

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled meeting on March 12, 2014 at the Talbot County Senior Center in Easton. Members in attendance included: Allen Nelson, Andy Hollis, Carolyn Spicher, Dirck Bartlett, James Redman, Kurt Fuchs, Larry Porter, Maria D'Arcy, Ricky Travers, Walter Chase and Rick Price. Guests in attendance were Economic Development Directors Angela Visintainer (Caroline County) and Keasha Haythe (Dorchester County), William Barnes of ESMC, Regional Council Executive Directors Doris Mason (USRC) and Mike Pennington (TCCLES), John General of CBRTCE, Mike Thielke of ESEC, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, Ed Vitalos a broadband implementation coordinator, Kevin Deighan of Shore Gourmet, Richard Sossi, Tim Jones of Chesapeake College, Linda Prochaska of Senator Mikulski's office and Corey Pack, Talbot County Councilman. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Introductions were made and Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Mr. Warner announced Chairman Chase was in possession of proxies from Senator Colburn, Delegate Eckardt and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio.

#### *Approval of December 12, 2013 Minutes*

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the December 12, 2013 minutes. Chairman Chase asked if there was a motion to accept, Mr. Fuchs replied he would take the motion, he then asked if there was a second, Mr. Bartlett, seconded the motion at which point Chairman Chase stated he had a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying Aye, and those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

#### *Ratification of revised CEDS document*

Mr. Warner stated that all MSRC voting members and County Administrator/Managers are on the CEDS Committee and the last full CEDS Committee met on October 9, 2013 and the CEDS Executive Committee met on December 17, 2013. On January 2, 2014 the MSRC held a full CEDS Committee meeting at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton, at which time two projects were unanimously approved for inclusion in the document. They were development of the "Tilghman Island Discovery Park" and "Preparing Applicants for Utility Line Mechanic Careers on the Eastern Shore and Beyond." Additionally, one existing project was removed from the CEDS Action Plan and placed in Appendix F – Completed and Removed Projects that was "Chesapeake College Regional Technology Training Center." Mr. Warner extended thanks to the ESRGC staff for completing updates of the statistical sections of the document. The MSRC will submit the revised CEDS document to the EDA Philadelphia Regional Office once ratified. Mr. Warner stated that this document was e-mailed to everyone on March 6, 2014 with this meetings agenda. The updated document will also be posted on the MSRC website at [www.midshore.org](http://www.midshore.org), click on "Reports & Publications." If anyone would like a printed copy please contact the MSRC office. Mr. Warner then stated if there are no questions we just need a motion to ratify. Mr. Nelson made a motion for ratification, which was

seconded by Ms. Spicher. Mr. Chase stated that we have a motion and second to ratify, any further discussions or questions? All in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed have the same rights, Ayes have it; motion carried unanimously.

### *Treasurer's Report*

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs stated that the Council is doing very well, of the \$260,498 due; we have already received \$202,790. As far as expenditures go, they are all on track. He then asked if there were any questions. Chairman Chase asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Nelson made the motion, Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated there was a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying Aye; those opposed have the same rights; Ayes have it. The motion passed unanimously.

### *Open Meetings Act designate(s)*

Mr. Warner gave thanks to Caroline County Commissioners Chief of Staff Sara Visintainer for keeping us up to date on the Open Meetings Act. Effective October 1, 2013, each public entity subject to the Open Meetings Act must designate a member, officer, or employee to receive training on the requirements of the Act. The designated person(s) must receive the training within 90 days of the designation. The best person(s) to be the designee is often the person(s) that is responsible for handling meeting notices and the minutes. It is also important that someone attending the meetings understand the requirements of the Act so they can ensure compliance during the meetings themselves. It is the public body itself that must make the designation. Therefore, Ms. Visintainer advised the MSRC that the consideration of the designation is an agenda item at this meeting and afterwards inform her of the outcome. The law requires public bodies to be in compliance by April 1. Suggested designates are Terry Deighan and Scott Warner.

Mr. Warner stated that Ms. Deighan has already completed training and he will complete training within 90 days as well. Mr. Chase stated as a matter of record he will entertain a motion that Terry Deighan and Scott Warner be designees. Ms. Spicher made the motion, Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated he had a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

### Old Business

Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)  
MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General gave the following updates.

The bus advertising RFP is being divided between Shore Transit and DCS/DCT. It includes QACR. DCS/DCT is preparing their RFP. The MUST program is included in both RFPs. Mike Pennington added that Shore Transit has filed their RFP with MTA for review.

MUST has provided 90,000 bus transfers since July 2013 to DCT and QACR, approximately 60,000 transfers had been used by the end of December.

A Regional Transportation and Economic Summit was held earlier today; DCS/DCT CTAC presented the summit. Doris Mason, Executive Director of the

Upper Shore Regional Council stated she was in attendance and it was well attended and a great exchange among attendees.

### *Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)*

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke stated ShoreVenture has begun at Wor-Wic and there are 16 participants. Chesapeake College sessions will begin next week.

Revolving Loan Fund Portfolio update – to date there are 16 loans totaling approximately \$1,025,000. The portfolio has \$1,225,000 in funds available to loan. If you know of anyone who needs funding please refer them, there is a lending limit of \$200,000.

hotDesks Coworking Space update – there are currently 10 members at the Salisbury facility. The goal by the end of the year is to have 25 members.

Events and activities – there is a monthly Tech connect breakfast. April 12-13 the NASA Space App Challenge will be held. Additional sites for other Coworking locations are also being considered.

