

June 14, 2006
Mid Shore Regional Council
Holiday Inn Express
Talbot County

The Mid Shore Regional Council had their quarterly meeting on June 14, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Express in Cambridge , Maryland . Members present were: Marty Gangemi, Walter Chase, Andy Hollis , Brad Broadwell , Burton Wilson , Christopher LaBarge, Ellery Adams , Fred Smyth , Gale Nashold , Hilary Spence , Hope Harrington , Jerome Stanley , Mayor Rippons, Mindie Burgoyne , Paige Bethke , Ricky Travers , Scott Warner and Terry Deighan . Several guests were also present; Kurt Fuchs , Andrew Starrs , Steve McHenry, Allen Nelson , two representatives of the League of Women Voters of the Mid Shore and three presenters from Pax Naval Air Station.

Action Items:

Father LaBarge gave a blessing, dinner was served and Chairman Gangemi called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. at which time everyone present stated their names and affiliations.

The first order of business was approval of the minutes from the March 15, 2006 meeting. Ms. Spence made a motion to approve the minutes as presented Father LaBarge seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Next Chairman Gangemi made an announcement that the Executive Committee had a meeting prior to this one and they approved the Executive minutes at that time from the March 15, 2006 meeting of the Executive Board. Mr. Nashold made a motion to approve the ratification of those minutes, Ms. Harrington seconded the motion and the ratification of those minutes was approved by all.

Ricky Travers presented the treasurer's report for approval. Being no questions were asked Ms. Spence made a motion to accept the report as presented, Mr. Travers seconded the motion and the treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

The next order of business was discussion of approval of the Scope of Work for FY07. Mr. Warner informed the Board that this had been discussed in Executive session previously and described the changes suggested by the Board. They included the deletion of the last item under deliverables – “Help establish/govern Chesapeake Regional Television”. Mr. Warner then went on to explain what the regional TV station hoped to accomplish at which time Mr. Smyth interjected that he understood the objective to be to help “brand” the region and asked the Board to allow it to stay on the Scope. Ms. Spence voiced concerns that the mission was not critical due to the length of things to do already on the Scope of Work for the Mid Shore Regional Council and she feels they need to scale back in some ways. Mr. Adams questioned Mr. Warner as to the amount of time involved on his part, to which Mr. Warner answered to date he is an active participant on

an Advisory Board. Mr. Smyth stated strongly that this effort will help with tourism and will help to attract new businesses to the area. Mr. Adams suggested that we keep this effort on the Scope until the next scheduled board meeting on September 13, 2006 when Mr. Warner will report to the Board how taxing a deal this has been for him to date.

Item 5 under Actions – “Serve as liaison between General Assembly members and local elected officials” was taken off the Scope it was a unanimous vote to put this back on the Scope. Father LaBarge made a motion to accept the Scope of Work for FY07 with changes, Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Next order of business was the approval of the FY07 budget. As there were no changes Ms. Spence made a motion to accept as presented Mr. Travers seconded the motion and the budget was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Presentation “Patuxent Naval Air Station Overview”

Captain Henry with the assistance of Lieutenant Archer of the Patuxent Naval Air Station gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the facility's accomplishments to date and sharing the many types of air craft at the base.

Progress and action taken from State Highway Administration presentation at March 15, 2006 Board meeting

Mr. Warner reported that a letter requesting communication between SHA and local offices was mailed on March 23 to all Planning and Zoning Departments, Mayors, and County Administrators in the Mid-Shore Region.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC)

Mr. Warner informed the Council that the Rural Broadband Communications bill was signed into law on May 2 (\$10 million over the next 3 years); that documents have been filed for release of NASA money (approximately \$1.838 million); MDBC Articles of Inc. were submitted on May 9; MDBC Bylaws are being drafted; and the MDBC Board of Directors will be meeting on July 20. He also stated that the Cooperative has received a verbal commitment for the position of Project Manager. Additionally, the MDBC will be contracting with Dana Seiler and Diana Nolte to handle the overall General Manager duties/filing of the project plans. Mr. Seiler and Ms. Nolte have been acting in this role for many months on a volunteer basis. They both have a great deal of experience in the formation of the Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative.

