavalier regarding this issue.

Endorsement letter

Mr. Warner explained that Dr. Michael Scott is in consideration for professorship and requested an endorsement letter from MSRC. As you know Dr. Scott is the Director of the ESRGC and key contributor to the GeoDASH Initiative, a copy of the letter is in the Board member packets. The Executive Board was in total agreement that the letter was sent supporting Dr. Scott's promotion.

Other matters

Mr. Warner stated that the NADO Legislator of the Year Award was presented to Senator Benjamin Cardin. He along with Leanne Mazer and Mike Pennington presented Senator Cardin the award at the NADO 2010 Washington Policy Conference in Arlington, VA on Tuesday, March 2.

Member comments/requests

Mr. Nelson expressed concern for the poultry industry situation and would like thoughts on any possible ways the Council may be able to help.

Adjourn

Mr. Ghrist made a motion to adjourn at 1:30 p.m. that was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed unanimously.