

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on March 5, 2008 at the Caroline Country Club in Caroline County. Members in attendance were: Andy Hollis, Bill Brooks, Carolyn Spicher, Charles Cawley, Ellery Adams, Frank Narr, Gale Nashold, James Redman, Jerome Stanley, Lin Spicer, Maria Gonzalez and Kurt Fuchs. Economic Development Directors present were: Paige Bethke, Brad Broadwell and JOK Walsh. Mid Shore Regional Council staff present was: Scott Warner, Wenfei Uva and Terry Deighan. Guests present were: Len Foxwell of the MD Comptroller's office, Chris Jarboe, LeRoy Mattingly and Connie Clausen of Pax River Naval Air Station, John General of CBRTCE, David Jenkins of RMC, Lee Whaley of Senator Cardin's office, Pat Mitchell of MdBC, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED and Cynthia Pyron of Caroline County.

Action Items

Mr. Adams gave the blessing, dinner was served and Chairman Nashold called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m. at which time introductions were made. We welcomed three new Council Members Maria Gonzalez, James Redman and Kurt Fuchs.

The first order of business was approval of November 8, 2007 Minutes. Mr. Broadwell made a motion to approve as presented, Carolyn Spicher seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

The next order of business was ratification of Executive Board November 28, 2007 minutes. Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve, Mr. Brooks seconded the motion and the minutes were ratified by unanimous consent.

The next order of business was approval of the treasurer's report. In Treasurer Rippons absence Chairman Nashold presented the report to the board for approval. Mr. Stanley made a motion to approve the report which was seconded by Mr. Brooks and passed by unanimous consent.

The last action item was a vote to Amend Article V of the Mid-Shore Regional Council Bylaws. Mr. Warner explained that this clarifies how a vacancy on the following voting membership seats are to be filled; (f) One minority leader from each County (3 total), (g) One private sector/private citizen from each County (3 total), (k) One private sector businessperson from each County (3 total). These are the only seats that are not clarified in the Bylaws of how a vacancy should be filled. It follows the EDA guidelines and the Executive Board unanimously endorsed this amendment at their November 28, 2007 meeting. Mr. Cawley made a motion to approve the amendment, Mr. Broadwell seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.

Old Business

Mr. Warner gave an update on MSRC becoming an EDA Economic Development District. He stated that the EDD package is still in the review process in the Philadelphia office and should be completed within two months.

Mr. Warner stated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) held its second full committee meeting on January 9, 2008 at Chesapeake College and in February the CEDS document was updated and sent to the EDA Philadelphia office. The next full Committee meeting will be held in July/August 2008.

Mr. Warner explained that the Workforce Issues Task Force Child Care subcommittee posters for companies break rooms has been printed and will be distributed to committee members of the Work Force Taskforce and at least 100 copies were already given to Peg Anawalt of the Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center at Chesapeake College for distribution. A letter will accompany the mailing including a copy of the white background poster/handout to be included in employee folders/note books; it is printer-friendly and if companies/organizations want electronic copies they just have to contact the MSRC office.

The Foundations to Enter the Workforce subcommittee "Statement of Work Ethic" advertisement has been completed and is at present being finalized for the paper. It has been reviewed by the subcommittee, MSRC legal counsel and approved by the MSRC Executive Board. The MSRC staff is now in process of having the 49 companies/organizations sign off that they want their names included. The ¼ page ad will run twice in the Star Democrat.

Conflict Management/Current Workplace Issues subcommittee's recommendation is handled through the Mid Shore Mediation. They conduct Conflict Management Trainings. The sessions comprise of two classes approximately two months apart. They have just completed the second session of trainings at which 8 companies participated. The next session is planned for October and they plan to start promoting it with a short video to CEOs.

Business and Technology Parks

Caroline County

Marketing Director Cynthia Pyron gave a slide presentation that updated the progress to date of the Caroline Tech Park.

