

The Mid Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled meeting on September 22, 2016 in conjunction with the Council's annual field trip. This year the MSRC took a poultry industry tour, made possible by Kurt Fuchs.

Members and guests met at the MSRC office at 7:00 AM to board the bus and head to the first stop Perdue Farms hatchery located in Hurlock, Maryland. Once the group arrived at the hatchery we entered the building stepping through disinfectant placed at the doorway, as not to bring in any germs that may do harm to the chicks. Once inside the group was greeted by Tim Timmons (Live Production Manager, Perdue Farms) and Maria Palermo-Whitaker (Manager Hatchery #26, Perdue Farms) who presented background on the plant and provided everyone with protective coveralls, hair net, booties and earplugs as an added precaution to protect the chicks from outside germs. Due to the number of attendees, the overall group was split into two smaller groups for a tour of the facility. One group headed by Mr. Timmons, the other by Ms. Palermo. Everyone was able to see how eggs are incubated, how hatched chicks are sorted and eventually shipped to growing facilities. Chicks will be grown to be either a smaller fryer or a larger roaster chicken, before being processed and sent to retail outlets. The hatchery tour was fascinating and very educational. A big thank you was given to Mr. Timmons and Ms. Palermo.

The next destination on the poultry tour was to Murphy's Bellview Farm in Vienna Maryland. This farm has always been a family farm. Bob Murphy, along with his two sons Brad & JB, started in the poultry business after Mr. Murphy's retirement. They started out with 2 poultry houses and now after expansion have 16 houses spread out on several farms. Mr. Murphy gave the group a brief overview of how the farms came to fruition. Also present to elaborate on the immense process the Murphy's had to comply with to meet all the new CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) and storm water management state standards was Jim Newcomb (Mid Atlantic Farm Credit Loan Officer). Mr. Newcomb along with Mr. Murphy gave everyone a great insight into the tremendous amount of work, planning, and finances it takes to operate and run a poultry farm. The tour participants thanked them both for investing their time to share their knowledge and experiences.

The next stop was to Suicide Bridge Restaurant in Hurlock where the MSRC conducted its meeting.

MSRC members in attendance included Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Daniel Rider, Maria D'Arcy, Jerome Stanley, Kurt Fuchs, Rick Price, Walter Chase, Jeremy Goldman, Senator Addie Eckardt, Delegate Johnny Mautz, and Delegate Chris Adams. Guest in attendance were MARBIDCO representatives Allison Roe, Amy Cook and Betsy McKeehan; Dorchester Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bill Christopher (Mr. Christopher had to leave prior to the meeting being called to order); RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis; Maryland Department of Commerce representative Deborah Bowden; Caroline County resident Jack Keats; Raush, Inc. representative Jake Laureska; Senator Mikulski's representative Linda Prochaska;

Senator Cardin's representative Kim Kratovil; Congressman Harris' representative Denise Lovelady; USDA Rural Development representatives Letitia Nichols and Shannon Reed; ESRGC representative Mary Buffington; Delegate Mautz Legislative Director Michael Kiko; TCCLES Executive Director Mike Pennington; Caroline County Technologies Director Jim McCormick; Dorchester County Economic Development representative Susan Banks; Maryland Department of Agriculture Director of Government Relations Matt Tefteau; Mid Atlantic Farm Credit Loan Officer Jim Newcomb; Delmarva Poultry Industries Executive Director Bill Satterfield; BEACON Director Memo Diriker; and the tour's Shore Transit bus driver John Hales. MSRC Staff present were Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m. at which time introductions were made. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Ricky Travers, Dirck Bartlett, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Allen Nelson, Gale Nashold, Michael LeMire, and Daniel Franklin who could not attend in person due to other obligations.

Approval of June 9, 2016 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval for the minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting. Mr. Stanley made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated all in favor signify by saying aye, all opposed have the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mr. Fuchs presented the treasurer's report, stating all expenses are on track for the first quarter of the year and he would entertain any questions. Chairman Chase asked for any further discussion, being none he asked for a motion to accept the report. Ms. Spicher made a motion to accept, Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated all in favor signify by saying aye, all opposed have the same rights, ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates

Mr. Warner gave updates on the following:

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

Mr. Warner stated that Mr. Thielke had hoped to be present today but was unable to attend. However, he prepared a brief overview document of ESEC projects and activities that is included in your packets. Everyone is invited to review it and contact us with any questions.

State Funding – FY2018

Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC is hoping that the Governor will include in the State FY2018 proposed budget the level funding of the regional councils at \$200,000 each. He mentioned how grateful the MSRC is that the Governor included the

regional councils in the FY2017 budget at the historical intention of \$200,000 and that the General Assembly supported the recommendation.

Mr. Warner added that work is underway to support the continued funding of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). The RMPIF is a major initiative of the Rural Maryland Council. He reminded everyone that the RMPIF was funded for the first time in the current FY2017 budget at \$2 million. Additionally, the Governor stated his intentions were to fund the RMPIF at \$4 million in FY2018 and \$6 million in FY2019. Full funding for RMPIF is \$6 million. Mr. Warner thanked the Governor and General Assembly for their support. He added that the RMPIF funding that is coming to the Council this year (FY2017) is helping the MSRC support some great, new initiatives for the region. Also, many mid shore organizations, and rural organizations throughout the state, have applied for RMPIF grant funding this year. The grant review committee will be meeting soon to review the applications. There are several projects and initiatives that this funding can help.

Questions from the Council regarding...

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had questions on the following:

- Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)
- Maryland Broadband Cooperative
- Shore Gourmet
- Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

There were no questions.

Presentation and Discussion

Kurt Fuchs, who graciously helped design the poultry tour, introduced the speakers.

The Council was fortunate to have Bill Satterfield (Executive Director, Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.) present to start a discussion of the economic impact of the poultry industry on Delmarva. Mr. Satterfield presented many numeric facts regarding the poultry field (these figures are attached to these minutes).

After Mr. Satterfield, Dr. Memo Diriker (Director, BEACON – Perdue School of Business, Salisbury University) continued the discussion regarding the poultry industry. He also provided a tremendous amount of facts, as well as, the challenges and concerns to keep this industry thriving on the Delmarva.

Both speakers were very informational. The MSRC and guests thanked them for their presentations and an interesting discussion. The attendees also thanked Kurt Fuchs for his time and effort on an excellent, educational day.

Upcoming Events

The next Mid Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 12:00pm at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton.

The next Mid-Shore Regional Council meeting will be on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 11:00am at the Hyatt in Cambridge. The meeting will be followed by an Eastern Shore Regional Councils Joint Luncheon Meeting which will be during the MACo Winter Conference.

Announcements/comments

As was mentioned several times during the event, a big thank you to the sponsors who made the day possible:

- MARBIDCO
- BEACON

Thanks to Mike Pennington and Brad Bellacicco of the TCCLES and Shore Transit for supplying such a great bus for the day's travels.

A huge thank you to Kurt Fuchs for helping to arrange and organize a fabulous tour.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The tour was completed as the bus returned to the MSRC office.