

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled meeting on December 8, 2021. It was held in Dorchester County at the Hyatt in Cambridge immediately following the Eastern Shore Regional Councils Luncheon meeting.

MSRC members in attendance were Walter Chase, Burton Wilson, Anthony Casey, Maria D'Arcy, Lenny Pfeffer, Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, James Redman, Jerome Stanley, Kurt Fuchs, Dan Rider, Bill Christopher, Delegate Johnny Mautz, Carolyn Spicher, Dan Franklin, Wilbur Levensgood and Talbot County Manager Clay Stamp.

Guests in attendance were: Maryland Department of Commerce Senior Business Development Representative Nancy LaJoyce, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) Project Manager Erin Silva and Senior GIS Analyst Logan Hall, Salisbury University Dean and ESRGC Director Michael Scott, City of Cambridge GIS Specialist Scott Shores, Chesapeake College President Clifford Coppersmith, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Special Assistant Bunky Luffman, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen's Eastern Shore Regional Director Melissa Kelly, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's Field Representative Kim Kratovil, Congressman Andy Harris' Community Liaison Keith Graffius, Caroline County Economic Development Director Debbie Bowden and Coordinator Kendall Teague, Caroline Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tracey Snyder, Dorchester County Economic Development Director Susan Banks, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism Director Cassandra Vanhooser, Easton Town Council Member Al Silverstein, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Educator Shannon Dill, Choptank Electric Government Affairs Manager Matt Tefteau, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Dan McDermott, Shore Gourmet Program Director Roxanne Wolf, Delegate John Mautz's Legislative Director Sara Kilmon, and Talbot County Economic Development Commission Chairman and Chesapeake College Trustee Reza Jafari. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m. at which time introductions were made.

Approval of September 9, 2021, Minutes

The first order of business was to obtain approval of the September 9, 2021, minutes. Mr. Stanley made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Franklin 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 May 13, 2021, Minutes

The next order of business was to ratify minutes from the May 13, 2021, Executive Board meeting. Mr. Stanley made a motion to ratify the minutes. Mr. Fuchs 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

MSRC Operating Budget

MSRC Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented the Treasurer's Report. He stated that everything is on track and would entertain any questions. Being none, Ms. Spicher made a motion to accept the report. Mr. Rider 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.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Budget

Mr. Fuchs also presented the RMPIF budget, stating that all funds have been received and payments have all been issued to recipients as noted on the budget sheet. Mr. Franklin made a motion to approve 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.

Eastern Shore Economic Recovery COVID-19 Project Budget

Lastly, Treasurer Fuch's deferred to Mr. Warner to present the Eastern Shore Economic Recovery COVID-19 Project Budget. Mr. Warner stated that Salisbury University/ESRGC has been drawing down funds consistently since the beginning of the project and the County Economic Development offices have started to draw on their available funds as well. Everyone is confident that all available funds will be utilized by the end of the grant period. Ms. Spicher made a motion to accept the budget report, Ms. D'Arcy 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.

Officer Selection

Mr. Warner stated that at their last meeting held on November 24, 2021, the MSRC Executive Board members discussed and are unanimously recommending the proposed slate for the 2022 officers of the MSRC.

- 2022 Proposed Executive Board Members
 - Chairman: Walter Chase
 - First Vice-Chairman: Dan Franklin (Caroline)
 - Second Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)
 - Third Vice-Chairman: Chuck Callahan (Talbot)

- Secretary: James Redman
- Treasurer: Kurt Fuchs
- General Assembly: Addie Eckardt
- Member-at-large: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
- Member-at-large: Bill Christopher

Chairman Chase asked if anyone had any suggestions or changes.

Ms. Spicher made a motion to accept the slate as presented. Mr. Stanley 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.

Project Demonstrations / Discussion

Mr. Warner stated that he wanted the Council, partners, and guests to receive an update on the MSRC's investment in the Housing Quality Studies.

Additionally, there is another project that the GIS Circuit Rider position is supporting in Cambridge regarding a sidewalk study. At the most recent GIS Committee meeting, City of Cambridge GIS Specialist Scott Shores shared updates of these projects that were so impressive, Mr. Warner wanted ESRGC Senior GIS Analyst Logan Hall and Mr. Shores to share the projects at this meeting. Mr. Warner introduced Mr. Hall and Mr. Shores.

Mr. Hall provided a fabulous PowerPoint presentation that summarized the last four or five years of the Housing Quality Studies throughout the Mid-Shore region. Mr. Shores demonstrated how the City of Cambridge is now able to compare the progress being made utilizing interactive mapping of the original study compared to this past summer's study.

The men then shared how the GIS Circuit Rider position was able to assist Mr. Shores and the City of Cambridge ADA sidewalk committee with GIS support. They emphasized the speed at which this work was able to be turned around once requested, less than two weeks.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Warner asked everyone to note the following upcoming meetings.

2022 tentative MSRC Meeting Dates are in your packets. The dates are:

- Thursday, March 3, 2022 – Talbot County
- Thursday, June 9, 2022 – Caroline County
- Thursday, September 8, 2022 – MSRC Meeting & Tour
- Thursday, December 8, 2022 – Dorchester County

The next Mid-Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting will be held January 5, 2022 (Wednesday) at 12:00pm at the Easton Firehouse, 315 Aurora Park Drive, Easton.

The "Taste of the Eastern Shore" legislative reception will be held February 10, 2022 (Thursday) at 5:30pm at the Graduate Annapolis, 126 West Street, Annapolis.

Member comments/requests

There were no comments or requests.

Mr. Warner reminded everyone to grab a gift before leaving as a small gesture of gratitude from MSRC for your continued service and participation throughout the year.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. by unanimous consent.