Workforce Issues Task Force

Mr. Warner told the Board that there have been three task force committees to date formed to address these issues and they have been broken down into the sub committees of: Childcare, Foundations to Enter the Workforce, Conflict Management / Current Workplace Issues

All committees have met twice so far and he will keep the Board up to date on their progress for each at our next meeting.

MUST (Maryland Upper Shore Transit)

Mr. Warner shared a video that he helped get produced that will be distributed to local organizations along with bus schedules to help promote the MUST bus program throughout the community. He informed the Council that a scheduling and asset allocation system (aka Navtrak) ceremony is being planned. Also, the MSRC office is waiting to hear from the MTA regarding money for FY07. Fares are due to increase on the system from \$.50 to \$1.00 for senior riders and from \$1.00 to \$2.00 for all other passengers.

Regional e-commerce web site

Mr. Smyth informed the Board the Shore Gourmet Articles have been filed and that he and Mr. Warner have been in contact with Jim Waters and Signe Hippert of the USDA for alternate funding options for the eCommerce project. Mr. Smyth also stated that he has arranged for the first focus group to test new products and he has also lined up several new retail outlets to carry existing products he has been working with.

Agricultural Economic Development Specialist

Mr. Warner told the Board that he recently had a meeting at the Talbot County Ag Extension office that included agents from Talbot, Caroline and Dorchester counties as well as local farmers from the areas. He was exploring whether or not an Ag Specialist would be something welcomed in this area. He reported that all persons present would welcome such a person and he is seeking approval from the Board to continue exploring this option including finding funding sources for such a position etc. There was a general discussion and concern voiced by Ms. Harrington as to where funding would be expected from and if Mr. Warner would expect the Counties to help fund such a position because she was not in favor of such a request. Mr. Warner stated that he is approaching USDA at the moment and hoped to be able to fund this endeavor without having to burden the Counties. Mr. McHenry stated that there should be dedicated pools of funding available for such a position also. Ms. Spence was concerned that there might be an overlapping of services between the Ag agents and an Ag specialist. It was explained that the Ag agents are to educate where the Ag specialist would be involved in legislation and value added issues etc. Mr. Broadwell voiced concern that the watermen and forestry industries would be encompassed as well under this category and not just agriculture. Ms. Bethke suggested this be umbrella'd under eCommerce to be able to piggyback on USDA funding opportunities available to eCommerce. Chairman Gangemi took a vote of only the voting members of the council to determine if Mr. Warner should continue or not with this effort and the vote was 8 to 1 with Ms. Spence, Mr.'s Gangemi, Travers, Adams, LaBarge, Stanley, Wilson and Nashold voting in favor of continuing Ms. Harrington was opposed. Ms. Bethke abstained from voting due to her new job as Economic Development Director of Talbot County .

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

The ESEC Board met and voted to extend Mr. Smyth's contract for another year. Mr. Smyth told the Board that the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center has completed four loans to date and he has another three companies in the pipeline for additional funding.

The Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center has also been approached by TEDCO to serve as an incubator for the area for Brain Capital.

Latino workforce / CASA study

Mr. Warner stated that the CASA study is not completed as of this date. Peter Byrnes and Memo Diriker are getting the CASA decision makers together to come up with 1 or 2 scenarios that make the most sense.

Chesapeake Regional Television

Mr. Warner is to remain on the advisory board for this endeavor and report back to the Board at our next meeting to determine whether or not the Mid Shore Regional Council will pursue this or not.

New Business

Presentation on Rural Maryland Council activities

Steve McHenry of RMC gave a detailed account of what the council has to offer including a briefing on what we can expect at the next Maryland Rural Summit on October 25-27, 2006 in Cecil County

Up Date on 2006 Legislative Session

Steve McHenry gave a brief update on the bills passed by the legislature that directly effect rural communities.

Other matters

The next scheduled meeting of the Mid Shore Regional Council is September 13, 2006 and will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Easton , Talbot County .

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

Chairman Gangemi adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. by unanimous consent of the Board.