Dorchester County

Mr. Warner explained to the Board that EDA Senior Engineer Dan Gillen has been in contact with the MSRC. As far as the EDA \$2M grant for the Tech Park and the Incubator Mr. Gillen is waiting for the final numbers from Dorchester County. FY08 funds have been accounted for so this will be the first project for FY09. If FY08 funds are not used by other projects which often happen, they could be switched to this

project. Brad Broadwell then added that two weeks ago the water and sewer agreement was established between the City and County and Dorchester County has made the bond commitment necessary for this project. Mr. Broadwell added that partners, including UAS, met today and the first set of plans are expected in 30 days.

Mid-Shore Business and Technology Incubator

Mr. Broadwell explained that Incubator consultant Pat Larrabee of Facility Logix LLC had forwarded the initial financial portion of report to the Dorchester County Economic Development Office in February and the final report should be submitted shortly.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

Mr. Warner gave this update in Mr. Smith's absence. Programs in the process include a program for at risk youths; the first program will partner with the City of Cambridge and will be run by a group of volunteers. The program will be conducted in the summer, running for a few consecutive weeks, having similar aspects to the "Apprentice" TV show. A successful program in Cambridge could be duplicated in several towns around the Mid-Shore Region. The MSRC Executive Board unanimously endorsed this program at their February 20, 2008 meeting

MUST (Maryland Upper Shore Transit)

Mr. General updated the Board stating on November 13 – 16 Route Match held classes in the upstairs conference room of the MSRC office. This was to teach DCT and Queen Anne's County Ride how to use computer software program associated with the scheduling and asset allocation system. There are several grants including the JARC/New Freedom Grants. On November 29 the Upper Shore Committee met that included John General, Bob Price (from St. Michaels) and Scott Warner. Also on December 21 the Committee submitted to the MTA consolidated evaluations and comments on the transit projects. February 13 grant applications were reviewed at MDOT. The MUST outreach program has been revised. January 8 the FY09 grant request for the MUST program was submitted to the MTA in the amount of \$75,000. A RFP for the bus advertising campaign has been given to the MTA and is in the final draft and new transit schedules will be complete by the end of July and new schedule books will be published thereafter. Mid Shore Council member Maria Gonzalez offered her time at the next MUST meeting to help with Spanish/Hispanic issues that exist within the current schedules.

Eastern Shore Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) Conference

Ms. Bethke explained a conference will be held on March 12, 2008 at the Krystal Q Conference Center in Easton from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Ms. Bethke along with John Emond, Collaboration Program Manager for NASA, has been spearheading this initiative. If anyone is interested in attending they may contact her.

Agricultural Economic Development Specialist

Dr. Uva gave updates on projects she has been involved in since our last meeting the first of which is the formation of an Agricultural Advisory Sub-Committee which includes Bill Brooks, Brad Powers, Carolyn Spicher, Robert Hutchinson, Kurt Fuchs, Gale Nashold and Lin Spicer. Next she updated her Agri-tourism Projects such as *Helping to Support Farmers Market Development – Denton and Cambridge* by serving on the planning committee to develop a Denton Main Street Farmers Market for the 2008 season. The market will be located at Second and Market Streets and run from mid-May to mid-October.

Wenfei continues to serve on the advisory committee for the Cambridge Main Street Farmers Market for the 2008 market season.

She is Developing a Mid-Shore Retail Agriculture Directory collaborating with local tourism, cooperative extension and other offices. It will be used to promote agriculture and agri-tourism. Timeline is April or May.

Dr. Uva gave a Shore Gourmet Status Update stating the current operating team includes Wenfei Uva (MSRC), Fred Smyth (ESEC), Terry Deighan (MSRC) and Marty Schwartz (Creative Cookies etc.). The goal is to develop Shore Gourmet, a distribution and marketing organization for value-added food products in the region. At the present time Wenfei, Fred and Terry continue to provide services to assist local value-added food producers in terms of product development and marketing. On February 11, we submitted a proposal to the Federal State Market Improvement Program through Maryland Department of Agriculture staff to obtain funding for the Shore Gourmet operation. As well as we are in discussion with a couple local agencies including Chesapeake Culinary Center and Chesapeake Fields for possible collaboration.

