

Action Items

The Mid-Shore Regional Council held a regularly scheduled board meeting on December 13, 2012 at the Delmarva Community Services building in Cambridge Maryland. Members in attendance included Allen Nelson, Anne Fleming, Dirck Bartlett, Jeff Ghrist, Jerome Stanley, Kurt Fuchs, Rick Price, Ricky Travers, William Cooper, Walter Chase, Wilbur Levensgood and John Craig. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. Guests in attendance included Kevin Deighan of Shore Gourmet, Chuck Cook representative for Governor O'Malley, Richard Sossi representative for Congressman Harris, Dr. Michael Scott of ESRGC, Linda Prochaska representative for Senator Mikulski, Lee Whaley representative for Senator Cardin, Patrick Mitchell of Maryland Broadband, Letitia Nichols of USDA, Mike Thielke of ESEC and Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Bethke.

Introductions were made and Chairman Bartlett called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Chairman Bartlett was carrying proxies for Senator Richard Colburn, Delegate Addie Eckardt and Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. Wilbur Levensgood was carrying a proxy for Larry Porter. John Craig was carrying a proxy for Andy Hollis.

Approval of September 20, 2012 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the September 20, 2012 Minutes. Mr. Stanley made a motion to approve that motion was seconded by Mr. Fuchs and the Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Ratification of Executive Board September 7, 2012 Minutes

The next order was to ratify the Minutes of the Executive Board from September 7, 2012. Mr. Chase made a motion to ratify as presented, Mr. Fuchs seconded and the Minutes of the Executive Board were ratified by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fuchs presented the current reporting to the Board, all expenditures are on track and monies have been collected according to schedule. Being no questions Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept the report into record, that motion was seconded by Mr. Stanley and accepted by all.

Old BusinessBusiness and Technology ParksCaroline County

Caroline Commissioner and MSRC Third Vice-Chairman Jeff Ghrist stated that efforts continue to market the park; a private marketing firm has been hired. He also stated that JOK Walsh announced that he will be retiring in the near future.

### *Dorchester County*

Dorchester Councilman and MSRC First Vice-Chairman Ricky Travers stated there has been some positive activity since the last meeting. Dorchester Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe stated that some interest has been shown and they are hopeful that perhaps more will be shown after the successful summit was held early in the week. They will also be seeking outside marketing assistance for the park.

### *Regional Medical Facility*

Talbot County Manager John Craig stated the Certificate of Need (CON) has been submitted and it should take between 6-9 months to get approval. Additional items were requested by the commission and the information was submitted. January 28 is the next commission meeting. He added that EDA letter dated November 19 was received by Talbot County requesting clarification or additional information for the \$1.65 million grant application. The requested information is due tomorrow December 14 and was sent to EDA today. This application by Talbot County and the Town of Easton is part of a \$6 million plan to run water and sewer lines to the site.

### *Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MdBC)*

MdBC President and C.E.O. Pat Mitchell stated Maryland Broadband is currently working with members in the region to lease fiber within the private sector. MdBC are connected to the Caroline County and Dorchester County Regional Tech Parks- service can be offered at both locations with completed service agreements. Work continues with the State of Maryland to complete the BTOP Federal Grant program and expand the MdBC footprint in the Mid-Shore Region and throughout the state. Mr. Mitchell also stated that MdBC recently purchased an 8,000 square foot building in Salisbury.

After Mr. Mitchell was done Chairman Bartlette recognized Mr. Ghrist. Mr. Ghrist wanted the council to know that reason Caroline County filed for interested party status relative to Shore Health System hospital CON was not to stop the building of the new hospital, but to have a voice at the table. Mr. Chase asked if the CON process was the proper avenue to voice this concern. Mr. Ghrist responded that this is the only opportunity for Caroline County to be heard. Mr. Cooper stated that the municipalities in Caroline support the Caroline County Commissioners.

