

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled Executive Board meeting on November 24, 2025, at the Mid-Shore Regional Council office. Executive Board members in attendance were Chairman Walter Chase, Bill Christopher, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Delegate Tom Hutchinson, and Kurt Fuchs. MSRC staff present were Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

### Action Items

#### *Approval of May 27, 2025, Minutes*

Mr. Christopher made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously

#### *Approval of September 15, 2025, Minutes*

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Haddaway-Riccio seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

#### *Approval of MSRC FY25 independent financial statements*

- *Statement of Receipts and Disbursements*

Mr. Warner presented the independent financial statements prepared by accountant Darian Sump of Sump & Associates. Mr. Warner stated that the information in the statement follows the same outline as in past years. He stated that Mr. Sump also prepared a separate report entitled Statement of Receipts and Disbursements. It shows receipts and disbursements on a cash basis for FY25. This was the third year in a row that the later report was prepared. This report has been prepared since the MSRC has been administering the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund. The board reviewed the reports.

Ms. Haddaway-Ricco made a motion to approve the financial statements. Mr. Christopher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

#### *Financial Report*

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented three financial reports.

The first report was the MSRC Treasurer's Report (operating report). Mr. Fuchs stated all expenditure and income are on track for this time of year with the

exception of EDA funds which were delayed due to the government shut down, but they should be received shortly, and he would entertain any questions.

The second report was the FY2026 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) report. Mr. Fuchs stated that all funds have been distributed as listed, noting the Capacity Building Coordinator is disbursed monthly. Mr. Fuchs asked if there were any questions.

The third report was the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund Report. Mr. Fuchs deferred to Mr. Warner. Mr. Warner stated that the changes since the last presentation were under the consultant category. He also said would explain the details of a grant extension later in the meeting.

Delegate Hutchinson made a motion to approve all three reports as presented. Mr. Christopher 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 vote “Authorize the movement of funding in the MSRC’s FY2026 RMPIF budget. The allocated funds shall be moved from the Summer Career Enrichment Program (SCEP) to the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC). The funds were made available due to the MSRC securing additional funds to support the SCEP after the June 12, 2025, MSRC meeting. The amount being moved is \$49,000.”*

Mr. Warner stated we received 6 responses from the Executive Board, and they all were marked “Accept”.

Mr. Christopher made a motion to ratify the vote. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by stating aye; those opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it, motion carried unanimously.

*Discuss/approve recommendation of the 2026 MSRC Executive Board*

Mr. Warner reminded the Board of the automatic changes to the Vice Chair positions that occur due to the MSRC By-Laws. They are 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair will be Talbot County; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair will be Caroline County, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair will be Dorchester County. Additionally, the General Assembly member will be Delegate Chris Adams.

After a brief discussion, the following 2026 MSRC Executive Board slate was proposed.

- Proposed 2026 MSRC Executive Board
  - Chairman: Walter Chase
  - First Vice-Chairman: Chuck Callahan (Talbot)
  - Second Vice-Chairman: Frank Bartz (Caroline)
  - Third Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)
  - Secretary: James Redman
  - Treasurer: Kurt Fuchs

- General Assembly: Chris Adams
- Member-at-large: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
- Member-at-large: Bill Christopher

Ms. Haddaway-Riccio made a motion to accept the Executive Board slate as presented. Delegate Hutchinson 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 proposed slate will be presented to the full council at their December 10, 2025, meeting for consideration.

## Status Updates

### *MSRC membership*

Mr. Warner provided updates on a few MSRC voting member positions

Maryland Seafood Industries representative – Aubrey Vincent (President, Lindy’s Seafood), joined MSRC in May 2024. She sent an email on 10/8/25 stating:

“I wanted to apologize that I haven't been able to attend any of the events with my schedule at work. Would the council be interested in searching for another seafood member? I do not see things improving on my end and I do not like the idea that I am not fulfilling my commitment to the council.”

