

The Mid Shore Regional Council held a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on November 8, 2007 at the Krystal Q Conference Center in Easton. Members in attendance included: Walter Chase, Jerome Stanley, Gale Nashold, Jeff Ghrist, Ellery Adams, Lin Spicer, Charlie Cawley, Jane Baynard, Andy Hollis and Dirck Bartlett. Economic Development Directors present were: Brad Broadwell, Paige Bethke, JOK Walsh and Mary Calloway. MSRC staff members present were: Scott Warner, Terry Deighan and Wen-Fei Uva. Several guests were also in attendance: Field Representative Lee Whaley of Senator Cardin's office, Dr. Mike Scott of ESRGC, John General of CBRTCE, Jim Voss, Fred Smyth of ESEC, Kurt Fuchs of the Maryland Farm Bureau, Tyler Patton of Senator Mikulski's office, Signe Hippert of USDA, Natalie Chabot of Caroline Chamber of Tourism and Mindie Burgoyne of DBED.

### **Action Items**

In Chairman Nelson's absence, Vice Chairman Jeff Ghrist called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at which time introductions were made. Talbot County Manager Andrew Hollis announced he was in possession of two proxy votes, Dorchester County Manager Jane Baynard announced she was also in possession of two proxy votes and Caroline County Administrator Charles Cawley announced he was in possession of one proxy vote.

The first order of business was approval of September 12, 2007 minutes. Mr. Hollis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Stanley seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The next order of business was approval of the treasurer's report. In Treasurer Rippons absence Mr. Ghrist also presented the treasurer's report for approval. Mr. Chase made a motion to approve as presented, Mr. Broadwell seconded the motion and the report was approved unanimously as presented.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Warner gave an update on the MSRC becoming an EDA Economic Development District, stating that the EDD package is currently in process at the EDA Philadelphia office where it will be reviewed, including legal review, before being sent to the Washington office.

Mr. Warner stated that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) held an Executive Committee meeting on October 31 to evaluate proposed projects and the next full Committee meeting will be held in January.

### **Maryland Broadband Cooperative (Mdbc)**

Mr. Warner announced several new members of the Mdbc included Dorchester County, Atlantic Broadband, Worcester County, Carroll County, and Maryland State Highway Administration. There are currently 16 members of the Mdbc. Vice Chairman Ghrist took this opportunity to publicly thank Senators Cardin and Mikulski for the progress in Caroline County. Mr. Warner also informed the board that the pre-engineering documents regarding the fiber run between the Choptank River Bridge and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge are in the process of being submitted to the state.

### **Business and Technology Parks**

#### **Caroline County**

Mr. Ghrist informed the Board that Phase 1 of the Mid-Shore Business and Technology Park located in Ridgely is in the final stages of completion – paving of the parking lots are being done, light standards are up, water and sewer on the park is complete, water and sewer infrastructure connections to the town are complete, the wet well pump package should be delivered any day now. Mr. Cawley added that the project is on schedule and under budget and marketing is moving forward as well, under the direction of Marketing Director Cynthia Pyron.

#### **Dorchester County**

Mr. Warner stated that Dan Gillen, EDA Senior Project Engineer, reviewed the EDA pre-application and upon preliminary review the EDA review committee approved \$2M for the project for FY08.

### **Mid-Shore Business and Technology Incubator**

Mr. Warner stated that Brad Broadwell, John General and he met with two firms, recommended by TEDCO (Maryland Technology Development Corporation), to conduct a business plan. They were ANGLE Technology and Facility Logix, LLC, both companies' submitted proposals.

### **Agricultural Economic Development Specialist**

Ms. Uva gave a brief overview of what she has accomplished to date since starting with the MSRC in August. Ms Uva explained she had visited with many resources including the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, MARBIDCO (Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation), each of the County offices, USDA Rural Development, and Maryland Department of Agriculture. She also visited many local producers including: J.M. Clayton Company in Cambridge, Hutchison Brothers, Chapel Country Creamery, Marvesta Shrimp, Tilmon's Island Winery, Secretary of the Maryland Grape Grower Association Jennie Schmidt, St. Michaels Winery, Kevin Atticks, Executive Director of the Maryland Wineries Association, and Layton's Chance Vineyard and Winery.

She along with Wayne Bel of Washington College and John Seidel met with Congressman Wayne Gilchrest to discuss Federal Farm Bill and the Eastern Shore agriculture and Talbot Ag Visioning Plan's next step. Wenfei is also working with Wayne Bell, Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Bethke, and Talbot Cooperative Extension Agent Shannon Dill on forming an Ag Advisory Committee that will oversee the Talbot Ag Visioning Plan's next step.

