

Minutes**Mid Shore Regional Council
Executive Board
Easton, Maryland****November 28, 2007**

The Mid Shore Regional Council held an Executive Board meeting on November 28, 2007. The meeting was held at the Mid Shore Regional Council office in Easton, Maryland. Board members present were: Gale Nashold, Dirck Bartlett, Mayor Rippons, Walter Chase, Jeff Ghrist and Senator Richard Colburn. MSRC Staff present were: Scott Warner, Wenfei Uva and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Nashold called the meeting to order at 12:23 p.m., the first order of business was the approval of September 12, 2007 Minutes. On a motion by Mayor Rippons that was seconded by Jeff Ghrist the minutes were approved unanimously. The second order of business was ratification of electronic voting for "Support for Chesapeake College's Community Based Jobs Training Grant". The Council received five responses from the Executive Board all of which were in "Support". Having stated that Mayor Rippons made a motion to ratify the votes, Mr. Ghrist seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous consent. Next the Board needed ratification of the electronic vote for the "Resolution accepting MTA FY08 MTA Coordination Grant". Once again the MSRC received five responses from the Executive Board; once again all were in "Support". Mayor Rippons made a motion to ratify the votes, Mr. Ghrist seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Resolution accepting FY 2008 MAERDAF Award Grant

This is a \$14,000 grant running from 9/1/07 to 6/30/08 to support the Agricultural Economic Development Specialist position. Mayor Rippons made a motion to accept the grant, Senator Colburn seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

***Support for JARC/New Freedom application for funding of a Mobility Manager
Architecture***

This is a \$12,500 FY08 federal grant to increase promotion and effectiveness of public transit in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. On a motion by Mayor Rippons that was seconded by Senator Colburn this request was approved unanimously.

***Support for ESRGC Director Dr. Michael Scott being nominated for a Board of Regents'
Faculty Award for public service***

ESRGC is part of the MSRC Scope of Work and a major accomplishment and partnership of the MSRC, TCCLES and Salisbury University. Dr. Scott is in need of a letter of recommendation by today. Mayor Rippons made a motion in support of a letter to Dr. Scott, Senator Colburn seconded the motion and it was approved of unanimously.

***Support SARE grant to support agri-tourism and agriculture business development
(SARE = Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension)***

This would represent a partnership between Wen-fei and Talbot Extension Director Shannon Dill. Mayor Rippons made a motion to support this endeavor, Mr. Chase seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Agricultural Economic Development sub-committee. Ms. Uva has compiled a list of people to serve with her and supply guidance and support, she is seeking approval from the Executive Board on her membership. Those recommended to be on the subcommittee are:

- Bill Brooks – J.M. Clayton Co. – MSRC member, Maryland Seafood Industries representative – Dorchester County
- Lin Spicer – Holly Lane Farms, Inc. – MSRC member, Maryland Forestry Industries representative – Dorchester County
- Bobby Huthison – Hutchison Brothers – CEDS Committee member – Talbot County
- Brad Powers – Agribusiness Services consultant – CEDS Committee member – Talbot County (background with Ag in the entire state)
- Kurt Fuchs – Assistant Director, Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc. – CEDS Committee member – Caroline County
- Carolyn Spicher – V.P. Centreville National Bank, owns farm – MSRC member – Caroline County
- MSRC Chair

Mayor Rippons made a motion to accept the list as presented, Senator Colburn seconded the motion and the request was approved unanimously.

New Business

Minority leader replacement needed from Caroline County as Father LaBarge resigned from the MSRC since he was transferred to Pastor St. Luke's/St. Andrew's Parish in Ocean City, Maryland. Father Chris suggested Ms. Maria Gonzalez-Ruiz or someone from the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence to replace him. Ms. Gonzalez-Ruiz is the bilingual Outreach Service Coordinator for the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence.

The Council is also in need of a replacement of a private sector/private citizen from Talbot County as Russell Dize resigned. One suggestion is James Redman who is the principal of Easton Elementary School Dobson Building. He is a certified instructor of the aha! Process. He introduced the book "a framework for Understanding Poverty" at the March 22, 2007 MSRC Meeting. The Executive Board discussed it and decided the best way to proceed is to have Mr. Warner forward resumes for each candidate to the Executive Board for review.

Recommendation to Amend Article V of the Mid-Shore Regional Council Bylaws:

Mr. Warner explained this would clarify how vacancies on the following voting membership seats are to be filled

- (f) One minority leader from each County (3 total).

- (g) One private sector/private citizen from each County (3 total).
- (k) One private sector businessperson from each County (3 total).

These are the only seats that are not clarified in the Bylaws; it also follows the EDA guidelines as written. Mayor Rippons made a motion to accept the recommendation, Senator Colburn seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Executive Board meeting with incubator consultant

Mr. Warner announced that an incubator consultant for the Dorchester Tech Park has been hired; she is Patricia Larrabee with Facility Logix. She has received input from MSRC and CBRTCE; she is being paid by Dorchester County and TEDCO. Mr. Warner would like to offer the opportunity for any Executive Committee members to meet with Ms. Larrabee regarding the Tech Park on the following days: Tuesday, December 4 at 2:00pm or Tuesday, December 18 at 11:00am and would like to know which date is better suited to their schedules. After a brief discussion it was decided that Tuesday December 4th at 2 p.m. was the best day and time. The meeting will be held at the MSRC office.

Regional technology school

Mr. Ghrist is seeking the input and support to gather information on a possible Regional technical school in Caroline County similar to the North Point School in Charles County. It was discussed and decided the logical first steps would be to facilitate a meeting with the Boards of Education in Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester and to include Kent and Queen Anne Counties as well. Also to have Stuart Bounds of Chesapeake College to facilitate a meeting with Queen Anne County who is also spearheading a project similar to this request and to find out who is in charge of the project and how far along in the process they are.

Other matters

Mr. Warner told the Executive Board members about a possible position being created between BEACON and ESRGC with the support of the MSRC and the TCCLES. The position would be the Small Business Development/Dashboard-GIS Specialist. Talks have already taken place with EDA about possible funding for the position.

The next CEDS Committee meeting will take place on January 9, 2008 at noon at Chesapeake College,

The ad for the Workforce Subcommittee is being finalized it will then be approved by participants before the ad runs.

Member comments/requests

None

Closed Executive Session

Mid Shore staff was asked to leave so the Executive Board could discuss Mr. Warner's contract at approximately 1:10 p.m. Mr. Warner has been working without a contract since July 1, 2007.

Executive Board considered the following:

Ratification of Evaluation Committee's letter to Executive Director

According to Executive Director's contract

- Executive Director must submit a written statement to the evaluating his performance by April 1, it was submitted on March 29
- Executive Board shall review and evaluate the performance of the Employee in April of each fiscal year

According to MSRC's Bylaws

- Executive Board's Evaluation Committee is no more than 3 members
- Members were Allen Nelson, Gale Nashold and Andy Hollis
- The letter approves first raise since Scott was hired on October 11, 2005
- The raise was included in the MSRC FY08 budget approved on June 13, 2007
- The MSRC does not have any obligation towards retirement for the Executive Director, while he is employed he is offered a SIMPLE IRA
- 3% maximum match by the MSRC to a SIMPLE IRA

The letter was dated November 8, 2007 but not officially given to Scott until the Executive Board ratifies.

The Executive Board held a closed session for approximately 15 minutes after which time they agreed to approve the letter unanimously and approve all amounts approved to Mr. Warner in the 2008 Budget.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.