After a brief discussion two possible replacements were identified. Ms. Haddaway-Ricco, Delegate Hutchinson, and Mr. Christopher each said they were familiar with the candidates. Mr. Warner will work with the board members to approach the candidates to see if they have an interest in serving on the Council.

### *MTA FY26 Coordination Grant – supporting MUST program*

Mr. Warner stated an email was received from MDOT on 6/30/25 which contained the Pre-Award Letter dated 6/26/25. Amount awarded is \$40,000. The MSRC has not yet received the final grant, but once it is received the MSRC staff will review, MSRC Executive Board will be asked to accept, Executive Director will sign, and the MSRC attorney will sign.

### *Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund*

Mr. Warner stated that the grant administration is going well. The current grant extension was for the termination date to be December 31, 2025, with all grant objectives and required work and deliverables to be completed and delivered by January 31, 2026.

Sarah Guy is communicating with Maryland Department of Commerce (Roger Venezia) to extend the termination date for three projects to May 31, 2026, with final reports due June 30, 2026. One project in each county.

- Caroline County - Choptank Marina Infrastructure Project
- Dorchester County - Rails to Trails

- Talbot County Economic Development and Tourism Strategic Plan

### *UM Shore Regional Health (UMSRH)*

Mr. Warner stated that he spoke with Lara Wilson (Director, External Affairs & Community Liaison) last week. She is gathering and preparing quarterly data regarding UMSRH's Cambridge facility to share with the MSRC Executive Board. This is a follow-up to the September 15, 2025, tour of the facility and presentation.

- Once Ms. Wilson gets a system down to gather this data for the Cambridge facility, the goal is to get data on the Easton hospital.
- During the August 6, 2024, meeting with Dr. Mohan Suntha (President and CEO, University of Maryland Medical System), he offered to share the observation data with the MSRC on a quarterly basis.

The Executive Board members had a brief discussion and commented that they are looking forward to receiving these updates.

### *Summer Career Enrichment Program (SCEP)*

Mr. Warner stated that he and Chairman Chase had a meeting with the Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot County Public School Systems' superintendents and People Change Coalition's Sandy Pruitt and Jerry McLaurin on November 5, 2025, at the MSRC office. During the meeting they reviewed this past year's program as well as discussed challenges/communication/expectations with the program execution. All three superintendents agreed to be part of the SCEP in 2026.

It was determined that the 2026 SCEP will be held in Dorchester County; continue to target rising 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders; and aim to educate the same number of students as last year. The focus of the program is quality not quantity.

The thank you luncheon for SCEP instructors, teacher assistants, public school administrators, and sponsors went great. During the event the sponsors had an opportunity to mingle with the instructors and get a better understanding of the program.

Mr. Warner mentioned that the amount of money from sponsors doubled from the 2024 SCEP to the 2025 SCEP. The MSRC's Capacity Building Coordinator was a huge help in securing more sponsors.

Sponsorship letters for 2026 SCEP were sent on November 12, 2025, via email.

The 2025 SCEP video will be completed in the coming weeks. The video will be distributed via email to the sponsors in December with a reminder sponsorship request.

### Upcoming Meetings

December 10, 2025 (Wednesday) at the Hyatt in Cambridge

- 10:30am – Mid-Shore Regional Council Meeting
- 12:00pm – Eastern Shore Regional Councils' Joint Luncheon Meeting

January 7, 2026 (Wednesday) at the Easton Firehouse

- Mid-Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting

#### Tentative 2026 MSRC Meeting Dates

- Mr. Warner stated that a document with the tentative meeting dates is included with this meeting's materials. The dates are:
  - Thursday, March 5, 2026 – Talbot County
  - Thursday, June 11, 2026 – Caroline County
  - Thursday, September 10, 2026 – MSRC Meeting & Tour
  - Wednesday, December 10, 2026 – Dorchester County

#### 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 packets; the date of the letter is in parenthesis.

- Regional Medical Center Campus application for EDA grant (6-30-25)

#### Member comments/requests

There were no comments or requests.

#### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m. by unanimous consent.