

**Mid Shore Regional Council  
Executive Board Minutes, Denton, Maryland  
January 21, 2004**

*Present* – Mayor Cleveland Rippons, Marty Gangemi, Dr. Thomas Flowers, Jane Baynard, Jim Buckland, Kevin Morse, Hilary Spence, Roger Layton, Charlie Cawley, Hope Harrington

***Action Items***

***Minutes***

The September 17, 2003 Executive Board Meeting minutes were approved upon motion by Mr. Flowers, seconded by Mr. Gangemi and unanimous consent by all.

***Treasurer's Report***

Mr. Rippons stated that the current balance is \$41,753.43 with \$70,647.49 in reserves. The Mid-Shore Regional Council has received the final payment from the EDA in the amount of \$26,000. This month, the MSRC submitted a request to DBED to cover the expenses we incurred last quarter. Talbot County Dues will be paid on February 26, 2004. The MSRC will submit an invoice to the USRC as soon as the bank account is established. The Treasurer's Report was approved upon motion by Mr. Layton, seconded by Mr. Gangemi and unanimous consent by all.

***Old Business***

***Regional Wastewater Assessment – Next Steps***

Ms. Spence reminded the MSRC Executive Board of the presentation given at the Annual Meeting on December 3, 2003 by Wallace, Montgomery and Associates. Ms. Spence stated that Mr. Morse is looking for the direction to go with the project and proceed with any follow up as a result of the project. Mr. Cawley would like to present the findings to the Caroline County Association of Municipalities. Mr. Morse stated that he would get a bid from Wallace Montgomery as to what the cost would be for the consultants to give a presentation to the municipalities. Ms. Spence and Ms. Harrington will contact the Maryland Association of Counties in order to locate the individuals who presented at the conference. They felt the presentation would benefit the smaller rural villages of the counties. Mr. Morse will contact Mr. Horsey and once the Caroline County Association of Municipalities has agreed to the presentation, the municipalities of Talbot and Caroline Counties will be invited to attend.

***Environmental Peninsula***

Mr. Morse stated that the Environmental Peninsula program still has \$20K in an account to rebuild the program. John General is redefining the plan and has maintained a website. Mr. Morse would like the board to consider if the concept is still viable. Ms. Harrington suggested that Mr. Morse meet with Andy Hollis to discuss the progress he and John General have made. Mr. Cawley added that Caroline County is still very interested in the concept as a marketing tool. Dr. Flowers asked the Board members to bring a one page

document to the next meeting that states what each county has to offer the Environmental Peninsula and their vision for the project.

### ***New Business***

#### *Coordination of Economic Development Efforts*

Ms. Spence was concerned as to the many organizations in the region that are promoting economic development in the region including: DBED, MSRC, CBRTCE, TEDCO, WIB, SBDC and MUST. She would like to ask if we are doing all we can do to coordinate with all of the groups and consolidate efforts and make sure that there is not any duplication of efforts. Ms. Spence mentioned that the Lower Shore Tri County Council has consolidated the efforts of the WIB and regional transit. Mr. Morse stated that he will bring Executives such as John General to the board to give an annual on their individual program goals, accomplishments and initiatives that affect our region.

Dr. Flowers stated that their IT Director, Israel Engle is doing wonderful things in Dorchester County as he is the key tester of new equipment. He would like the county IT Directors to report to the Board on their efforts that may even lead to collaboration.

#### *Potential Office Relocation*

Mr. Morse stated that DBED is looking to locate a satellite office in Easton and they have asked the MSRC staff to co-locate in the office space. John General is located upstairs and would allow the conference facilities to be shared between the organizations. Mr. Morse is asking the Board for a consensus to co-locate in the office space as long as the MSRC is paying less than or equal to our current lease expenses. The MSRC Executive Board agreed to allow Mr. Morse to pursue the possible relocation.

#### *Director's Report*

Mr. Morse stated that the CEDS Committee met on January 14, 2004 for the annual update. The CEDS will be submitted to the EDA this month. The MSRC received \$10K from the MEARDAF grant to pursue a regional project to consolidate regional data with Salisbury University into data that is available to all counties. The MSRC will receive \$150K from the EDA over two years to establish the ESEC. The draft Rural Development Initiative bill is in front of the Rural Caucus. The USRC hopes to have an Executive Director by July 1, 2004 and the MSRC will assist the USRC in that search. Roy Crow has established strong leadership within the group. The USRC has identified projects and established three working committees that focus on the following issues: sustainable agriculture, legislative affairs and funding acquisition, and economic development.

#### *Member Matters*

Mr. Morse mentioned that the One Maryland Fund is "due to sunset" by 2005. The current \$5M in the One Maryland budget will merge into the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Fund for a total budget of \$15M.

#### *Adjourn*

Ms. Spence adjourned the meeting at 4:27 pm.