

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on September 12, 2007 at the Krystal Q Conference Center in Easton. Members in attendance included: Allen Nelson, Delegate Jeannie Haddaway, Gale Nashold, Jeff Ghrist, Burton Wilson, Carolyn Spicher, Charles Cawley, Delegate Adelaide Eckardt, Ellery Adams, Frank Narr Jr., Judy Noel, Russell Dize, Andy Hollis, Ricky Travers, Mayor Rippons and Senator Richard Colburn. Economic Development Directors present were: Paige Bethke, Brad Broadwell and JOK Walsh. MSRC staff members present were: Scott Warner, Terry Deighan and Wen-Fei Uva. Several guests were also in attendance: Calvin Edghill, Kia Booker and Nia Hope of EDA, Delegate Richard Sossi, Field Representative Lee Whaley of Senator Cardin's office, Dr. Mike Scott of ESRGC, David Jenkins of RMC, John General of CBRTCE, Janice Kerr of the Mid Shore League of Women Voters, Cynthia Pyron of Caroline County, Kurt Fuchs of the Maryland Farm Bureau and Mindie Burgoyne of DBED.

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and introductions were made.

Action Items

The first order of business was approval of June 13, 2007 Minutes. Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to approve which was given by Mr. Nashold and seconded by Mr. Travers and approved by all.

The second order of business was ratification of the minutes from the May 31, 2007 Executive Board meeting. Mr. Nelson asked for a motion to approve that was given by Mayor Rippons and seconded by Ms. Noel and approved by all.

Mayor Rippons then presented the treasurer's report to the board for review and asked for any questions, being none Mr. Cawley made a motion to accept the report as presented, Mr. Travers seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Old Business

Update on MSRC becoming an EDA Economic Development District (EDD)

Mr. Warner informed the Board that the EDD package has been completed and was mailed to the EDA Philadelphia office on August 13. He also informed them that in their folders is the "Average Per Capita Income: Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties" map. 70% of the population for the entire region is below 80% of the national PCI, \$26,440. He then asked our EDA contact Mr. Edghill to speak about the EDD process for a few minutes and announced how proud we were to have Mr. Edghill present at our meeting and what a tremendous help he was in helping us get our package completed.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Warner told the Board Members that the last full CEDS Committee meeting was held on August 9th at Chesapeake College.

The following Projects are Underway or in Progress:

- Mid-Shore Business and Technology Park located in Ridgely – construction is underway.
- City of Cambridge/Dorchester Technology Park – engineering complete
- Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc. – construction is underway
- Route 404 improvements – construction is underway
- Maryland Upper Shore Transit (MUST), public transportation – underway
- Regional Wastewater Infrastructure Study – completed November 2003
- St. Michaels Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer Collection System is near completion by Talbot County
- Economic Adjustment Strategy was completed March 2004
- Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) is fully operational
- GIS growth impact assessments are being prepared for towns in Caroline County

- Mr. Warner announced the Work Task Force Study comprised of three subcommittees have Phase 1 project's in progress.

- The Mid-Shore Near Equity Fund is being overseen by ESEC.

Mr. Warner announced the following projects are in development:

- Mid-Shore Business and Technology Incubator
- Eastern Shore Venture Network – Angel Investors
- Support infrastructure for renewable, sustainable fuel sources

Also the next CEDS Executive Committee meeting will be held in October to review new CEDS proposed projects and the next full Committee meeting will be held in January 2008.

Update on Mid-Shore Regional Council projects

Maryland Broadband Cooperative

- Mr. Warner told the Board that Members have started to be accepted to the MdBC and to date approved members include the Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative, Easton Utilities, Bay Country Communications, Caroline County, Metro-Cast, and Atlantic Tech Online. One membership that has been received for review at the next Board meeting is Dorchester County.
- Fiber has been trenched along Route 50 through Dorchester County and across the Choptank River Bridge
- A Request For Proposal (RFP) to hire a consulting firm to develop a business plan for the ongoing operation of the MdBC fiber optic cable network has been advertised.
- MdBC has met with Delaware officials to discuss various fiber initiatives. This was prompted by Calvin Edghill.
- There is a post card invitation in your folder regarding the celebration of fiber across the Bay Bridge. Celebration will be on Tuesday, October 9 at 10:30am at

Hemingways' Restaurant on Kent Island. Senator Mikulski and Governor O'Malley will be speaking.

Rural Maryland Broadband Coordination Board

Mr. Warner stated at their June 14 meeting they received a progress report from the MdBC. Reviewed modifications of the FY07 DBED grant and approved federal and state funding requests to the MdBC. Virgil Shockley was unanimously elected to continue as Board Chair for fiscal year 2008. Meetings were held on August 10th and 20th approving funding to pay bills for work that had already been completed.

