

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled meeting on June 6, 2019. It was held in Caroline County at the Caroline County Public Library in Denton.

MSRC members in attendance included: Walter Chase, Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Anthony Casey, Kelley Cox, Maria D'Arcy, Chuck Callahan, Lenny Pfeffer, Senator Addie Eckardt, Delegate Chris Adams, Wilbur Levensgood, Jeremy Goldman, James Redman, and Delegate Johnny Mautz. Guests in attendance included: Shore Gourmet Program Director Roxanne Wolf, Maryland Department of Commerce Senior Business Development Representatives Mindie Burgoyne and Nancy LaJoice, Governor Larry Hogan's Eastern Shore Outreach Coordinator Ryan Snow, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) Project Managers Erin Silva and Mary Buffington, Chesapeake College President Clifford Coppersmith, USDA Rural Development State Director Denise Lovelady, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES) Executive Director Greg Padgham, 2020 Census Partnership Specialist Jillian Cordova, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) Executive Director Mike Thielke, Salisbury University Henson School of Science and Technology Dean and ESRGC Director Michael Scott, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen's Eastern Shore Regional Director Melissa Kelly, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's Field Representative Kim Kratovil, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Dan McDermott, Rural Maryland Council Executive Director Charlotte Davis, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Special Assistant Bunky Luffman, Maryland Broadband Cooperative representatives Drew VanDopp (Acting President and CEO) and Tyler Patton (Vice President for Public Affairs), Mid-Shore Rural Health Collaborative President and Talbot County Health Department Health Officer Frieda Wadley. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., at which time introductions were made. Mr. Warner was in possession of electronic votes from Kurt Fuchs, Dan Rider, Robert Hanson, Ricky Travers, and Allen Nelson all who could not attend in person due to other obligations or illness. Mr. Warner took a few minutes to share the sad news of the passing of John General. He then shared some of John's background and how influential he has been and will continue to be in many of the MSRC projects. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Approval of March 7, 2019 Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of March 7, 2019 minutes. Ms. Spicher made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Levensgood seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of Executive Board November 27, 2018 Minutes

The next order of business was to obtain ratification of the Executive Board minutes from November 27, 2018. Mr. Redman made a motion to ratify the minutes. Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of Executive Board April 15, 2019 Minutes

The next order of business was to ratify the minutes of April 15, 2019 Executive Board. Senator Eckardt made a motion to ratify the minutes. Mr. Levensgood seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer Kurt Fuchs, Scott Warner presented the Treasurer's Report. He stated that Mr. Fuchs had reviewed the report prior the meeting. He also stated that the MSRC is in good shape and actually a bit under budget presently. Mr. Levensgood made a motion to accept the report. Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY20 Scope of Work

Mr. Warner stated that during the Executive Board's April 15, 2019 meeting they reviewed, discussed, and approved for the full council's consideration the FY20 Scope of Work. The FY20 Scope of Work has no major changes from the FY19 Scope of Work. Delegate Adams made a motion to approve the proposed Scope of Work. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY20 Budget

Mr. Warner stated that similar to the past few years the MSRC will be receiving Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) monies in FY20 so two budgets are being presented for consideration, the traditional MSRC operating budget and a RMPIF budget. Mr. Warner stated that during the Executive Board's April 15, 2019 meeting they reviewed and discussed the budgets. At their May 8, 2019 Executive Board meeting they further discussed and approved the MSRC FY20 operating budget and RMPIF budget. The budgets were sent to the MSRC members via email on May 20, 2019. They are also in the meeting packets.

As shown via color notation there are only a few changes to the FY20 operating budget as compared to the FY19 budget; if anyone has any questions Mr. Warner can provide explanations on various line items. Senator Eckardt made a motion to approve the FY20 operating budget. Ms. Spicher seconded the

motion. Chairman Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Including Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Mr. Warner reminded everyone that the Governor included in the State's budget full funding of the RMPIF. He thanked the General Assembly for supporting and approving the funding amount. Therefore, Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC will receive the same amount in FY20 that was received in FY19. The proposed projects to be funded with them are included in your packet. He then reviewed the proposed FY20 RMPIF budget.

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC):

Mr. Warner stated that ESRGC representatives Dr. Michael Scott, Erin Silva, and Mary Buffington were all in attendance and could answer questions or provide detailed explanations if needed. Mr. Warner then proceeded with the following overview.

