

The Mid-Shore Regional Council held a scheduled board meeting on June 8, 2017 at Choptank Electric in Denton. Board members present included: Andy Hollis, Anthony Casey, Burton Wilson, Chuck Callahan, Dan Franklin, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Jeremy Goldman, Jerome Stanley, Kelley Cox, Kurt Fuchs, Maria D'Arcy, Walter Chase and Wilbur Levengood. Guests in attendance included: Chesapeake College President Barbara Viniar, Chesapeake Culinary Center Executive Director Beth Brewster, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism representatives Cassandra VanHooser (Director), Sam Shoge (Coordinator), Ryan Snow (Project Manager), Rural Maryland Council Executive Director Charlotte Davis, Caroline County Technologies Director James McCormick, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) representatives Michael Scott (Director), Erin Silva (Project Manager), Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES) Executive Director Michael Pennington, Caroline County Economic Development Coordinator Rachel Barry, ESEC Executive Director Michael Thielke, Eastern Shore Innovation Center Manager Steve Dolbow, Dorchester County Economic Development representative Susan Banks (Business Development Manager), Office of the Governor representative for Eastern Shore Intergovernmental Affairs Bunky Luffman, Congressman Andy Harris Constituent Liaison Denise Lovelady, Executive Assistant to the Dorchester County Manager Rebecca White, and Maryland Cooperative Extension Talbot County Educator Shannon Dill. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Chairman Chase was in possession of proxies from Senator Eckardt and Delegates Adams and Mautz. Jeremy Goldman was carrying proxies for Ricky Travers and Don Satterfield. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Dirck Bartlett, Daniel Rider, Allen Nelson, and Michael LeMire who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of March 9, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Goldman made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of Executive Board December 8, 2016 Minutes

Mr. Stanley made a motion to ratify; Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by

stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Fuchs, MSRC Treasurer, stated that a copy of the treasurer's report is included in your packets. He stated everything is on track for almost being at the end of this fiscal year and stated he would entertain any questions, hearing none Chairman Chase asked for a motion to approve the report. Mr. Goldman made a motion to approve the report, Mr. Stanley seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked for any further discussion, being none he stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY18 Scope of Work

Mr. Warner stated that during the Executive Board's May 16, 2017 meeting they reviewed and approved for the full Council's consideration the FY18 Scope of Work. There are no recommended changes to the FY17 Scope of Work. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to accept the Scope of Work as presented, Mr. Goldman seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked if there was any further discussion, hearing none, he stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY18 Budget

Similar to the current fiscal year (FY17) the MSRC will be receiving Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) monies in FY18 so two budgets are being presented for consideration, the traditional MSRC operating budget and a RMPIF budget.

Mr. Warner stated that on May 16, 2017 the Executive Board reviewed and approved the MSRC FY18 operating budget. He explained the proposed MSRC operating FY18 budget line item changes as compared to the FY17 budget.

- Increases
 - Health: rate increase
 - Advertising
- Decreases
 - Life & Disability Insurance
 - Dental Insurance
 - Accounting
 - Computer
 - Contractual
 - Insurance
 - Legal
 - Utilities
- Remaining the Same
 - Meeting Expenses

- Memberships
- Postage
- Rent
- Supplies
- Telephone
- Travel
- Indirect

Mr. Hollis noted that the Personnel line item increase seems to reflect a staff salary increase between 2% and 3%. Mr. Warner confirmed the statement.

As there was no further discussion, Mr. Stanley make a motion to approve the proposed FY18 budget, Mr. Goldman seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Funds Budget

Mr. Warner stated that during the Executive Board's May 16 and 27, 2017 meetings they reviewed and approved the budget investing the RMPIF money that the MSRC is expecting to receive.

The MSRC will be receiving \$211,133 from RMPIF. He explained the proposed RMPIF FY18 budget with comparisons to the RMPIF FY17 budget.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC): \$65,000

This is an increase to the support given this current fiscal year.

TCCLES also plans to contribute funds.

This is a similar partnership that the TCCLES and MSRC have in supporting the ESRGC.

ESEC is a 501c3 corporation that was created by the MSRC.

Shore Gourmet / Chesapeake Culinary Center Partnership: \$20,000

This is a continuation of the support given this current fiscal year with a slight increase.

Support a Development and Education Coordinator position

SG is a 501c6 corporation that the MSRC created.

Agricultural GIS Extension: \$45,000

This is an increase to the support given this current fiscal year.

This is a partnership between the ESRGC, TCCLES and MSRC.

The TCCLES also plans to contribute.

Eastern Shore (Delmarva) Index: \$45,000

This project will encompass the current year's projects: Health Data Dashboard and Education Data Dashboard.

It will also add the development of an Economic Indicators Dashboard.

Other dashboards may be added as identified.

