

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a scheduled quarterly meeting on September 22, 2010. The meeting was a special trip to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station (PAX NAS) and the formal meeting was conducted on a DCT bus en route to Hoopers Island. Members in attendance included: Kurt Fuchs, Gale Nashold, Maria D'Arcy, Corey Pack (carrying a proxy for Dirck Bartlett), Bill Brooks and Jerome Stanley. James Redman, Allen Nelson, Walter Chase, and Jeff Ghrist attended via telephone. Guests in attendance were: JOK Walsh, Keasha Haythe, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, Kevin Deighan of Shore Gourmet, Mike Thielke of ESEC, Linda Prochaska of Senator Mikulski's office, Jim McCormick of Caroline County, Jack Tarburton of USDA, Brad Powers, Betty Ballas, Anita Keats, Marty Gangemi, Alice Gangemi and Bud Hankins of the Mid-Shore League of Women Voters. MSRC staff present were: Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Action Items

Chairman Fuchs called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m., introductions were made. It was stated that James Redman, Jeff Ghrist, Walter Chase, and Allen Nelson were attending via telephone. Mr. Pack announced he was in possession of 1 proxy vote. Chairman Fuchs was carrying proxies for Senator Colburn, Delegate Eckardt, and Delegate Haddaway.

Approval of June 9, 2010 Minutes

The first order of business was approval of the June 9, 2010 minutes. Mr. Stanley made a motion to approve as presented, Mr. Brooks seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Ratification of Executive Board May 27, 2010 Minutes

Next order was ratification of the Executive Board May 27, 2010 minutes. Mr. Nashold made a motion to approve, Mr. Stanley seconded the motion and the minutes were ratified unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented and accepted as submitted.

Ratification of the updated Upper Eastern Shore Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Warner explained that MTA wanted regional plans updated by September 30, 2010; the original plan was completed in September 2007. MTA directed a review and light update of the plan. Updates included recent projects and public transit initiatives including the ESLC's Building a Vision for Regional Transportation Committee, Local Management Board/Health Transportation Network Project, and CTAC (Community Transit Advisory Committee) facilitated by DCS/DCT. There were no substantial changes besides needing a connection on Rt. 213 (Cecil and Kent Counties). KFH Group website has the regional plans. The website is www.kfhgroup.com/UpperShore.htm. Mr. Brooks made a motion to accept ratification of plan, Mr. Nashold seconded the motion and the updated plan was ratified by unanimous consent.

Old Business

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Warner stated that the first CEDS meeting for the 2011 document update will be held Monday, October 18, 2010 at 12:00pm at the Talbot County Operations Center Conference Room, 605 Port Street, Easton.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc. (Mdbc)

Mr. Warner stated that on September 17 Senator Mikulski and the Maryland federal delegation along with Governor O'Malley announced the award of \$115 million of federal funds to the One Maryland Broadband Network (OMBM) to bring a new high speed internet backbone to unserved and underserved regions of the state. The OMBM is led by the Maryland Department of Information Technology in partnership with the Inter-County Broadband Network and Mdbc. With these funds the Mdbc plans new infrastructure builds on the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland.

Full crews are working on the EDA portion of the Eastern Shore fiber build which includes Rt. 213, Caroline Technology Park connection, and Lower Shore. Lit service through Baltimore is available to ISP members of the Mdbc.

The statewide broadband mapping activities are progressing well. An interactive map is live on the internet and can be accessed by www.mdbroadbandmap.org.

Business and Technology Parks

Caroline County

There was no significant change to this project.

Dorchester County

Dorchester Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe stated that the water and sewer are in the works and they have a few prospects and are very excited about the progress and interest in the site.

Infrastructure Related to the Commercialization of Denton

Mr. Warner stated that on August 11 he, JOK Walsh, Ellis Davison, and Jan Willis traveled to the EDA Philadelphia Regional Office to meet with EDA representatives Willie Taylor, Tonia Williams, and Debra Beavin. The meeting was to review the EDA grant application submitted on June 30, 2010 and get assistance/input from the EDA prior to the EDA internal review committee's review of the application. Caroline Economic Development Corporation Executive Director JOK Walsh expressed his thanks to Mr. Warner and the Mid-Shore Regional Council, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and Congressman Frank Kratovil for all the support that has gotten this project this far, the application is in the final steps of being refined.

Regional Medical Facility

Mr. Warner stated that he and Talbot County Economic Development Director Ms. Bethke provided EDA Economic Development Specialist Debra Beavin an EDA Investment Abstract. It is basically a brief description of the project that EDA is now using as an introduction for their representatives to get familiar with a project prior to the EDA Investment Summary being drafted. The Abstract basically opens the file on a project for the EDA representative.