### *Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)*

MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General started his remarks by announcing that Delmarva Community Services (DCS) recently received an award as the best para transit provider in Maryland at the TAM (Transportation Association of Maryland) conference, in addition two of their mechanics received the first ever service awards. He also stated that the Upper Shore Coordinated Transportation Application Review Committee meeting was held on November 27. The purpose was to review JARC/New Freedom grant applications for FY14 and FY15. Cecil Transit – Cecil County Government submitted an application that was partitioned as five separate grants and DCS from Cambridge submitted two grant proposals. The website has been updated with all new information that is in the current printed schedules that boasts a new layout that is easier to navigate and a Spanish version is incorporated. The bus advertising MOU is being drafted. Mr. Warner added that Dr. Memo Diriker called at 4:00pm today and said the Salisbury University attorney will have draft completed by tomorrow.

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

ESEC Executive Director Mike Thielke gave the following updates on Eastern Shore Entrepreneur Ecosystem.

ShoreVenture entrepreneurship courses are scheduled at Wor-Wic Community College starting January 24, 2103 and Chesapeake College March 26, 2013.

The Pencil to Plow course held September-November 2012 had 12 participants graduate from the course held in Salisbury. It was aimed at helping individuals start farming or a value-added business.

ESEC participated and facilitated four Delmarva Tech Transfer Initiative (DT2i) symposiums (one at each participating Delmarva community college) held during October and November as part of an introduction to the tech transfer initiative. The partners and participants felt they were all successful. Course curriculum is being developed for the pilot course planned at Wor-Wic Community College in the spring.

ESEC led its first Business Plan Competition. 33 submissions begun the process, 23 completed. The five finalists selected made presentations to a panel of judges which awarded first, second and third prizes. Winners are to locate or operate business on the Eastern Shore. The finals were held during the Dorchester Economic Development Summit on December 9 and 10.

#### *Shore Gourmet*

Shore Gourmet General Manager Kevin Deighan stated he had an opportunity to go long line fishing for tile fish and tuna with Captain Stormy out of OC. It was a great experience. For his keep Mr. Deighan cooked for the crew. He now has a greater appreciation of all the hard work that goes into this as well as a better understanding of why fresh is more expensive but definitely worth the cost. Shore Gourmet was contacted by Elizabeth Beggins seeking guidance for her organization "The You Food Project," which goes into the elementary schools to teach children about nutrition and the benefits of growing their own food.

SG was also contacted by Barbara Svenson of The Old Brick Inn in St. Michaels to see if SG would be interested in participating in a new event taking place in December in St. Michaels at St. Luke's Church. The event is being planned by the St. Michaels Business Association and they are interested in SG offering its wonderful bison chili. She also confirms that SG is very much wanted back next year for the Food and Wine Festival on the Patriot. It was a great success last year and they received tremendous feedback on the showing. The event in St. Michaels is December 15 and will be called a German Christmas. Lastly, SG was contacted by Carol D'Agostino, of Purple Cat PR, out of Stevensville. Purple Cat is now serving part time as a new liaison for Centerville Farmer's Market. SG will try to assist her find producers to help with market expansion.

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

Mr. Warner stated that request for proposals to conduct the JLUS was issued by Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) on September 24. The JLUS Evaluation Committee met on November 1 to rank the responses and give their evaluation to the JLUS Policy Committee for interviews and final selection. On November 16 JLUS Policy Committee met to discuss Evaluation Committee's recommendation to the TCCSMD regarding the proposals. The Policy Committee also discussed composition of the Technical Advisory Groups

#### **BEACON**

In Dr. Diriker's absence Mr. Warner gave his updates.

#### *GeoDASH Initiative*

EDA has approved Salisbury University's request to become the sole applicant/fiscal manager of the EDA GeoDASH grant.

## *Broadband Planning Grant*

The final draft of the report has been disseminated. Once a list of recommendations is generated by the region's stakeholders, the final report will be sent to the MDBC.

## Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

### *Presentation of DLLR Dashboard*

ESRGC Director Mike Scott gave the following updates and Dashboard presentation. Dr. Scott stated the final year of the GeoDASH project has (finally!) begun. Projects currently underway that are benefiting from this grant are the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulations (DLLR) Workforce Dashboard and the Caroline County Emergency Management Dashboard. Thanks to all the partners (MSRC, TCCLES, BEACON, DBED, and EDA) for being patient while paperwork SNAFUs were resolved.

