

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled Executive Board meeting on November 18, 2020. The meeting was held in person and virtually via web conference due to COVID-19. The meeting was facilitated from the Mid-Shore Regional Council office. Chairman Chase and Chuck Callahan were in attendance in person. Members attending via web conference were Delegate Chris Adams, Allen Nelson, and James Redman. MSRC staff Scott Warner and Terry Deighan attended in person.

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Action Items

Approval of October 14, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes. 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.

Financial Report

In Treasurer Kurt Fuchs' absence, Mr. Warner presented the MSRC financial report.

The first report was the MSRC Treasurer's Report (Operating Budget). Mr. Warner stated that everything is on track. There were no questions.

Next, Mr. Warner presented the 2021 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Report. He stated that the MSRC received RMPIF funds the beginning of November and quickly got them out to the partnering organizations. To date, all RMPIF recipients have received their FY21 funding with the exception of Regional Marketing which was earmarked for the Taste of the Eastern Shore legislative event (TOTES). TOTES has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19, so those funds can be used for the Mid-Shore Regional Marketing Project if need be.

The third report was the MSRC's EDA Supplemental CARES Act grant supporting the Eastern Shore Economic Recovery COVID-19 Project, dated November 18, 2020. Mr. Warner stated that there maybe an issue with this grant, so the MSRC has not drawn down any funds yet. Funds will not be drawn until the concern is resolved. Total expenditures to date are \$6,785.27, for the video equipment, TV, etc. installed in the MSRC conference room. The MSRC will be able to cover these costs if need be with existing funds. Presently, MSRC and TCCLES are awaiting a response from EDA on a joint email that was sent from the regional councils.

In addition, Mr. Warner informed the Board that \$20,000 was deposited into the MSRC savings account earlier this month. The money was from ESEC. It pertained to an EDA grant awarded to the MSRC in 2012 to establish hotDesks

co-working spaces. This part of the grant funds was initially going to be used for the MSRC's assistance in establishing hotDesks; however, it became imperative at the time to allow ESEC to utilize the entire grant amount. Since ESEC can now afford to reimburse the MSRC for these funds the ESEC Board unanimously decided to issue the funds. The ESEC Board also thanked the MSRC for its longstanding and continued support and partnership.

Mr. Callahan made a motion to approve all three reports. Delegate Adams 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.

Ratification of electronic votes

“Recommendation for Scott Warner to continue to serve as the Mid-Shore Regional Council's Member Delegate to the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc.”, and “Recommendation for Scott Warner to be nominated to the Maryland Broadband Cooperative's Board of Directors for a two-year term.”

Mr. Warner stated he received 7 responses from the Executive Board; all were marked “Accept.” Mr. Nelson made a motion to ratify. 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.

MSRC membership

Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC has three voting member openings that will need to be filled. The openings are Caroline minority leader, Caroline private sector/private citizen, and Dorchester municipal elective official. Caroline minority leader Maria D'Arcy has moved out of state. Caroline private sector/private citizen Gale Nashold has not been able to participate regularly. Dorchester municipal elective official Robert Hanson did not run for reelection for City of Cambridge Commissioner. The Caroline minority leader and Caroline private sector/private citizen members are appointed to the MSRC by the MSRC Executive Board. Municipal elective officials are appointed by their respective municipal corporations or if the municipal corporations located within a County are unable to choose a municipal elected official within a reasonable period of time determined by the Council, the Eastern Shore Municipal Association shall appoint an elected municipal official to represent the municipal corporations of that County.

The Executive Board and Executive Director discussed these openings and plan to address the issue in the coming weeks. It was also noted that runoff elections are being held in less than two weeks in the City of Cambridge.

Discuss/approve recommendation of the 2021 MSRC Executive Board

Mr. Warner reminded the Board Members of the automatic changes to the Vice Chair positions that occur due to the MSRC By-Laws. They are 1st Vice Chair will be Dorchester County, 2nd Vice Chair will be Talbot County, and 3rd Vice Chair will be Caroline County. Additionally, he stated the General Assembly

member will be Delegate Johnny Mautz. Mr. Nelson expressed some feeling it maybe time for him to step aside and said he would reach out to Bill Christopher from Dorchester County to see if he would be interested in serving on the Executive Board. After a discussion the following 2021 MSRC Executive Board slate was proposed.