Business and Technology Parks

Caroline County - The Mid-Shore Business and Technology Park located in Ridgely should be complete by the end of November: water and sewer connections from town have been made – pressure testing underway, side walks around parking lot have been installed, most of water and sewer in the park have been installed, and getting close to paving parking lot. Contract should be completed on schedule.

Dorchester County - Dan Gillen, EDA Senior Project Engineer, met with Brad Broadwell, John General, and Scott Warner on July 26. At that time Mr. Gillen informed the group that the unsigned EDA pre-application that he requested in May was very good. He now wanted the incubator to be encompassed with the signed pre-application and submitted in August. Dorchester County Economic Development office mailed him the signed pre-application to his Philadelphia office on August 21.

Agricultural Economic Development Specialist

Mr. Warner introduced Wen-Fei Uva who is the Mid Shore Regional Council's new Agricultural Economic Development Specialist to the Board. Ms. Uva shared a few of the things she has accomplished since taking the position in August. She serves on the committee to establish and oversee the Cambridge Farmers Market; she has met with Brad Powers and also attended the Talbot County 2007 Farm Tour. Mr. Warner accompanied her and introduced her to Caroline and Dorchester County Councils (Talbot in the near future.) She visited many agencies in August, including the Maryland Cooperative Extension Educators in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot, Economic Development Offices in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot. She has spent time with Caroline County farmers, Caroline Farm Bureau, winery owners and grape growers in the region, Chesapeake Fields and The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Her position has been funded in part by the MSRC as we were awarded another MAERDAF grant (FY08) for \$14,000 from September 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. "If additional funding is approved through a budget amendment, an additional \$3,000 will be awarded". Mr. Nelson also added that the MSRC along with Ms. Uva hope to create an Ag Committee in the near future.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

Mr. Nelson gave an update on the ESEC Entrepreneurship School explaining funding is still being sought at this point but it will be a very affordable group of classes focused on both adults and high school students who are interested in starting their own businesses but lack the skills to do so. The schools would be offered to residents of Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Kent and Queen Anne's County.

MUST (Maryland Upper Shore Transit)

Mr. Warner stated the Upper Shore Coordinated Transportation Planning Committee has reviewed the final draft of the plan and public hearings will be scheduled. New MUST schedules and brochures have been distributed and they include a Spanish translation. Mr. General announced that the scheduling and asset allocation system is in its final months of testing and presently work is being done on the Request For Proposal for the bus advertising. To date the MSRC office has not yet received the MUST grant documents for FY08.

Workforce Issues Task Force

Mr. Warner made the following updates to the three workforce subcommittees as follows:

Child Care subcommittee

Waiting to print the poster to make sure the Child Care Resource Centers do not have their state funding ended by the recommended budget cuts.

Foundations to Enter the Workforce subcommittee

“Statement of Work Ethic” advertisement is being designed by Chesapeake Publishing; it has been endorsed by 49 companies.

Conflict Management/Current Workplace Issues subcommittee

Mid Shore Mediation will be conducting a Conflict Management Training – session 1 on October 26 and session 2 on November 30, both sessions will be held at their office (the old Talbot Business Center) from 8:30am – 12:30pm. It is recommend to send two employees to reinforce each other’s skills noting the class is capped at 20 participants.

New Business

David Jenkins, Executive Director Rural Maryland Council gave a PowerPoint presentation on 2020 Rural Prosperity Investment Fund.

Next Mike Scott, Director of the ESRGC, Associate professor of Geography and Geosciences at Salisbury University, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC).

Lastly Calvin Edghill, EDA Senior Community Planner, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the overview of EDA Economic Development Districts.

Other matters

Mr. Warner announced the following meetings were scheduled:

- Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) – Federal Technology Transfer
The Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting on October 22-24, 2007 will be held at the Harbourtowne Resort, St. Michaels. The MSRC staff is working with the FLC to have an afternoon planning session with FLC officials. The session will be a forum to plan a 1 day technology transfer event for the region.
- The next MSRC meeting will be held on November 8 right here at the Krystal Q
The MSRC meeting will start at with an Executive Session beginning at 9:30am.

Annual Joint Meeting of the three Eastern Shore Regional Councils will immediately follow. The MSRC is the host. The tentative agenda includes:

- Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David Edgerley
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- Rural Maryland Council
- Legislative Forum

Member comments/requests

Paige Bethke, Economic Development Director for Talbot County informed the group that on October 4th, there is a MEDA conference being held at the Krystal Q Conference Center and all interested parties can go to www.meda.md.com for details.

Adjourn

Mr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m. by unanimous consensus.