DelMarVa Index: \$30,000

- Mr. Warner stated that this project is in partnership with TCCLES and the ESRGC. He gave a brief overview of the work accomplished in FY19 and what is planned for FY20. He also stated that 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

- This initiative is a partnership with the ESRGC to assist the counties and municipalities in the mid-shore region with GIS projects. Mr. Warner briefly highlighted some of the assistance provided this past year and stated the demand, as expected, is growing.

Foundation heights in all 3 counties: \$12,000

- This project will be performed by the ESRGC. It is being done to assist the mid-shore counties. Knowing foundation heights as an input when calculating risk will be very helpful in determining flooding vulnerability.

Special GIS projects: \$20,500

- Mr. Warner explained that he and Dr. Scott have been communicating on the need to have flexibility to assist the mid-shore counties on GIS projects that arise during the year. The counties may a small project funded or a larger project may need matching funds to secure a grant. This "Special GIS projects" fund is designed to hopefully enable the MSRC to assist.

Housing Quality Studies

- Studies have been completed for all municipalities in the mid-shore over the past two fiscal years. These studies will be beneficial to fund on a 3 to 5 year cycle to determine progress/regress. No need to fund this coming fiscal year (FY20).

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

- Mr. Warner stated that Mike Thielke is in attendance to provide information as requested.
- Mr. Warner then gave a brief overview of the ESEC's initiatives including operating a revolving loan fund portfolio, providing technical assistance, establishing/maintaining hotDesks coworking spaces, and executing the F³ Tech Accelerator.

Shore Gourmet (SG): \$108,500

- Mr. Warner recognized that SG Program Manager Roxanne Wolf was present to answer questions as requested. He also noted that SG Treasurer Carolyn Spicher is in attendance.
- He then summarized the SG Board meeting held in April where Chesapeake Culinary Center (CCC) Executive Director Beth Brewster and Ms. Wolf gave a lengthy progress report on the SG/CCC partnership. Mr. Warner also mentioned that the MSRC Chairman was present at the meeting.
- Mr. Warner then stated that the SG Board of Directors held a follow up meeting initiated electronically. The result of the meeting was SG Board 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.

Annie's Project: \$9,000

- Mr. Warner stated that Shannon Dill, Maryland Cooperative Extension Educator, apologized that she was not able to attend this meeting due to another obligation. Ms. Dill and Jenny Rhodes (UM Agriculture and Natural Resources, Extension Educator in Queen Anne's County) are the Maryland co-chairs of the project and are very grateful for the MSRC's financial support.
- Annie's Project is a national program designed to empower women in agriculture to manage information and learn about agriculture in a relaxed local network. The target audience is women with a passion for business, agriculture and involvement in the farm operation.
- Mr. Warner reminded the Council that they received an update during their last meeting.
- This budget will allow the program to continue to be offered in the mid-shore region with the additions that were implemented in the 2019 program: farm record keeping workshops and a fall farm tour.

Regional Marketing: \$5,000

- Mr. Warner stated that this budget item will enable the MSRC to continue to partner with the TCCLES in hosting the Taste of the Eastern Shore legislative event.

After the explanation of the proposed budget there were no questions. Senator Eckardt made a motion to approve the FY20 RMPIF budget as presented. Ms. Spicher seconded the motion. Mr. Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Vote to Amend the MSRC Bylaws

Mr. Warner stated that during the November 27, 2018 MSRC Executive Board meeting the members voted to recommend a change to the MSRC Bylaws. It was brought to their attention that not all the county’s representatives have the opportunity to serve as the Second Vice-Chair of the MSRC.

Mr. Warner further explained that this recommendation was not considered at the MSRC December 2019 meeting because he did not send the proposed change according to the bylaws. The MSRC can only make amendments to bylaws when “...notice of the meeting and the text of the proposed amendments has been provided to all voting members of the Council at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of the meeting at which approval of the proposed amendments is requested.” Therefore, the proposed amendment was sent to the MSRC members via email on May 20, 2019 to be considered at this meeting.

Additionally, the information is in today’s meeting packets: (1) the explanation sheet explaining the proposed change and (2) the MSRC Bylaws demonstrating the proposed change on page 4, Article VI, Section 5.

Current:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1st Vice Chair	Caroline	Talbot	Dorchester
2nd Vice Chair	Dorchester	Dorchester	Talbot
3rd Vice Chair	Talbot	Caroline	Caroline

Proposal is to adjust Year 2 and switch Caroline and Dorchester:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1st Vice Chair	Caroline	Talbot	Dorchester
2nd Vice Chair	Dorchester	Caroline	Talbot
3rd Vice Chair	Talbot	Dorchester	Caroline

As illustrated, to correct this issue it would just require Article VI Section 5 to be adjusted from “...the second year – Talbot, Dorchester and Caroline;” to “...the second year – Talbot, Caroline and Dorchester”.