- Chairman: Walter Chase
- First Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)
- Second Vice-Chairman: Chuck Callahan (Talbot)
- Third Vice-Chairman: Dan Franklin (Caroline)
- Secretary: James Redman
- Treasurer: Kurt Fuchs
- General Assembly: Johnny Mautz
- Member-at-large: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
- Member-at-large: Bill Christopher

It was noted that if Mr. Christopher is not able/willing to serve on the Executive Board, that Mr. Nelson would serve another year. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Warner will communicate in the coming days to confirm this position on the slate.

Delegate Adams made a motion to accept the Executive Board slate as presented, Mr. Callahan seconded the motion. Chairman Chase asked any further discussion; all in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights; ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously. The proposed slate will be presented to the full council at their December 9, 2020 meeting for consideration.

Updates

FY21 MTA Coordination Grant

Mr. Warner stated that this is the Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance Grant (SCATA) that supports the MUST program. The five counties (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot) provide matching funds for this grant. All the counties have committed to their match. The MSRC has not yet received the \$40,000 grant to support MUST for FY21. The MTA representative that oversees the grant communicated with the MSRC on November 12, 2020 that the MSRC will hopefully receive it on or before December 1.

EDA supplemental CARES Act grants to MSRC and TCCLES

Mr. Warner updated the Executive Board on these grants that support the Eastern Shore Economic Recovery COVID-19 Project. He stated that the Advisory Committee has met seven times. The next meeting is this afternoon. The MSRC and TCCLES have been communicating with EDA regarding the determination of the relationships between the two EDA Economic Development Districts and the three counties (Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot) and Salisbury University/ESRGC. The MSRC and TCCLES believe the relationships are contractual while the EDA Philadelphia Regional Office is guiding them to classify it as sub-recipient.

2 C.F.R. § 200.330 Sub-recipient and contractor determinations. This is the Title and Section that is being cited in the federal regulations.

On November 16, 2020, the regional councils sent their latest email to EDA detailing their reasoning for these relationships to be classified as contractual and asking EDA for concurrence. The councils are awaiting a response.

The MSRC and TCCLES have been communicating with the counties and ESRGC regarding the regional councils' dialog with EDA.

Regional marketing project for the counties

Mr. Warner informed the Executive Board that the counties' (Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot) economic development offices requested that the MSRC facilitate a Regional Marketing Project. The counties, working together, received a PNC grant to support this project. These funds will be combined with counties and MSRC funds in the MSRC bank account that remain since the Regional Marketing Initiative was paused in the Spring of 2019. The counties have asked for the MSRC to handle the financial transactions (collecting and disbursing the funds).

The TCCLES has recently determined that there will not be a Taste of the Eastern Shore legislative event (TOTES) in February 2021. Mr. Warner suggested that the Board may want to invest the \$3,000 originally designated for TOTES (from the MSRC's RMPF budget) to the Regional Marketing Project as it develops. The Board was in favor of entertaining the idea.

Upcoming Meetings

MSRC quarterly meeting December 9, 2020

Mr. Warner stated the next MSRC quarterly meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Mr. Warner had a few questions for the board:

- Would you like the meeting in person or virtual?
- Would you prefer a morning or afternoon meeting?
- Would you like a guest speaker?
- Would you like to get an update regarding ESEC's accelerator program?

The consensus was to hold the meeting at noon virtually and not to have a formal presenter. They thought it would be a good idea to get an update from ESEC. Additionally, Chairman Chase requested that an update on the EDA supplemental CARES Act grant and the Eastern Shore Economic Recovery COVID-19 Project be on the agenda.

CEDS meeting January 6, 2021

Mr. Warner stated that the next CEDS Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. He asked if they the Board would like it to be held in person or virtually. The Board unanimously agreed that it should be held virtually.

Tentative MSRC 2021 Meeting Dates

Mr. Warner stated the tentative MSRC 2021 meeting dates are on a document that was distributed with the meeting materials. He then went over the meeting dates.

Thursday, March 4, 2021 – Talbot County

Thursday, June 10, 2021 – Caroline County

- This date avoids conflicts with all three counties' high school graduation dates

Thursday, September 9, 2021 – MSRC Meeting & Tour

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 – Dorchester County

- During Winter MACo

There were no questions or comments from the Board members.

Letters of endorsement sent by MSRC

Mr. Warner reminded the Executive Board members of an endorsement letter they approved to send. A copy of the letter was included in their meeting packet. The date of the letter is in parenthesis.

- Town of Goldsboro – DHCD designation as a Sustainable Community (10/20/20)

Member comments/requests

There were no comments/requests.

Adjourn

At 11:04 a.m. Mr. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Delegate Adams seconded the motion, and it was approved by unanimous consent.