

The Mid-Shore Regional Council held a scheduled Executive Board meeting on May 8, 2019 at the Mid-Shore Regional Council office. MSRC Executive Board members in attendance were Walter Chase, Chuck Callahan, Kurt Fuchs, Senator Eckardt, Allen Nelson and James Redman. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

### Action Items

#### *Approval of April 15, 2019 Minutes*

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; any further discussion; all in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights; ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

#### *Approval of April 15, 2019 Closed Executive Session Minutes*

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; any further discussion; all in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights; ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

#### *Financial Report*

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented the current financial report dated May 8, 2019. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve, Mr. Callahan seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; any further discussion; all in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights; ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

#### *Discussion/ Approval of FY20 Budget*

Mr. Warner stated the MSRC operating budget has been updated from the one presented and reviewed at the April 15, 2019 MSRC Executive Board meeting. The changes were the ones instructed by the Executive Board and affected Personnel, Payroll Taxes, and Fringe Benefits. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; any further discussion; all in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights; ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously. The MSRC operating FY20 budget will be presented at the MSRC June 6, 2019 meeting for the full Council's consideration.

Ms. Deighan reminded the board that this budget will be sent out prior to the MSRC full council meeting in June per a request at last year's June quarterly meeting. Mr. Warner stated that only members will receive it since it has not

been officially adopted until they vote. He also stated that the proposed bylaws amendment that the MSRC Executive Board recommended at their November meeting will be distributed at least two weeks prior to the meeting in accordance with the bylaws.

Next, Mr. Warner presented the proposed Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) budget on a spreadsheet encompassing all past and future project proposals and the monies requested of each entity. This review of the RMPIF budget was a continued discussion from the April 15, 2019 MSRC Executive Board meeting. Mr. Warner facilitated the discussion by providing an overview of each proposed project investment.

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC):

Mr. Warner provided an update/description of each ESRGC initiative. Mr. Warner relayed information from recent conversations and emails he had with ESRGC Director Michael Scott and ESRGC Practice Manager Lauren McDermott.

DelMarVa Index: \$30,000

This is a continued partnership with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES). These funds will be used to continue the development of the Index. The Advisory Committee consists of various economic development professionals including representatives from all three mid-shore counties' economic development offices.

GIS Circuit Rider: \$60,000

The funds will be used to continue the program that was initiated this year to assist the counties and municipalities in the mid-shore region with GIS projects.

Foundation heights in the mid-shore counties: \$12,000

One of the key factors in determining accurate flooding vulnerability at any given site is the foundation height. Since flood vulnerability assessments are only going to become more frequent, it would be very helpful to have knowledge of the foundation heights as an input when calculating risk. This would be accomplished through two methods: heads-up viewing in Google Street Maps and also in-the-field inspection.

Special Projects: \$20,500

Mr. Warner stated that he and Dr. Scott discussed the possibility and advantages of allocating funds to a Special Projects category. Mr. Warner asked the Board to consider putting a portion of the ESRGC investment in a category named Special Projects for the ESRGC to be used as needed for projects. Such funds could be used to fully fund projects or used as matching funds. These project investments would be approved by the MSRC.

Projects mentioned as examples under this category were:

- Building foot print update for Caroline County
- Ditch enhancements in Talbot County
- Erosion study in Talbot County

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC): \$125,000

ESEC's Executive Director Mike Thielke was invited to join the meeting to update the board members on ESEC's progress and plans moving forward. The update included a handout highlighting the successful outcomes of the F<sup>3</sup> Tech accelerator. ESEC's initiatives include the operations of the revolving loan fund portfolio, technical assistance, hotDesks coworking spaces, and F3 Tech Accelerator. Mr. Warner stated that a summary paper provided by ESEC is in the members' packets explaining the use of the fund request.

Shore Gourmet (SG): \$108,500

Mr. Warner stated that the SG Board of Directors held a meeting a couple weeks ago. The meeting included a lengthy update/discussion with Chesapeake Culinary Center (CCC) Executive Director Beth Brewster and SG Program Manager Roxanne Wolf. Mr. Fuchs and Mr. Chase, who were both present at the SG meeting, spoke highly of the progress SG/CCC partnership. Additionally, Mr. Warner informed the MSRC Executive Board members that the CCC proposal sent to SG regarding the explanation and breakdown of the financial request for FY20 was in their meeting packets.

