

Action Items

Chairman Gangemi called the executive meeting of the Mid Shore Regional Council to order at 4:00 p.m. Members present were Delegate Addie Eckardt, Jane Baynard, Gale Nashold, Mayor Rippons, Scott Warner and Terry A. Deighan.

Approval of Minutes

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of June 14, 2006. Delegate Eckardt made a motion to approve the minutes, Mayor Rippons seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

MSRC Emergency Response Guide

The next order of business was to review and approve the MSRC Emergency Response Guide. Mr. Warner explained to the Board this guide was suggested by Mr. Furst of Local Government Insurance Trust after he make a site visit to our office and realized we were with out one. After reviewing the document Mayor Rippons made a motion to approve as written, Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion and the document was approved unanimously.

Resolution assigning MSRC's DBED MEAF grant to ESEC

Mr. Warner presented this resolution granting authority for the Mid Shore Regional Council who administer' s a \$100,000 MEAF grant from DBED to allow the monies to go directly to the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center as they are paid back as the money has been used to fund four loans though the Center. This Resolution gives Mr. Warner the authority to sign on behalf of the Mid Shore Regional Council. Mayor Rippons made a motion to accept the Resolution as presented, Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Resolution accepting MTA FY07 MTA Coordination Grant

This resolution grants Mr. Warner on behalf of the Mid Shore Regional Council to accept the MTA coordination grant in the amount of \$40,000 and to sign on behalf of the council. Delegate Eckardt made a motion to accept this resolution, Mayor Rippons seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Resolution accepting MTA FY07 IT Grant

This resolution grants Mr. Warner signatory privilege on behalf of the Mid Shore Regional Council to accept the MTA Information Technology grant in the amount of \$12,000 and to sign on behalf of the council. Mayor Rippons made a motion to approve the resolution, Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Paige Bethke's resignation as a member of the MSRC

Mr. Warner explained to the board that due to Ms. Bethke's change in jobs she has tendered her resignation as a Council member and an Executive Board Member-At-Large. He also told the board that it is not mandatory for the Executive Board to fill the position of an "Additional private citizen or public member" on the Council as a voting member; however, the Council will have to replace the Member-At-Large position on the Executive Board for the remainder of the term. He then suggested they consider Allen Nelson to fill the vacancy of "Additional private citizen or public member" on the Council until the end of the year stating Mr. Nelson is familiar with the workings of the Mid Shore Regional Council and he is a local Talbot County businessman who also lives in Dorchester County so he would be a welcome addition being familiar with two of the three counties the Council represents. After a brief discussion Mayor Rippons made a motion to have Mr. Nelson fill in the remainder of Ms. Bethke's term, Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Agricultural Economic Development Specialist

Mr. Warner announced that two grants are in process for this position.

USDA Rural Development Grant

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) preliminary application was submitted and USDA has invited the MSRC to submit a complete application by October 1, 2006. The complete application is in process.

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)

A MAERDAF grant was submitted at the end of August to support the Ag Specialist position. The application requests funds of \$24,000 for FY07 and \$24,000 for FY08.

Possible office location for the position

Caroline County has shown interest in being able to house the Ag Development Specialist as they have available space and recognize that this position will be on the road a good portion of the time as well.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

Fred Smyth, Executive Director of the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center has been appointed to the Dorchester First! Loan Review Committee. Also Scott informed the board he has been approached by the Dorchester County Council to possibly relocate the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center's office to Dorchester County. One of the reasoning points being the sharing of 'Brain Capital' with Dorchester First since the Center also serves the people of Dorchester County. This request will be given serious consideration and decided on in the near future. The exact location would be at the airport in the same office as the current Economic Development Director.

New Business

Dorchester County Technology Park

A meeting was held in Philadelphia in August between Brad Broadwell, Scott Warner, and EDA officials to discuss the current status of the Dorchester County Technology Park and the procedures for applying for the EDA grant. The EDA officials suggested a Cluster Study Analysis on the Mid-Shore Region to piggy back on the Dorchester County study that is soon to be implemented. If the Cluster Study Analysis is done the EDA may fund it. A search for a grant writer has also begun to start on the pre-Application process. Mr. Warner has a list of 6 such people now but would like to add to it before making a selection.

MSRC as an EDA Designated Area for continued annual funding

The possibility of the Mid Shore Regional Council to become a designated area has been proposed by EDA. That would mean the Council would receive funding automatically every year with out having to go through the application processes. They would also reap the benefit of being placed at the top of the list for funding. There are a few criteria the Board must meet each year to be eligible concerning memberships on individual boards serving for the Mid Shore Regional Council including this board and the CEDS board. This item will be revisited at the next regular council meeting as well as the next CEDS meeting. The criterion is listed below:

MSRC and CEDS Boards need to represent the following

- 51% elected officials
- 35% business
- Would like to see minorities included (i.e. women, African-American, disabled citizens, etc.)
- Must show an open process

Other matters

Mr. Warner up dated the council members on the broadband status and the possibility of being able to take fiber across the bay bridge. The coop intends to request to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Advisory Board to discuss the details of the proposal. Secretary Flannigan is the Chair. Mr. Warner will keep the Council apprised of the progress.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

Mayor Rippons made a motion to adjourn the meeting having no opposition the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.