

The Mid-Shore Regional Council Executive Board held a scheduled meeting on November 30, 2010 at the Mid-Shore Regional Council office. Members in attendance included: Kurt Fuchs, Allen Nelson, Dirck Bartlett, Jeff Ghrist, Walter Chase, and via telephone Gale Nashold. Also in attendance was Dorchester County Manager Jane Baynard. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan. Chairman Fuchs' called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Approval of September 10, 2010 Minutes

The first order of business was the approval of the September 10, 2010 Minutes. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to approve, that was seconded by Mr. Chase and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Financial Report

The next order of business was presentation of the treasurer's report. Chairman Fuchs presented it in Treasurer Nashold's physical absence. He noted that all expenses seemed to be on track and asked for any questions. Being no questions or objections Mr. Fuchs accepted the report into record.

Discuss/approve recommendation of the 2011 MSRC Executive Board

Slate proposed: Kurt Fuchs Chairman, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice Chairs change according to the MSRC bylaws: 1st Vice Chair - Talbot (Dirck Bartlett), 2nd Vice Chair - Dorchester (Ricky Travers) and 3rd Vice Chair - Caroline (Jeff Ghrist). The General Assembly member will be Senator Richard Colburn. The Treasurer will be Allen Nelson, Walter Chase will remain as Secretary, Gale Nashold will become a Member-at-large, and James Redman will remain as a Member-at-large. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to approve the recommendation, Mr. Nelson seconded the motion and the slate passed by unanimous consent. The slate will be presented to the Council.

Old Business

CEDS projects

Infrastructure Related to the Commercialization of Denton

The final stage of the grant is in process, the deficiencies letter was received via e-mail on November 19; answers to the letter must be received by EDA Philadelphia office by December 15, 2010 at 5:00pm. Investment decisions are made by the EDA Regional Director who receives a recommendation from the Investment Review Committee (IRC). A decision will hopefully be made by EDA mid January 2011. Mr. Warner explained that EDA is transitioning to a more timely review process.

Regional Medical Facility

EDA Investment Abstract compiled by Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Bethke was e-mailed by the MSRC to EDA Economic Development Representative Debra Beavin on September 17, 2010; the next step is to send EDA an Investment Summary. Mr. Bartlett asked Mr. Warner when in his opinion the Summary should be completed for submittal, Mr. Warner answered that it depends on the timeline that the money will be needed. At best figure the grant writing process to take three to six months and the Investment Summary should be in a few months prior to the start of

the grant process so EDA can review and advise. So for example if the County wanted to submit in Fall 2011 they should do their best to submit the Summary by January.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MdBC)

On September 17, 2010 a \$115.2 million federal grant was awarded to the One Maryland Broadband Network (OMBN) to bring a new high speed internet backbone to unserved and underserved regions of the state. OMBN is led by the Maryland Department of Technology (DoIT) in partnership with the Inter-City Broadband Network and MdBC. Community Anchor Institutes (CIA) to be connected are: 715 in urban areas, 291 in rural counties. The breakdown of the rural counties CIA's are: Western Maryland 68, Southern Maryland 92, Upper Shore 77, Lower Shore 46, and Mid-Shore 8. On November 10th a meeting concerning the Mid-Shore broadband connections in Maryland's federal stimulus grant award was held in Dorchester County. The meeting was facilitated by the MSRC with representatives from the following entities present: MoIT, Skyline Network Engineering (contracted by the State to design the fiber network), MdBC, Caroline County, Dorchester County, Talbot County, and the Eastern Shore State Delegation. The outcome was that DoIT and Skyline will work with MdBC and the Counties to see if the routes can be altered. Items that need to be considered are:

Dorchester County - needs to give DoIT three possible connection points to school network; connection to Dorchester County Economic Development Office/Dorchester Airport (i.e. helps with Dorchester Tech Park), Dorchester County Highway Department, North Dorchester High School, and South Dorchester K-8 School (MdBC will probably take care of at a later date).

Talbot County - St. Michaels Elementary School / Fire Department

Caroline - if Hillsboro to Denton is built by MdBC then DoIT can get from Colonel Richardson High School to Federalsburg.

Special notes of locations not mentioned during the meeting but forwarded later were:

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Horn Point Laboratory (Dorchester County), Calhoun MEBA (Marine Engineers Beneficial Association) Engineering School (Talbot County – on way to St. Michaels – Talbot County), and the following three agencies that are jointly located in Oxford – Talbot County: Maryland Department of Natural Resources Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR), and the United States Coast Guard Oxford Station.

Hazardous Mitigation Plan

The MSRC received a letter dated September 23, 2010 to remove Dorchester County from the NOAA grant, MSRC alerted Talbot County of this fact. Mr. Warner informed the Board that Dr. Michael Scott believes that since we have not had any feedback from NOAA to date that it is very unlikely that we will be awarded the grant. After a brief discussion it was decided that the MSRC is not to put any more effort into this project at this time.

Endorsement letters

Chairman Fuchs reviewed the following endorsement letters that were sent by the MSRC since the last Executive Board meeting.

Upper Shore Regional Council – USDA RBOG

This letter was in support of a feasibility study researching the potential for a value-added food processing and distribution center in the upper shore region on Maryland.

The study will focus on four areas: processing and food preparation for distribution, value-added processing, agriculture incubation center to provide managerial support for business development, and agricultural education center to conduct educational programs regarding agriculture practices, ecological, and economical benefits of agricultural production and land preservation policy.

Delmarva Community Services/Delmarva Community Transit

This letter was in support of an "Intercity Bus Program". This program would be designed to provide for a meaningful connection with the national intercity bus network, including service to connecting points at times when passengers may make convenient connections. Any proposed route will include one daily (Monday through Sunday) roundtrip connecting with the national intercity bus network.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

This letter supports the comprehensive management plan alternative 3 as the most beneficial to the region's economy and its outdoor recreation needs. The trail's plan will expand opportunities for tourism, conservation, and recreation and offer visitors and residents alike an authentic Chesapeake experience. Through its support of the ESRGC the MSRC was instrumental in the early stages of the development of the trail; this project has been ongoing for 6 years.

New Business

Presentation of FY10 independent financial statements

Copies of both the MSRC and Shore Gourmet FY10 financial reports were presented to the Board for review. They were both prepared by certified public accountant Darian Sump, owner of Sump & Associates.

Shore Gourmet status

Mr. Warner explained that Shore Gourmet has not received 501c6 status as of yet. MSRC attorney Curt Booth has been in communication with the IRS via written correspondence. Mr. Booth also communicated with MSRC attorney Darian Sump to preliminarily discuss possibilities if the status is not granted. Two possible alternatives if Shore Gourmet does not receive tax-exempt status are to start Shore Gourmet as a for-profit entity or just include it in MSRC operations. A brief discussion of the two options raised further questions, including what to do with the profit or excessive revenue once Shore Gourmet is 'profitable'. Possibilities include hire another Agricultural Specialist, support agricultural projects, and financially contribute to the sustainability of the MSRC if needed. It was decided that further discussion/advice with the MSRC attorney and accountant would be needed to make an educated decision on choosing the best alternative if 501c6 status is not granted.

Other matters

Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC will be conducting a joint lunch meeting with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) during the Winter MACo (Maryland Association of Counties) Conference at the Hyatt in Cambridge on January 6, 2011 as discussed at the last Executive Board meeting. This will be an opportunity to meet new members of both councils. Details to follow.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

Mr. Ghrist made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. Chase and the meeting was adjourned at 1:31 by unanimous consent.