Mistletoe Hall Project

Talbot County Councilman Corey Pack stated presently tree mitigation is being explored dealing with this project.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

New Executive Director Mike Thielke stated he is currently working on generating funding for FY11. Funding in FY10 included Dorchester County \$10,000 and a \$10,000 MAERDAF grant that the MSRC helped secure. Also, TEDCO has included ESEC as a partner in a grant application that would utilize the Shore Venture entrepreneurship training program in the Mid and Lower Shore. Funding to ESEC is \$15,000 over the next two years (\$7,500 per year). Scott noted that Mike Thielke was hired in August. He has a background in international transportation and logistics, he was the Sultana Project Executive Director and he is also a certified Kauffman Foundation administrator and facilitator.

Mr. Thielke stated presently ESEC Revolving Loan Fund monies are presently loaned out. The Dorchester County Revolving Loan Fund has one application in review, with the majority of the funds loaned out as well. He is currently on an information tour, visiting all Mid-Shore chambers, county economic development directors, and SCORE chapters. One- and three-year strategies are being developed for presentation to the ESEC Board to include major fundraising initiatives; he is currently conducting a survey of the first two Shore Venture entrepreneurship training program participants. He has met with Chesapeake and Wor-Wic Colleges to plan and coordinate Shore Venture and other entrepreneur training programs to discuss collaboration and future programs. Mike has also met with MdBC President and CEO Pat Mitchell, BEACON Director and Co-coordinator of GeoDASH Initiative Memo Diriker, and ESRGC Director and Co-coordinator of the GeoDASH Initiative Mike Scott. The purpose was for Mr. Thielke to get an overall understanding of some of the initiatives, programs, and partners of the MSRC and to start a dialog between Mr. Thielke and these partners to see how ESEC and the partners may be able to benefit mutually on future endeavors.

Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

Mr. Warner stated that a Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan meeting was held on August 11 at Chesapeake College. The purpose was to organize a "light" update to the current Upper Shore Regional Plan in preparation for the next round of JARC/New Freedom grant proposals. Also, on August 13 Scott and John General met with Kent County Administrator Susie Hayman and Queen Anne's County Administrator John Borders to update them on the MUST program. On June 10 ESLC's Amy Owsley held a meeting with Sarah Bunch, Memo Diriker, and Scott to discuss the "Regional Transportation Planning Feasibility Study for the Eastern Shore of Maryland" that the GeoDASH Initiative conducted for the ESLC's Building a Vision for Regional Transportation Committee. The study will be presented to the Committee to have them discuss possible next steps in advancing proactive, sustainable transportation policy that best fits the Eastern Shore.

In regards to the scheduling and asset allocation system: on June 22 MTA Manager of Statewide Planning Lenny Howard traveled with Scott, John, and DCS/DCT representative Andy Hollis to view buses outfitted with the asset allocation system and to tour Navtrak's two facilities in Salisbury. This was one of the final steps to MTA submitting the final report to the FTA.

In regards to the Maryland Coordinating Committee and Human Services Transportation: the next subcommittee meeting to go over the 5310 and JARC/New Freedom grant applications are scheduled for May 4, 2011.

5310/Senior Rides Program local information meetings will be held in December 2010.

The JARC/New Freedom regional planning update is being done prior to the new grant cycle, following recommendations from past years, applicants will have more time to prepare the document. Applications will be due to the Regional Coordinator on February 1, 2011. This year's grantees included DCS/DCT for expansion of their regional mobility management program and Cecil County to implement a taxi voucher program.

Local Management Board/Health Transportation Network Project members continue to meet. A new marketing brochure is in the final process of approval – 10,000 brochures to be printed. There will be brochures in English and Spanish. MSRC member Maria D'Arcy translates the English into Spanish.

DCT's bus stop signs should be erected in the Town of Easton in the near future. Easton is putting them up.

Queen Anne's County Ride is now participating the advertising campaign. In the near future five buses will have advertising wraps put on to demonstrate to future clients the visibility of such an advertising tool. The MSRC was notified in a letter received August 30, 2010 that the MSRC will receive a grant for the MUST program at the same funding level as last year. The MSRC is awaiting the grant documents.

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)

Mr. Warner stated that the Maryland Broadband Mapping Initiative led by the Maryland Broadband Cooperative was extended by the NTIA through 2014. The ESRGC as the technical lead will receive an additional \$687,000 in funding from this project extension, making the total ARRA-funding equal \$1.1 million for the full five years.