Ms. Spicher made a motion to amend the MSRC Bylaws as proposed. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Mr. Chase stated we have a motion and a second, any further discussion; all opposed have the same rights. Ayes have it. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates

Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

Mr. Warner provided the following information:

The MUST FY2020 grant application was submitted to MTA on April 16, 2019. The Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance (SCATA) grant application was due to the Office of Local Transit Support (OLTS) by April 24,

2019. The MSRC submitted the application to KFH Group Program Manager Bruce Hojnacki and copied MTA Regional Planner Jason Kepple.

Kiosks

- Over the past year 25 kiosks have been placed.
- MSRC has received concurrence from MTA to purchase 12 more kiosks. They will be distributed to:
 - Health departments (2)
 - Kent County (A.F. Whitsitt Center, Scheeler Rd.
 - Queen Ann's County (need 2nd kiosk)
 - UM Shore Regional Health (3)
 - Shore Medical Pavilion – Denton (they want two)
 - Shore Medical Pavilion – Easton
 - Libraries (4)
 - Queen Anne's County Library – Centreville Branch
 - Queen Anne's County Library – Kent Island Branch
 - Kent County Public Library – North County
 - Kent County Public Library – Rock Hall
 - American Job Centers (2)
 - Cambridge
 - Chestertown
 - Department of Social Services (1)
 - Queen Anne's County Dept. of Community Services

Maryland Broadband Cooperative (Mdbc)

Mdbc President and CEO Drew Van Dopp and Mdbc Vice President for Public Affairs Tyler Patton presented Chairman Chase and the MSRC with a beautifully framed picture depicting the Mdbc's current network of over 2,000 miles of backbone fiber. Chairman Chase thanked them for the gift; it will find a home at the MSRC office.

Next, Mr. Van Dopp provided the following updates.

He stated that the Coop has grown over the past 13 years. They now have over 100 members, 72 are Internet Service Providers. Mdbc has 28 Points-of-Presence (POPs) across Maryland and Virginia.

Mdbc provides transport or Internet service from Baltimore, McLean & Ashburn.

They deliver wholesale symmetrical capacity at up to 100 GB.

They now have submarine cable from Calvert County to Dorchester County.

Presentations

Mid-Shore Rural Health Collaborative

Mr. Warner introduced Mid-Shore Rural Health Collaborative President and Talbot County Health Department Health Officer Frieda Wadley. Ms. Wadley spoke on several topics that she outlined in a handout entitled "What Is the Problem in US?" (handout attached). The topics addressed were:

- Organizations for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) collects data from counties for comparison and policy decisions.

- How we define the problem determines how we design the solution. We define the problem so that the proposed solution will be accepted by the majority.
- With healthcare transformation the pressure has been the greatest on hospitals to save money.
- The charge to the Rural Health Collaborative
- The Rural Healthcare problem is usually defined as not having enough providers (first medical specialists and now primary care providers). This implies (as did the workgroup recommendations) that collaboration can improve the access and delivery of existing health and healthcare services.
- Rural Health Collaborative: Priority components for Rural Health Model are clinical services, social support services, and transportation; priority actions are to 1) integrate these three services and increase existing capacity locally; 2) recommend to legislators strategies that would increase the likelihood of success of Maryland's Total Cost of Care Waive; 3) select a site to implement the Rural Health Model.

2020 Census

Mr. Warner stated the MSRC was contacted by the next speaker requesting an audience to help educate everyone about the 2020 census and its importance of participation in all of the communities. Ms. Jillian Cordova is a Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau – Philadelphia Region. Her contact information is: 443-736-0083 (mobile) or Jillian.Cordova@2020Census.gov. Ms. Cordova stated the 2020 Census will begin April 1, 2020 and there will be three ways to complete it. Expanding the ways to complete it hopefully will keep the participation at 76% level as in the past or hopefully increase participation. She reminded everyone that by participating helps to keep/expand grant monies and other opportunities available to Maryland. The higher participation rate the better chance for more opportunities. She also stated that the Census has many employment opportunities available and anyone interested can contact her directly. Hourly wage starts at over \$18 an hour.