Wenfei also met with Dan Kuennen, Director of the Rural Development Center, Maryland Cooperative Extension at University of Maryland, Eastern Shore and discussed resources and projects his Center is working on. Including helping him with U.S. Orchids, She has also been helping Dan and Mary Ann Wo, DBED Choose Maryland, identify business opportunity for TAISUCO, an international orchid company from Taiwan to locate in the Eastern Shore. In addition, Dr. Uva has been working with Ginger Myers, Regional Marketing Extension Specialist with Maryland Cooperative Extension, hoping to have a collaborative effort to develop marketing education materials using Wenfei's work from Cornell University. Other projects in the works include: Agriculture Marketing Professionals (AMPs) from around the state, tourism Directors from Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties and the region (Jim Rapp, DLITE – Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences), Agri-tourism, Denton Farmers' Market, Smithsonian Travel Exhibit – America by Food helping promote agriculture in the mid-shore region. As well as starting work on value-added projects for Shore Gourmet.

### **Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)**

Executive Director Fred Smyth told the Board that the ESEC has been asked to be an incubator for TEDCO and to date there are two businesses being represented. Also the Entrepreneurship School is about to begin he is awaiting instructions from the Kauffman Foundation at this time.

### **MUST (Maryland Upper Shore Transit)**

Mr. Warner announced that the MSRC received, had attorney review, and signed the FY08 grant document and returned the document to the MTA in October. John General of MUST and Jerome Stanley of DCT spoke about the scheduling and asset allocation system; the President of Navtrak Jim Duncan demonstrated MDT (Mobil Data Terminal) at the October MUST meeting. Both men spoke very favorably about the system stating it will make the transit system run more efficiently and smoother. Mr. General also informed the Council that he gave a presentation on the application of MDTs for rural transit at the annual TAM (Transportation Association of Maryland) conference in Ocean City, where he distributed promotional tote bags with MUST and transportation provider logos. A Request For Proposal (RFP) for the bus advertising is in final draft of being written. John General attended JARC/New Freedom Programs workshop at Chesapeake College on October 4 and he has since met with Queen Anne's County Ride and DCT to review proposal opportunities

### **Workforce Issues Task Force**

#### **Child Care subcommittee**

Mr. Warner announced that the Child Care subcommittee is still waiting to print the poster until we are sure the Child Care Resource Centers do not have their state funding ended by the recommended budget cuts.

#### **Foundations to Enter the Workforce subcommittee**

The Foundations to Enter the Workforce subcommittee "Statement of Work Ethic" advertisement is being redesigned by Chesapeake Publishing and to date it has been endorsed by 49 companies.

### Conflict Management/Current Workplace Issues subcommittee

Mid Shore Mediation conducted a Conflict Management Training – session 1 was to be held on October 26 with the second session to be on November 30 unfortunately the October 26 session had to be cancelled and will be held on November 30. Eight companies are signed up to participate.

### **Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative**

Dr. Michael Scott gave a brief update of what the Coop has been up to. He touched on Caroline County's critical area project as well as Talbot County's impervious surface project and has begun work on Dorchester County's Maryland Department of Natural Resources flooding vulnerability back-up data storage project. Mr. Warner reminded the members that one of the perks of being a member is reduced rates on projects done in our area and encouraged the use of the ESRGC.

### **New Business**

Mr. Warner announced the meeting dates for 2008 have tentatively been set as follows:

- March 12, 2008 – Caroline County
- June 11, 2008 – Dorchester County
- September 17, 2008 – Talbot County
- November 12, 2008 – prior to the Joint Regional Councils' Meeting

### **2008 Officer Selection**

The next order of business was officer selection for the 2008 Board. The 2008 Proposed Executive Board Members were:

Chairman: Gale Nashold  
First Vice-Chairman: Dirck Bartlett (Talbot)  
Second Vice-Chairman: Ricky Travers (Dorchester)  
Third Vice-Chairman: Jeff Ghrist (Caroline)  
Secretary: Allen Nelson  
Treasurer: Cleveland Rippons  
General Assembly: Richard Colburn  
One-at-large Member: Walter Chase

Mr. Warner asked for any changes to the slate or a motion to accept. Mr. Adams made a motion to accept the proposed Board Members as presented, Mr. Chase seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously to accept the list as presented for the MSRC Board for 2008.

### **Other matters**

Mr. Warner stated as promoted at the last MSRC meeting the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) – Federal Technology Transfer held its Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting in St. Michaels in October. MSRC staff organized a meeting between FLC officials and local and state economic development professionals to establish a one day FLC technology transfer event for the region. The outcome will be an event to be planned for winter 2008.

**Member comments/requests**

Scott Warner and Jeff Ghrist both took a moment to give a big thank-you to both Lee Whaley of Senator Cardin's office and Tyler Patton of Senator Mikulski's office for all of their hard work and help with so many of the Mid Shore projects especially Broadband. We appreciate their continued support by attending our quarterly meetings to keep up to date on current projects.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Cawley made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Stanley seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. by unanimous consent.