

**MSRC Office
Easton, Maryland**

The Mid Shore Regional Council held an Executive Board meeting on February 20, 2008. The meeting was held at the Mid Shore Regional Council office in Easton, Maryland. Board members present were: Gale Nashold, Dirck Bartlett, Jeff Ghrist and Allen Nelson. MSRC Staff present were: Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Nashold called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m., the first order of business was approval of the November 28, 2007 Minutes. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. Ghrist seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as presented. The second order of business was approval of the November 28, 2007 closed executive session minutes; Mr. Ghrist made a motion to approve the minutes of the closed session, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as presented. The third order of business was ratification of electronic voting results, approving Maria Gonzalez-Ruiz as the Minority leader from Caroline County to the MSRC and the ratification of electronic voting approving James Redman as the private sector/private citizen for Talbot County to the MSRC. The Council had received seven responses from the Executive Board and all of the responses were to "accept both recommendations". Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept both recommendations, Mr. Ghrist seconded the motion and the recommendations were approved unanimously. The last order of business was the ratification of the e-mail approval of the Work Force Study subcommittee Foundations to Enter the Workforce Statement of Work Ethic advertisement for the newspaper. The Council had received eight responses from the Executive Board and all approved continuing this process and running the Statement of Work Ethic advertisement. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the process regarding the Work Ethic advertisement, Mr. Ghrist seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous consent.

Old Business*Letters of support for the Mid-Shore Incubator*

Mr. Warner explained that Pat Larrabee, incubator consultant, has requested letters of support for the Mid-Shore Business and Technology Incubator. She has requested a letter from the MSRC and also letters from the three Mid-Shore counties. Mr. Bartlett suggested that formalization be made regarding Dorchester Counties commitment to the project and the funding required and to have activity monitored concerning financial aspects from TEDCO and Dorchester County. Once TEDCO is committed to funding and Dorchester guarantees matching funds the letters of support may be requested.

Discuss recommendation from the regional technology school meeting held on January 16, 2008 by Chesapeake College and the five superintendents

Mr. Warner stated a meeting facilitated by Stuart Bounds was held at which all five superintendents attended (Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Kent and Queen Anne's), also attending was Upper Shore Regional Council Executive Director John Dillman and Scott Warner. The outcome of the meeting was to have the MSRC and USRC help to acquire funding for a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a regional school, the study could possibly take up to one year at an approximate cost \$50,000. A regional school was not highly supported by all the superintendents while the prospect of utilizing and

expanding Chesapeake College's regional technology programs was supported by all the superintendents and Dr. Bounds. The workforce arenas to be offered would be higher tech such as engineering, medical etc. vs. the lesser Vo-Tech areas such as carpentry and automotive repairs. The board was in favor of Mr. Warner continuing with his participation and reporting back to them after future meetings at which time they will be better able to decide the Council's role or not in this endeavor.

Eastern Shore Business and Economic Development Dashboard-GIS Specialist

Mr. Warner explained this is a new position that will serve both the Mid Shore and Lower Shore Regional Councils. The position will work with both the GIS Center and BEACON at Salisbury University and will be housed with them. Mr. Warner has been in contact with DBED Secretary David Edgerley and Assistant Secretary Dominic Murray concerning this position and they are both very excited about the possibility. The talks with DBED have centered on their funding the position but having the Specialist answer to the MSRC and Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore.

Mr. Warner told Board members he would inquire with Dr. Diriker if there is a link to a Dashboard demo website that the MSRC could send them. Mr. Warner also said he would work on setting up a presentation by Dr. Diriker and Dr. Scott to present them a more definite definition of what a Dashboard-GIS Specialist's would do.

New Business

CEDS/Transportation Planner Specialist

Mr. Warner explained that this is a new position as well. This position would also be housed with the ESRGC and BEACON working closely with Dr. Memo Diriker and Dr. Michael Scott. The position would be a consortium type of agreement between the MSRC, TCCLES, ESRGC and BEACON. A few of the topics the Specialist would cover would be providing internal CEDS capacity to the TCCLES and assisting the MSRC in CEDS preparation, it would also fill the MSRC FY08 Scope of Work in regards to adding a Transportation Planner; as they would work with planning and assist in airport, public transit and interfacing with SHA. EDA Senior Community Planner Calvin Edghill has been communicating with EDA Senior Project Engineer and acting EDR Dan Gillen to allocate \$60,000 for this position. Mr. Warner informed the Board that he has facilitated a meeting between Calvin Edghill, Mike Scott, Memo Diriker, Mike Pennington and himself to further discuss this arrangement. Mr. Warner is to keep the Board updated on the progress of this position.

Mr. Warner further informed the Board that Secretary Edgerley brought up the possibility of a public announcement of the Eastern Shore Business and Economic Development Dashboard-GIS Specialist and CEDS Transportation Planner Specialist positions as a joint announcement with DBED and EDA present. This is a great idea since both positions will work very closely together.

MSRC letter of support for the Chesapeake Culinary Center

Mr. Warner explained to the Board that the MSRC has been asked to send a support letter for the Chesapeake Culinary Center so they can use it in conjunction with other documents for a bond request. As you know this project was added to the CEDS document this year at the January 9, 2008 CEDS meeting. Mr. Warner had prepared a sample letter to show the Board. Mr. Nelson made a motion to send the sample support letter as is, Mr. Ghrist seconded the request and the motion was passed unanimously.

Request by Talbot County Office of Planning and Zoning for MSRC participation on a committee to develop a county land preservation program

Mr. Warner explained he was approached via e-mail on January 15th by Martin Sokolich who is the long term planner for Talbot County to participate on a County land Preservation Program committee. Mr. Bartlett had concerns regarding this request as he stated the Talbot County Council has not decided to support this program yet. He suggested that Mr. Warner attend a meeting when scheduled and to report back to this Board on details of this committee and their goals and they will revisit this request at a later time. The Board agreed with Mr. Bartlett's recommendation.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center recommendation to hold program for at risk youths

This pilot project would partner with the City of Cambridge and it will be run by volunteers. It will be conducted in the summer, running for a few consecutive weeks, having similar aspects to the "Apprentice" TV show. If the program is successful in Cambridge it could be duplicated in several towns around the Mid-Shore Region. ESEC Executive Director Fred Smyth will be heavily involved with this program from start to finish. Mr. Nelson made a recommendation to support the program with the City of Cambridge to be used as a "Pilot Program" to be used at other locations if successful. Mr. Ghrist seconded the motion and the recommendation was passed unanimously.

Other matters

Mr. Warner presented the finished child care poster and the child care flyer to the Executive Board Members stating the finished product will be sent out in the near future to all Companies who participated in the original Work Ethic Task Force Group to be utilized in new employee welcome packets/break rooms etc.

Member comments/requests

Mr. Ghrist suggested inviting Tammy Buckle, Rob Etgen of ESLC and the Dorchester Ag Planner to the meeting to be held by the Talbot County Planning and Zoning office regarding developing a county land preservation program committee as this group of people could lend a unique perspective and direction to this type of committee.

Adjourn

Mr. Nelson made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Bartlett seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.