This is a partnership between the ESRGC, TCCLES and MSRC.

The TCCLES also plans to contribute.

Blight Studies: \$25,000

This is a newly funded project.

The project will be executed by the ESRGC.

Support expansion of Blight Studies as demonstrated this past year in the City of Cambridge.

- City of Cambridge and SU will be jointly recognized with a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) award at the ESRI user conference in San Diego, California in July for its pilot blighted housing study, which married ArcGIS and Survey123 software to effectively measure risk factors leading to eventual housing blight

The funds support four ESRGC summer interns and equipment needed to complete the Blight Study in Cambridge and execute at least one study in Caroline County and one study in Talbot County.

Annie's Project: \$5,000

This is a newly funded project with RMPIF monies.

This project will be executed by Maryland Cooperative Extension.

The MSRC partnered previously on this project with Maryland Cooperative Extension at their request to serve as a grant applicant for a Women and Girls Fund 2016 grant.

Annie's Project focuses on the many aspects of farm management and is designed to empower women in overall farm decision making and to build local networks throughout the state. Topics for the sessions cover the five areas of Risk Management – Production, Marketing, Financial, Legal Risk, Human Resources. This course is open to everyone.

The six sessions that these funds will support will be held in the mid-shore region (Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties).

Regional Marketing Project: \$5,000

This is a newly funded project.

These funds are to support a regional marketing project that all three of the mid-shore counties participate.

All three county economic development offices (Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot) facilitated by Maryland Department of Commerce engaged the MSRC in supporting a possible regional marketing project.

Discussions are underway on the creation of such a project.

Chairman Chase asked for any further discussion, if none he would entertain a motion. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to accept the RMPIF FY18 budget as presented, Mr. Stanley seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; all in favor signify by stating aye; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates

Federal Budget – U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Mr. Warner provided the following information:

- The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has kept the MSRC abreast of federal budget proposals and action.

- The MSRC has been communicating with Senator Cardin, Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Harris offices via emails, letters, and personal visits.
 - On April 19, 2017 Mr. Warner, Mr. Pennington and Dr. Scott met with Congressman Harris in Salisbury.
 - On April 24, 2017 Mr. Warner and Mr. Pennington met with Senators Cardin and Van Hollen staff in Washington, D.C.
- On April 21, 2017 Chairman Chase, Mr. Warner, Mr. Pennington and Dr. Scott met with Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford at the MSRC office. Ms. Haddaway-Riccio was instrumental in establishing this meeting.
- FY2017 Omnibus Package was passed in the beginning of May
 - Regarding EDA: \$237 million for Economic Development Assistance Programs, \$15 million above the FY2016 level.
- May 23, 2017 the Trump Administration released its FY2018 budget request which included an elimination of the U.S. EDA.
- The MSRC communicated with the Senators and Congressman's representatives on May 26, 2017 thanking them again for their support of EDA in the FY2017 Omnibus Package and encouraging them to reach out the MSRC and TCCLES if there is anything the regional councils can do or provide as the council hopes that EDA will be a priority in the FY2018 budget

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any questions regarding:

- Maryland Broadband Cooperative
- Eastern Shore Innovation Center
- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center
- Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)
- Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

There were no questions about the initiatives/programs listed.

Mr. Warner stated that the MUST FY2018 grant application was submitted to MTA on March 30, 2017. The Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance (SCATA) grant application is due to the Office of Local Transit Support (OLTS) by April 5, 2017. The MSRC submitted the application to MTA Deputy Director (Program Director) Jeannie Fazio and MTA Regional Planner Jason Kepple.

Presentations

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

Mr. Warner stated that a few weeks ago the Lt. Governor visited the MSRC and Dr. Scott shared dashboards and projects that the ESRGC is developing. Lt. Governor Rutherford was duly impressed, so Dr. Scott will be sharing the same information tonight. Dashboards and projects demonstrated via Power Point presentation included soils, health and blight. These are all still works in

progress. The presentation was interactive with several people asking questions.

Rural Maryland Council (RMC)

RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis provided an overview of RMC activities. Some of the highlights:

- Hosting Rural Maryland Day in Annapolis during the General Assembly session
- Monitoring and advocacy regarding State of Maryland legislation
- Chairing the newly created Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service
- Hosting a statewide rural summit
- Serving as the grant administrator for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)
- Serving as the grant administrator for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Rural Maryland Foundation

The Foundation is a 501c3 corporation founded in 2001. MSRC member Dan Rider is the President of the Rural Maryland Foundation. Since he was unable to attend the meeting, Ms. Davis provided an overview of the foundation that included some of its recent activities.

- Executing an Aspire Rural Maryland campaign
- Hosting Farmland screenings
- Facilitating a Transfer of Wealth Study
- Assisting with Workforce Investment Board (WIB) procurement

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.