

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled meeting on September 20, 2018 in conjunction with the Council's annual field trip. This year the Council went to the Port of Baltimore for a tour.

MSRC members and guests met at the Council office at 7:45 a.m. to board the bus and head to Baltimore, on the way Mr. Warner conducted the quarterly meeting.

MSRC members in attendance included: Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Gale Nashold, Kelley Cox, Senator Addie Eckardt, Jennifer Williams; Wilbur Levensgood, Anthony Casey, Dan Franklin, Don Satterfield, Joyce Harrod, Kurt Fuchs, Dan Rider, Ricky Travers, Robbie Hanson, Walter Chase, Delegate Jeff Ghrist, and Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes. Guests in attendance were: Caroline County residents Sherry Levensgood and James Tibbitt; Senator Van Hollen's representative Melissa Kelly; Senator Cardin's representative Kim Kratovil; Congressman Harris's representative Mike Arntz; USDA Rural Development State Director Denise Lovelady; ESRGC Project Manager Erin Silva; Dorchester County Economic Development Director Jeff Trice; ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke; Shore Gourmet and Chesapeake Culinary Center Development and Education Coordinator Roxanne Wolf; Talbot County Department of Economic Development Coordinator Sam Shoge; Caroline County Chamber Executive Director Amy Kreiner; Chesapeake College President Clifford Coppersmith; Caroline County Economic Development Director Deb Bowden; TCCLES' Executive Director Mike Pennington, Assistant Executive Director Greg Padgham, and Executive Coordinator Kristie Eberly; Maryland Department of Commerce representatives Nancy LaJoice and Bill Sorenson; Dorchester County residents Rosie Travers and Ellen Satterfield; Eastern Shore Outreach Coordinator for Governor Hogan, Ryan Snow; Easton Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Tracy Ward; Talbot County resident Lawrence Harrod; and Holloway Tours bus driver Delores Hall. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. (Note: Delegate Hughes, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Kratovil, Ms. Ward, Mr. Snow, and Mr. Sorenson drove themselves and met the bus at the Port).

Action Items

As everyone was on the bus at 8:03 A.M. Chairman Chase called the MSRC meeting to order and Mr. Warner did a roll call rather than our usual introductions. This was to ensure we did not leave anyone behind. Ms. Williams and Mr. Levensgood were carrying proxies for Dirck Bartlett and Larry Porter, respectfully.

Approval of June 7, 2018 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval for the June 7, 2018 minutes. Mr. Travers made a motion to approve, Mr. Levensgood seconded the motion. Chairman Chase called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fuchs stated everyone had a copy of the current treasurer's report in their packets. All income and expenditures are on track for the first quarter. There were no questions. Mr. Travers made a motion to approve as presented, Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase called for a vote. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Updates

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

ESRGC Project Manager Erin Silva gave the following updates.

Housing Studies:

- Data collection in Denton, Easton, Henderson and Goldsboro is complete.
 - Denton data has been processed and Easton is in process.
 - Henderson and Goldsboro are next to process.
- Large format map for each town along with electronic download of full database, PDF of map, and scoring rubric with spreadsheet of survey scores will be delivered to each town in the coming weeks.

GIS Circuit Rider:

- Logan Hall (10hrs/week) will be serving as the Circuit Rider with GIS assistance from Jeremy Gencavage (30 hrs. /week).
- Logan is in the process of scheduling meetings with the local GIS contact in each jurisdiction in the Mid-Shore to set up meetings to discuss services.

Eastern Shore Index:

- The ESRGC has scheduled an Eastern Shore Index Advisory Committee Meeting on September 25 at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center.
 - Economic development representatives from the Mid and Lower Shore have been invited to participate.
 - The committee will be representative of the target audience and will provide insight and overall guidance to the project team.
- The ESRGC continues to research, collect, and prepare data and is currently developing the site mockup and logical model.

Education Dashboard:

- The education dashboard press release was sent to MSRC Executive Board members on August 30.
- The ESRGC is implementing a few modifications (mostly text changes) based on feedback.
- Ms. Silva stated that the MSRC Executive Board member James Redman has been an invaluable advisor on the project and that he wanted to share the following:
 - The dashboard is designed to provide comprehensive data for all 24 school systems. It is however, highly dependent on the public information available

through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This causes some delays in reporting financial and state testing data. We will continue to work with MSDE to ensure all data is made available on a timely basis. Stakeholders need this information, and they want this information to be accurate and up-to-date.