Grape and Wine Industry Development

Dr. Uva is working with Dr. Kevin Atticks of Maryland Wineries Association and wineries owners in the region to start a Mid- and Upper-Shore Wine Trail. Dr. Uva and Ms. Deighan are planning a Winery Start-up Workshop on March 14 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. The workshop will be held at St. Michaels Winery in St. Michaels. Speakers will include Kevin Atticks, Executive Director of Maryland Wineries Association, Mark Emon of St. Michaels Winery and William Layton of Layton's Chance Vineyard and Winery. Dr. Uva continues to assist local wineries in finding ways to enhance winery business development in the region.

Dr. Uva has also been involved in Agricultural Business Development and Recruitment; including providing business consultation to individual businesses, working with DBED and county economic development offices to recruit new agricultural ventures to the region, assisting agricultural businesses with grants and proposal writing.

On February 18 MSRC co-hosted the Buyer-Grower Meeting with Maryland Department of Agriculture and University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. The event was held at Tidewater Inn, Easton, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. She also assisted in planning the

Eastern Shore Federal Lab Consortium/Economic Development Seminar that will be held on March 12 in Easton Maryland.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative

Mr. Warner updated the Board that the new members of the MdBC are Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative, Board of County Commissioners of Kent County, Tech Solutions, Inc., Marine Science Consortium, Inc., Eastern Shore Broadband Company, and Bay Country Media, Inc. Prior members were TCCLES, MSRC, USRC, TCCSMD, TCCWMD, Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative, Easton Utilities, Bay Country Communications, Caroline County, Metro-Cast, Atlantic Tech Online, Dorchester County, Atlantic Broadband, Worcester County, Carroll County, and Maryland State Highway Administration. There are currently 22 members of the MdBC. 7 are in the Mid-Shore Region, 4 are in the Lower Shore region, 3 are in the Upper Shore region, 2 are in the Southern Maryland region, 1 is in the Western Maryland region and 5 are not in any of the above regions. Business Plan Consultants were hired in November 2007 and the final plan will be completed by the end of April 2008. Mr. Warner then introduced MdBC Executive Director Patrick Mitchell who updated the Council on the fiber initiative

New Business

In Mr. Ghrist' absence Mr. Warner gave the update on a regional technology school. The concept was initially discussed at the November 28, 2007 MSRC Executive Board meeting where the Executive Board asked Executive Director to establish a meeting to discuss the interest and viability of establishing a regional tech school (i.e. Northpointe in Waldorf; Sussex Tech in Delaware). The meeting was facilitated by Stuart Bounds with all five superintendents attending (Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Kent and Queen Anne's); also attending was Upper Shore Regional Council Executive Director John Dillman and Scott Warner. The outcome of the meeting was to have the MSRC and USRC help to acquire funding for a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a regional school. The study will probably take 1 year at an approximate cost \$50,000. Dr. Bounds wants to continue the dialog within the next month or two with another meeting. At the present time a regional school was not highly supportive by all the superintendents while utilizing Chesapeake College in offering regional technology programs was supported by all the superintendents and Dr. Bounds

Other matters

Executive Director David Jenkins presented Rural Maryland Council activities which included several task forces such as Smart Growth Task Force and he explained that the 2020 Rural Prosperity Investment Fund had not been funded this year. They are working very diligently on the 2020 and hope for funding next year.

Three members of the Patuxent Naval Air Station were present and filled the Council Members in on the current activities of the Air Station. Chris Jarboe, Leroy Mattingly and

Connie Clausen shared materials and thanked the Council for the opportunity to keep us up to speed on current affairs at the Air Station.

Member comments/requests

Mr. Nashold announced the next meeting is June 11th in Dorchester County.

Adjourn

Carolyn Spicher made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Spicer seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:30 p.m.