Events

Eastern Shore Regional Councils Joint Meeting & Lunch at MACo

Mr. Warner stated the next meeting will be the Eastern Shore Regional Councils Joint Meeting and Lunch. It is planned to be held on Friday, August 16, during the Maryland Association of Counties convention in Ocean City. More information will be emailed to you as we get closer to the event

September MSRC meeting and tour

The next board meeting will also include the MSRC's annual tour. The tentative date is Thursday, September 12, 2019. Mr. Warner informed the Council and guests that the Executive Board asked the MSRC staff to look into a tour that may include S.E.W. Friel's cannery, the Cordova salmon facility, and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office – Oxford Cooperative Lab. More information will be distributed as the day and its events are confirmed.

Member comments/requests

Delegate Mautz asked everyone to keep those involved and affected by the horrific event early today at the Easton YMCA in their thoughts and prayers.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Mid-Shore Rural Health Collaborative – handout

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM IN US?

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) collects data from countries for comparison and policy decisions.

1. The United States invests the largest percent of its GDP on healthcare expenditures than any country.
2. The United States invests less than most comparable countries on socio-economic supports.
3. Healthcare accounts for only 10 to 15% of a population's health status.
4. Social, economic, environmental, behavioral, and genetic factors account for 85 to 90% of a population's health status; the greatest predictor of health is income and education.
5. The US's health indicators are worse than comparable countries although we spend the most on healthcare.
6. Studies in 2003 and 2019 reported that US healthcare prices are two to four times those in comparable countries.

How we define the problem determines how we design the solution. We define the problem so that the proposed solution will be accepted by the majority.

- US is unhealthy; improve health and health expenditures will decrease.
- US expenditures on healthcare are too high; biggest percent by hospitals so decrease preventable hospital admissions, readmission, and acquired hospital conditions.
- We don't have adequate social support services to be healthy; invest in social services.
- Health care prices are far too high; decrease health prices.

With healthcare transformation the pressure has been the greatest on hospitals to save money.

- In the Mid-Shore region, 3 hospitals to serve 170,000+
- Plans released to close 2, build free standing emergency facilities and a new central hospital
- CON process to determine these issues
- Legislators didn't want to interfere with CON process; established workgroup to study how to improve rural healthcare access and delivery (not whether regional plans acceptable)
- Workgroup recommends the same things that have not resolved the problem over four decades plus a few additional things (one being Rural Health Collaborative and others related to Emergency Management Services in rural areas)

The charge to the Rural Health Collaborative

- Design a Rural Health Model that improves access and delivery of healthcare, is scalable to other rural communities in Maryland, and aligns with Maryland's Total Cost of Care Waiver.

- The rate of growth of both hospital and ambulatory healthcare services will be contained in Maryland
- Maryland will invest in primary care services to keep people healthier so they will need less hospital services and save money
- Investments will be incentives for participating (voluntary) primary care providers to improve health outcomes of their services, coordinate clinical, behavioral, and social services, plus investments in Care Transformation Organizations to help PCPs.
- Hospitals will work with primary care providers to keep residents healthier and decrease healthcare costs
- CMS and Maryland can invest saved dollars into population health improvement.
- Mandated members of private and public sector to participate plus representatives of agencies or groups;
- Make recommendations to legislators: 1) a site within the region to implement a Rural Health Complex; 2) what needed to improve rural healthcare access and delivery

The Rural Healthcare problem is usually defined as not having enough providers (first medical specialists and now primary care providers). This implies (as did the workgroup recommendations) that collaboration can improve the access and delivery of existing health and healthcare services.

- Maximize capacity of existing services by changing the way both clinical and social services are delivered; co-locate services when possible
- Better coordinate clinical services and social services and clinical with social services to improve health outcomes
- Resolve transportation issues especially for low income individuals
- Collect data to understand the capacity of existing services and gaps in services
 - to encourage hospitals and ambulatory providers to fill those gaps to improve outcomes and get incentives or avoid penalties
 - to inform Maryland's Waiver process - where to invest savings to decrease the growth rate of the total cost of care

Rural Health Collaborative: Priority components for Rural Health Model are clinical services, social support services, and transportation; priority actions are to 1) integrate these three services and increase existing capacity locally; 2) recommend to legislators strategies that would increase the likelihood of success of Maryland's Total Cost of Care Waive; 3) select a site to implement the Rural Health Model.

CHALLENGES?

- Mandated collaboration doesn't assure collaboration
- Mid Shore counties have different services, resources, needs, and wants
- Many barriers to public and private sector collaboration: flexibility, discretionary resources, respect for partners...