

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled meeting on June 13, 2013 at the Choptank Electric Building in Denton, MD. Members in attendance included Jeff Ghrist, Larry Porter, Walter Chase, Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Daniel Rider, Delegate Addie Eckardt, Dirck Bartlett, John Craig, Kurt Fuchs, and William Cooper. Guests in attendance included Richard Sossi representative of Congressman Harris, Linda Prochaska representative of Senator Mikulski, Mike Pennington the Executive Director of Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore, Chuck Cook representative of Governor O'Malley, Dr. Michael Scott of Salisbury University, Letitia Nichols of USDA Rural Development, John McQuaid and Ed Vitalos. MSRC staff present was Scott Warner and Terry Deighan.

Chairman Bartlett called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. at which time introductions were made. Chairman Bartlett announced he was in possession of proxies for Senator Colburn and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio. Also in Chairman Bartlett's possession were printed copies of the electronic votes by members Ricky Travers and Allen Nelson on the five voting items under Action Items. These signed votes will be placed among the minutes (see attached). John Craig was carrying a proxy for Andy Hollis.

Approval of March 14, 2013 Minutes

First order of business was to obtain approval of March 14, 2013 Minutes. Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Chase seconded the motion and the minutes of March 14, 2013 were approved by unanimous consent.

Ratification of Executive Board March 7, 2013 Minutes

Next order of business was to ratify minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on March 7, 2013. Mr. Chase made a motion to ratify the minutes, that motion was seconded by Mr. Fuchs and the minutes were ratified by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kurt Fuchs presented the treasurer's report for period ending June 13, 2014. He stated with two weeks left of the current fiscal year all expenditures and receivables are on track. Being no questions Ms. Spicher made a motion to accept the report, Mr. Cooper seconded the motion and the Treasurer's Report was accepted into record as presented by unanimous consent.

Approval of FY14 Scope of Work

Chairman Bartlett stated that at their May 30, 2013 meeting the Executive Board reviewed and approved the amended Scope of Work. He then asked Mr. Warner to review each of the changes for the Council and asked if there were any questions on the revisions. There were no questions. Mr. Chase made a motion to approve the FY2014 Scope of Work, Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion and the FY2014 Scope of Work was approved by unanimous consent as presented.

Approval of FY14 Budget

Chairman Bartlett stated that on May 30, 2013 the Executive Board also reviewed and approved the MSRC FY2014 budget. Chairman Bartlett and Mr. Warner went line by line reviewing the changes on the proposed FY2014 budget. Line items changed but the total budget came in a bit lower than last year, noting that for the first time since FY10 that employee salaries increased but at the same time a significant savings to health care was obtained. As there were no questions Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the proposed budget, Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion and the FY2014 budget was approved by unanimous consent.

Old Business

Regional Medical Center Campus EDA grant application

Talbot County Manager John Craig stated that presently Talbot County is waiting for the final go ahead with the project.

Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST)

In MUST Coordinator and CBRTCE C.E.O. John General's absence Scott Warner gave the following update. The MTA MUST 2013 grant has gone very smoothly. It is wrapping up this month. The MUST 2014 grant application was handed to MTA's Jim Raszewski on June 5, 2013 at the MUST meeting in Easton. He was going to deliver it to MTA Office of Local Transit Support Program Manager Jeannie Fazio when he returned to the MTA Baltimore office. Due date for the Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance (SCATA) grant applications for FY2014 was June 7, 2013. The bus advertising RFP is being finalized by BEACON. It will be circulated to Delmarva Community Services (DCS)/Delmarva Community Transit (DCT), Queen Anne's County Ride (QACR), Shore Transit, and MSRC/MUST for their respective reviews. Once all the partners have signed off, the RFP will be sent to MTA for final approval. The goal is to release the RFP in September. On March 26 there was ribbon cutting of the new bus shelter in downtown Federalsburg near Town Hall. The shelter is located in the municipal parking lot on Morris Avenue. The DCT bus routes that use this bus stop connect Federalsburg to Denton, Preston and Easton, as well as, Cambridge, Secretary, East New Market and Hurlock.

Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Air Station Patuxent River

Mr. Warner stated that the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) choose Matrix Design Group as the company to provide consulting services for the JLUS. Their staff has experience with over 20 JLUS programs nationwide. On May 2 a JLUS Policy Committee & Technical Advisory Groups Kick-Off Meeting was held at the Dorchester County Office Building in Cambridge. Members of these committees come from all the partner regions in the JLUS area including: Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore of Maryland (mid-shore and lower shore) and Virginia's Northern Neck. The meeting oriented the participants to the JLUS by giving a program overview, describing how communities are approached, outlining the work plan, and describing the public outreach effort. The next week the data collection phase began with the mid-shore counties' planning departments receiving Compatibility Worksheets. Last week JLUS consultant teams from Matrix Design Group started holding outreach meeting with various parties in the region. The latest information on the Naval Air Station Patuxent River JLUS can be found at www.paxjlus.com.

Other Projects and Initiatives

Chairman Bartlett reminded the Council that at the last quarterly meeting the format changed. At each meeting projects and initiatives with pertinent information will be the focus; however, if MSRC members or colleagues have questions on the other projects and initiatives they will be addressed.

Chairman Bartlett asked if anyone had any questions regarding:

- The Business and Technology Parks of either Caroline County or Dorchester County
- Maryland Broadband Cooperative
- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)
- Shore Gourmet
- Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)
- GeoDASH Initiative

There were no questions.

New Business

Introduction of the Broadband Development Planners

Dr. Michael Scott stated that two people were hired to fulfill an 18 month broadband mapping project. He also stated that by November 2014 all information should be collected at the State level. He introduced Ed Vitalos and John McQuaid, they both took a few minutes to introduce themselves and share their backgrounds. They are housed at the MSRC office.

Presentations

USDA Rural Development

Business & Cooperative Program Director Letitia Nichols shared several USDA program opportunities that are available to non-profits and public bodies.

Many of the programs are now open; they include loan programs as well as grant programs. Their flagship program is the business and industry loan guarantee program. Another loan program is the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) which application cycle closes on June 28. Another program currently open is the Rural Business Opportunities Grant (RBOG) which focuses on supporting technical assistance. They also offer the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program. Mr. Pennington highlighted the Community Facilities grant program which lends assistance by giving very low interest loans to entities such as libraries, emergency medical stations etc. The Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore has taken advantage of this program for their new multi-purpose building in Salisbury. Ms. Nichols answered several questions and invited anyone with further questions to see her after the meeting.

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Ghrist, seconded by Mr. Fuchs and approved by unanimous consent.