The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission has found funding to accelerate the conversion to digital Critical Area maps. The ESRGC will be converting 4 counties' maps in 2011: Anne Arundel, Kent, Somerset, and Prince George's. Talbot County's maps are about to reach the public comment stage.

GeoDASH Initiative

Mr. Warner stated that GeoDASH is developing the data connectivity between public data sets (state, county, and local) to the CEDS dashboard for the mid and lower shore. Key indicators have been identified for the mid and lower shore in their respective CEDS documents.

GeoDASH has collected data sets for each of the indicators and have developed a method for continually keeping that up to date. In the coming months, GeoDASH hopes to meet with the Tri-County and Mid-Shore Councils to discuss the status of this project further.

GeoDASH led the Delmarva freight study effort in partnership with Maryland Department of Transportation, Delaware Department of Transportation, and Virginia Department of Transportation. This project falls under GeoDASH charge to spearhead regional transportation planning. The project was delivered over the summer with economic impact modeling and dashboards.

The GeoDash team was called on to complete and economic impact analysis and dashboard for the Matapeake Development in Queen Anne's County. The study has peaked the interest of many at the state level and exhibits another partnership between many of the players in the GeoDash Initiative (DBED, BEACON, etc.).

GeoDash continued support to the Broadband mapping and planning project. Both BEACON and ESRGC lead elements of the project and GeoDash has continued to support that effort.

Mr. Warner noted that Jim Garrity, Eastern Shore Business and Economic Development Dashboard Specialist, will be on the joint meeting/tour today. He is travelling to Hoopersville with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore. Please feel free to ask him questions regarding GeoDASH.

Shore Gourmet, Inc. (SG)

President of the Board of Directors Brad Powers stated that things are progressing with Shore Gourmet and stated that they will be going for one more grant from USDA, and expressed his thanks to Jack Tarburton for continued support. He also requested anyone who may know of a possible Shore Gourmet site in Dorchester County to please contact Kevin Deighan. Mr. Warner then stated that a USDA Rural Development RBEG grant was secured by the MSRC in June that will allow Shore Gourmet to operate through November 30. Shore Gourmet's distribution center is located at 8737 Brooks Drive, Suite 104 in Easton. It is three units down from the MSRC office. It houses commercial refrigeration unit, commercial freezer unit, and sufficient dry storage. The MSRC received notice of the awards of the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities, MAERDAF, and MARBIDCO grants that will be utilized to purchase a refrigeration truck for SG. A 2008 Ford F250 was purchased for the chase. The refrigeration unit should be assembled onto the chase within the next month and the truck will be fully operational. Already some existing SG producers are interested in having SG handle their entire product distribution once SG's truck is operating. This will allow the producers to concentrate on making their products.

On July 15 the U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan visited the new Shore Gourmet Distribution Center to announce funding support via USDA Rural Development; she met and spoke with many of the Shore Gourmet producers, Board of Directors, and General Manager. The event was covered by several media outlets including radio, television, and newspapers. Speakers were USDA Rural Development State Director Jack Tarburton, Deputy Secretary Merrigan, MSRC Chairman and Shore Gourmet Board member Kurt Fuchs, and Shore Gourmet Board President Brad Powers.

Also on August 19 Shore Gourmet participated in the Governor's visit to the Hutchison Farm. The Governor was very impressed with the Shore Gourmet products. SG Board President Brad Powers and Vice President Bobby Hutchison presented a gift basket to the Governor. Shore Gourmet's website is www.shoregourmet.com. On September 14 a Shore Gourmet Board meeting was held at the MSRC office where Shore Gourmet products were served for dinner.

New Business

Next Mid-Shore Regional Council meeting

The MSRC and TCCLES will not hold a joint meeting in November or December due to State and County elections (new county government members being appointed); instead a Joint Council luncheon between the two Councils will probably be held during the MACo winter conference at the Hyatt the first week of January. It will be a chance for council members to meet each other and possibly discuss state legislative issues since the State Legislature will be going into session in the middle of January.

Other matters

None

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

The formal meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m. by unanimous consent. The MSRC members joined the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore at Hoopers Island. There the Councils

members and guests watched a U.S. Navy helicopter deliver CAPT. Stephen Schmeiser and Chris Jarboe to Hoopers Island to meet the Councils and board the two boats that took everyone across the Chesapeake Bay to PAX NAS. The base commander CAPT. Schmeiser was joined by other officials (military and civilian) to give the Councils the tour of the base. Areas toured were Hangar 305, JSF (Joint Strike Fighter) Hangar, Air Traffic Control Tower and ATR (Atlantic Test Ranges) Mobile Telemetry and MFS (Manned Flight Simulator) building 2035.