New Office Ribbon Cutting:

- The ESRGC ribbon cutting was held on Monday September 17 at its new location in the Salisbury University Downtown Building.
- Attended by approximately 75 people including representatives from Salisbury University, state and local government, the economic development community, and the local and regional GIS community.
- The event was a great opportunity to highlight the relationship between the regional councils, the university, city and county government, and the community.
- It was featured on wvoc and wmdt.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke provided the following updates.

hotDesks:

There are approximately 150 members network-wide. hotDesks currently has 5 active locations (Cambridge, Chestertown, Easton, Pocomoke, Salisbury). ESEC is still waiting for internet connectivity to activate the Denton location and discussions have resurfaced regarding a Stevensville location.

2018-to-date ESEC has assisted the startup of 7 businesses and has assisted in just under \$1 million in investments.

F³ Tech:

F³ Tech is getting statewide traction for agritech and aquatech industry sector focus. ESEC has received numerous grants in support of industry sector focus (e.g. USDA, RMPPIF, and TEDCO). Additionally, ESEC has submitted grant applications in support of increasing minority participation in agritech and aquatech.

2018-to-date ESEC has facilitated two F³ Tech symposiums. 11 startup ideas participated in 6-week Pre-Accelerator program and 5 startup businesses are participating in the 4-month Accelerator program.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative (Mdbc)

Mr. Warner stated that on August 15, 2018 Mdbc Board of Directors took a boat excursion on the Chesapeake Bay to view the process of fiber optic cable being laid between Southern Maryland (Calvert County) and the Eastern Shore (Dorchester County) under the Bay. The Mdbc has been working with the U.S. Navy and the State of Maryland for several years regarding this fiber build.

Mr. Warner then stated that Tyler Patton, Mdbc Vice President of Public Affairs, sent the following updates.

- The construction is almost complete. There are still some small connection points that are being done.
- Local providers will be able to start using the asset and offer service to their customers in the coming weeks.
- There is a fair amount of splicing on both sides, testing, and re testing to be done from Naval Air Station Patuxent River all the way to NASA Wallops Flight Facility.
- This is a huge win in access and availability for the residents of the shore.

Rural Maryland Council (RMC)

Mr. Warner also gave the following updates on Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) and Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant programs for Fiscal Year 2019.

- Total requests: 163 grants totaling \$10,520,515
- Total awarded: 79 grants totaling \$5,980,343
- Rural Maryland Council = 1 grant, \$513,917
- Regional Councils = 5 grants, \$2,055,667
- Entrepreneurship = 6 grants, \$708,105
- Health Care = 21 grants, \$868,724.55
- Infrastructure = 4 grants, \$740,000
- MAERDAF = 42 grants, \$1,093,930
- Benefitting the Mid Shore
 - Total awarded (not including RMC and regional councils) = \$3,410,760
 - Funds benefitting the Mid Shore = \$1,406,540 (41%)
 - Total grants (not including RMC and regional councils) = 73
 - Grants benefitting the Mid Shore = 35 (48%)

Upcoming Events

Mr. Warner reminded everyone of upcoming MSRC meetings.

- Mid Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting being held Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 12:00pm at Talbot County Free Library in Easton.

Mr. Warner added that an economic resiliency section will be added to the Mid Shore CEDS this revision. He encouraged CEDS Committee members to fill out the online survey. An email was sent to you last week from Ms. Deighan. Vision Planning & Consulting, who is assisting the MSRC in developing the economic resiliency section, will use the survey in making recommendations to the CEDS Committee at the October 3 meeting.

- The next Mid-Shore Regional Council meeting will be Thursday, December 5, 2018 at 5:00pm at Delmarva Community Services in Cambridge.

Announcements/comments

There were no announcements or comments.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 A.M.

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The Port of Baltimore tour agenda was:

Tour of the Port of Baltimore – Organized by MPA Legislative Manager Jennifer Guthrie

- Maryland Port Administration (MPA) Cruise Terminal
 - Welcome and Introductions by MPA Executive Director James J. White
 - State of the Port of Baltimore
 - MPA Manager of Market Planning Dominic Scurti
 - Maryland Dredged Material Management Program
 - MPA Office of Harbor Development, Policy & Permits, Chief – Outreach
Kristen Fidler
 - Open Discussion
- Dundalk Marine Terminal and Seagirt Marine Terminal landside tour
 - MPA Director of Operations Brian Miller
- Lunch at Cruise Terminal

Thank you to MPA General Manager of Business Development & Customer Service Cindy Burman and her staff for their hospitality.

See the attachment provided to all attendees by MPA regarding economic impacts of the Port of Baltimore.