Mr. Thielke shared an extraordinary experience of an ESEC client. He stated that this particular client had been turned down initially by the loan review committee, but her determination and belief in her product kept her moving forward. Her journey ended up taking her to the Bethany Frankel program, Ms. Frankel liked her product so much she gave the client money to help promote the business and also made it possible for the client to attend a very large trade show, so she could promote her business idea. The client then returned to the loan review committee and was granted a line of credit to help keep her momentum going.

### *Broadband Implementation Coordinators*

Ed Vitalos, one of two Broadband Implementation Coordinators, was present to catch the Council up on all that has been accomplished to date.

They have reconvened the Southern Maryland Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT) for the second time. A decision was made by the LTPT that each County was responsible for identifying a list of needs/opportunities and prioritizing the list.

Implementation of a Business Survey Pilot Project in Southern Maryland which lead by the Strategic Network Group and partnering with the local Chambers of Commerce.

They encouraged local counties and regional council's to submit an "Expression of Interest" to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "Rural Broadband Trials Program " whose goal is to bring high-speed Internet access to those areas of rural America that still suffer from abominable broadband service.

Post BTOP project – they are observing an emerging number of companies that are looking to build new towers to deliver last mile services to un- and under-served areas, as well as, build Wi-Fi or DAS networks to more densely populated areas to improve access and utilization.

Work has also begun with Kent County staff developing a deployment plan template that extends beyond the one in December of 2012. The template includes mapping of existing Broadband resources deployed within the County, utilizing ESRGC GIS Census Bloc data to provide information in support of the planning process, development of prioritized requirements for future broadband implementations in the County, and developing a technology plan

that identifies best topologies and other capabilities to fulfill County requirements. The resulting template and contents will be used as a model for Mid-Shore and other Eastern Shore counties broadband planning activities. Working with Mid-Shore IT Directors to develop prioritized requirements for future broadband implementations in the counties. This will support future planning activities similar to those outlined above.

Investigated feasibility and need for providing Mid Shore Counties with a Disaster Recovery capability using Maryland Broadband fiber and POP resources already in place.

Held multiple meetings with US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to focus on fostering effective broadband deployment within Maryland. Outcomes include The development of a "Quick Guide" to USDA broadband offerings for use by all stakeholders within the state, as well as, working to identify implementation opportunities on which we can collaborate with USDA.

### *Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Air Station Patuxent River*

Mr. Warner stated a second in a series of public workshops will be held the last week of March. The purpose of the second public workshop to provide an update on the JLUS project, present the NAS PAX military mission footprint, and to obtain input from the public on prioritizing the compatibility issues, such as, land use, noise, frequency interference, aircraft safety zones, vertical obstructions, and interagency coordination. Maryland's Middle Eastern Shore (encompassing Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties) workshop will be held March 26, 2014 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton. Other meetings will be held in Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, and Northern Neck of Virginia. Information on these meetings is included in your packet.

### *Other Projects and Initiatives*

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had questions regarding any of the following:

- Regional Medical Center Campus EDA grant application
- Business and Technology Parks: Caroline County or Dorchester County
- Maryland Broadband Cooperative
- Shore Gourmet
- Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

There were no questions posed.

### *Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)*

Mr. Warner stated that SB137 was heard before the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee on January 21. SB137 was sponsored by Committee Chair Senator Joan Carter Conway (District 43 – Baltimore City) and Senator Mac Middleton (District 28 – Charles County). It was passed out of the committee that day. It subsequently passed out of the Senate on January 28. It will go over to the House.

SB289 was heard before the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee on January 28. SB289 is an identical bill to SB137. It is sponsored by Committee Vice Chair Senator Roy Dyson (District 29 – Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties).

HB1024 was heard before the House Environmental Matters Committee on February 19. HB1024 was sponsored by Committee Chair Delegate Maggie McIntosh (District 43 – Baltimore City). HB1024 is the companion bill to SB137. It was voted favorably out of committee on February 27 and passed out of the House on March 6 unanimously. It will go over to the Senate.

Mr. Warner stated there is no funding yet for the RMPIF in the proposed budget.

### New Business

None

### Presentations

#### *Eastern Shore Manufacturing Council (ESMC)*

Eastern Shore Manufacturing Council’s Executive Director Bill Barnes gave an overview of the ESMC. He stated the ESMC was created from the Upper Shore Manufacturing and Business Council (USMBC) and covers the entire Eastern Shore. The ESMC is run by manufacturers for manufacturers. It serves as the voice for manufacturing on the Shore. Mr. Barnes mentioned his diverse Board of Directors. The ESMC is currently working on an EARN application that is due at the end of the month. They are also working to establish a supply chain for repair and install of off shore wind installations.

#### *The Caroline Schoolhouse’s Culinary Arts Center*

Director Beth Brewster was present to share the many changes that have occurred at the Culinary Center. She stated that as of today, March 12, 2014 their commercial kitchen was approved by the State. The Center will be offering many classes; including culinary arts, summer youth programs, after school programs, job training and full service catering. She will still oversee operations but David Murray will be the day to day manager. Anyone in need of a commercial kitchen should contact the Culinary Center for rates. Ms. Brewster also shared before and after pictures of the project which she has been working on for over nine years. The Council and its members gave Ms. Brewster a round of applause for her tremendous accomplishments, the new Center looks great!

### Member comments/requests

Ms. Burgoyne announced her next BRN meeting will be held next week, March 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Chesapeake College.

### Adjourn

Chairman Chase closed his first full board meeting as Chair at 6:42 p.m., he did a wonderful job.