The DLLR Workforce Dashboard was presented to Governor O'Malley, DLLR Secretary Howie, and other staff members from DBED, DoIT, DLLR, State Stat, etc on September 28, 2012. As you recall, the DLLR Workforce Dashboard is an online, interactive tool designed to visualize data related to the supply and demand of Maryland's workforce as well as the education and training opportunities that exist in the state. The dashboard incorporates data from a variety of sources including Maryland Workforce Exchange, Unemployment Insurance, and Maryland Higher Education Commission. The response was overwhelmingly positive. The Governor directed that the dashboard be rolled out immediately to the DLLR website, that the Cabinet be briefed, and even that the project be nominated for a Kennedy School of Government award. Since then, they have been working making the dashboard visible in Microsoft Internet Explorer 8. The ESRGC worked closely with the CIO of DLLR to get this done.

Year 4 (of 5) of the Maryland Broadband Mapping Initiative (which the Maryland Broadband Cooperative manages and ESRGC leads) has begun. Beyond the continued data collection and mapping work, effort is now being made to collect Level 3 fiber locations as well as explore the level of interest in the state to continue this project beyond 2014. Additionally, we are about to hire three new people, one to work on a statewide address-point initiative and two to implement action items identified in the regional broadband plans.

Meetings are being held to determine the viability and cost of completing the Critical Area Mapping Update project in two years. The State Geographic Information Officer Barney Krucoff is considering making the funding for finishing this project a legislative priority. Students at Salisbury University (SU), along with ESRGC staff, participated in a massive damage assessment project on the weekend following Hurricane Sandy. The SU effort was praised by Image Cat, the company that was coordinating assessment teams from across the country.

New aerial photos of the Eastern Shore will be flown in the late winter/early spring 2013. The images will be standard 6" pixels but towns, counties, or other jurisdictions have the ability to "buy-up" to 3" pixels. Please see Mike Scott for more information. A large proportion of the money for this flight is being provided by the Emergency Number Systems Board... thank your 911 directors!

ESRGC is also coordinating with Dorchester County to present a Public Works application that the ESRGC has developed that stores and makes water and sewer as-built information accessible digitally. ESRGC originally developed the application for City of Salisbury and now City of Fruitland is requesting that ESRGC provide the same application for their Public Works Department.

ESRGC hosted a GIS Committee Meeting on November 28, 2012, attended by representatives of the three Mid-Shore Counties and Queen Anne's County.

They assisted Caroline County with accessing ArcGIS Online and Dr. Scott delivered keynote address to Maryland Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers.

## New Business

### *2013 Meeting Dates*

Chairman Bartlett stated that the MSRC meeting dates for 2013 are in your folders and these are tentative dates subject to change if necessary. They are:

- Thursday, March 14, 2013 – Talbot County
- Thursday, June 20, 2013 – Caroline County
- Thursday, September 19, 2013 – MSRC meeting and tour (maybe a Joint Regional Councils' Meeting / Tour)
- Thursday, December 12, 2013 – Dorchester County

### *Officer Selection*

Chairman Bartlett stated that at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> MSRC Executive Board meeting the members discussed and unanimously approved the proposed slate for the 2013 officers of the MSRC; he stated that the following slate is in your packets:

#### 2013 Proposed Executive Board Members

- Chairman: Dirck Bartlett
- First Vice-Chairman: Jeff Ghrist (Caroline)
- Second Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)
- Third Vice-Chairman: Andy Hollis (Talbot)
- Secretary: Walter Chase
- Treasurer: Kurt Fuchs
- General Assembly: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
- Member-at-large: Gale Nashold
- Member-at-large: Allen Nelson

As there were no questions or changes from the Board on the proposed slate, Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the slate as presented, that motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and accepted by unanimous consent.

## Other matters

Chairman Bartlett stated the MSRC and TCCLES members' luncheon will be on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at the Hyatt in Cambridge from 11:45am to 1:00pm during the MACo Conference. The new Executive Director of the Rural Maryland Council will be in attendance to give everyone a chance to meet her. Terry will be sending more detailed information in the near future.

Lastly the "Taste of the Eastern Shore" legislative reception will be at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis again on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 5:30pm. A more detailed invitation will be coming soon. Mr. Nelson expanded upon the tremendous opportunity this event is for getting the chance to talk with state legislators to discuss various bills that are being considered during the legislative session.

## Member comments/requests

Ms. Bethke stated that the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) Winter Conference will be held at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis on January 10, 2013.

## Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Fuchs, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:08 p.m.