The SG Board of Directors held a meeting initiated electronically on April 25, 2019. They voted to continue the SG partnership with CCC to assist with financial support and guidance. The vote included SG's desire to financially support the partnership with a minimum investment of \$108,500. As has been done the prior three fiscal years, the MSRC needs to decide if they would like to support this effort by approving the funding request. If the MSRC votes to approve, the funds will be issued to SG who in-turn will pay them to CCC.

Annie's Project: \$9,000

This project is in partnership with and executed by the Maryland Cooperative Extension. The funds will pay for the cost of executing the program in the mid-shore region. Additionally, because of the MSRC's ample funding level the program will incorporate a farm recordkeeping workshop including QuickBooks and a farm tour as it did this past year.

Regional Marketing: \$5,000

These funds will assist regional marketing by supporting the Taste of the Eastern Shore (TOTES) legislative event. TOTES is a partnership between the TCCLES, MSRC and USRC. TCCLES is the lead organization.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the RMPPIF budget as presented including a \$20,500 Special Projects category under the ESRGC investment, Mr. Callahan seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second; any further discussion; all in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights; ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously. The RMPPIF FY20 budget will be presented at the MSRC June 6, 2019 meeting for the full Council's consideration.

## Discussion Items

### *Speaker for MSRC June 6, 2019 Meeting*

Mr. Warner stated that he asked Mid-Shore Rural Health Collaborative President Fredia Wadley to be a speaker at the June MSRC meeting. Dr. Wadley responded that she would be happy to attend and will share a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Warner also stated that the MSRC received an email request from Jillian Cordova, Partnership Specialist representing the Eastern Shore, U.S. Census Bureau. She has requested meeting with entities around the Eastern Shore. Mr. Warner wanted the board members' input on inviting her to speak at the June meeting for 5 to 10 minutes. The board was in favor of this idea; Mr. Warner will reach out to Ms. Cordova to extend an invitation.

### *September 2019 MSRC Meeting & Tour*

Following up on their conversation at their last meeting on April 15, 2019 the Executive Board discussed various ideas for the MSRC's September tour. Included in the ideas were:

- Warwick Mushrooms farm in Cecil County with another stop at Hopewell Nurseries. Hopewell Nurseries has approximately 600 greenhouses on 400 acres growing several types of plants and fruit including Rhododendron and miracle on the Hudson roses. They ship 8 to 10 tractor trailer loads a day. MSRC member Carolyn Spicher has contacts at the nursery.
- Grain operation and a grain elevator
- Chicken tour from incubation to processing
- Purdue Innovation Center
- S.E.W. Friel's cannery
- F<sup>3</sup> Tech tour which could include a stop in each mid-shore county to include Phillips Packing House (oyster processing and nutrient credit trading), River Links (Chesapeake Culinary Center and Farming4Hunger; update on Dagan Agricultural Automation (BSD Farms Inc. is their U.S. company) and Ridgely Tech Park), and Cordova salmon facility.
- Cannabis operation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Cooperative Oxford Laboratory

After much deliberation, the Executive Board arrived at a three stop tour:

1. S.E.W. Friel's cannery
2. Cordova salmon farm
3. NOAA Cooperative Oxford Laboratory

Mr. Warner and Ms. Deighan will work on contacting principals at each location to confirm their availability to accommodate the MSRC and its guests. The tour agenda will be presented at the full board meeting in June.

### Member comments/requests

Before adjourning the Executive Board discussed having University of Maryland Shore Regional Health (UMSRH) President and C.E.O. Ken Kozel address them or the entire MSRC at a future meeting. The members thought it would be good to get an update on the plans and timelines of the UMSRH activities in the mid-shore counties, e.g., the freestanding medical facility in Cambridge and the regional hospital in Easton. They will revisit this discussion at a later date.

### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m. by unanimous consent.