

**Draft
Minutes**

**MSRC Board Meeting September 17, 2008
Patuxent River Naval Air Station Tour**

The Mid Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on September 17, 2008. The meeting was a special trip to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station and the meeting was conducted on a DCT bus on the way to Hoopers Island. Members in attendance were: Carolyn Spicher, Dirck Bartlett, Gale Nashold, James Redman, Kurt Fuchs, Rick Barton, Judy Noel, Walter Chase, Maria D'Arcy, Frank Narr, Allen Nelson, Jerome Stanley, and Lin Spicer. Mid Shore Regional Council staff present was: Scott Warner, Wenfei Uva and Terry Deighan. Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe was present. Guests in attendance were: Fred Smyth of ESEC, Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, and Kevin Deighan.

Action Items

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. The first order of business was approval of the June 11, 2008 Minutes. On a motion by Allen Nelson that was seconded by Lin Spicer the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Update on permanent Economic Development District (EDD) Status

Scott Warner gave Board Members an update on MSRC becoming an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Development District, stating that the MSRC should hear about the final designation anytime now and there is a possibility at the November MSRC meeting EDA officials might be attending at which time they will present the MSRC with its official designation papers.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Warner stated there was a CEDS meeting held on August 26, 2008 at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton at which time a review of goals, objectives and progress on projects was conducted. Committee members were encouraged to talk to their respective organizations/constituents regarding the submittal of new projects to be included in the February 2009 edition of the CEDS document. The CEDS Executive Committee will meet towards the end of October at which time they will evaluate the proposed projects based on the guidelines established in the CEDS document. Then in January the CEDS Full Committee will meet to accept or reject proposed projects.

Workforce Issues Task Force

Mr. Warner gave an update on the Task Force "Foundations to Enter the Workforce" stating the "Statement of Work Ethic" ¼ page ad ran in the Star Democrat on Wednesday, June 18, and Sunday, June 22. The paper is

distributed in five counties (Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Kent and Queen Anne's). The Star Democrat has a daily circulation of 20,500. This concluded all three of the subcommittee's actions.

The following organizations will be handling the follow-thru on the original three subcommittees:

- Conflict Management/Current Workplace Issues – Mid-Shore Community Mediation
- Child Care – Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center
- Foundations to Enter the Workforce – V.P. of Shore Health Systems

Maryland Broadband Cooperative

Mr. Warner gave the following updates on broadband: NASA Wallops Island Facility is communicating with Goddard Space Flight Center and construction is nearing completion on the Salisbury to Chesapeake Bay Bridge segment. The final electronic connections and testing will be under way soon and should be completed by the end of this year. In Southern Maryland – Harry Nice Bridge celebration will be scheduled in the near future and the request for the release of state funds to match the EDA grant has been made. The permitting process of the EDA phase of the project is underway – Elkton to Chesapeake College and the Caroline County Business and Technology Park located in Ridgely, and Pocomoke to Selbyville. Currently there are 32 members of the MdBC; new members are Verizon Maryland, Pepco Holdings, Inc., and University of Maryland Medical System. The first annual membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2008.

Business and Technology Parks

Caroline County

Acting County Administrator Rick Barton gave a brief update of the project.

Dorchester County

Dorchester County Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe gave an update stating the water and sewer will be run in the near future as well as submission for lot sub divisions.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)

ESEC Executive Director Fred Smyth stated that ESEC received a \$45,000 grant award for operating assistance from the EDA. ESEC was also awarded a \$15,000 grant from TEDCO (Maryland Technology Development Corporation) to launch an entrepreneurship school in five counties (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot). The scheduled launch date is mid January 2009. ESEC's Strategic Planning TIGER Team assists large businesses with strategic initiatives. In several cases it has helped them reinvent their businesses and new product lines. Five companies in the Mid-Shore region have been assisted (1 in Caroline, 1 in Dorchester and 3 in Talbot Counties). Mr. Warner added

that EDA officials have been in contact with ESEC and MSRC staff and they are very supportive of ESEC programs.

MUST (Maryland Upper Shore Transit)

Mr. Warner informed Board members that all FY09 grant requests were awarded (MTA and Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties). The MUST Business Plan and Strategic Plan are finalized and work is being done on a new layout for the MUST schedule. The scheduling and asset allocation system is being tested with DCT (Delmarva Community Transit) through the Caroline and Dorchester dispatch offices. KFH will be assisting the MTA (Maryland Transit Administration) and MUST with the final report of this FTA (Federal Transit Administration) program. The goal to submit the report is the end of January 2009. The CBRTCE (Chesapeake Bay Region Technical Center of Excellence) has not received the grant papers to proceed with the Workforce ONE Maryland BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure, U.S. Department of Defense) grant addressing the impact of BRAC on commuter patterns on the Eastern Shore. The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) Regional Transportation Summit on November 7 at Chesapeake College will highlight the transportation providers (DCT and QACR) and the MUST program. Providers are working with the ESLC to provide various pick up points so attendees can ride the bus to the Summit. Stops will include Kent Island, Chestertown, Centreville, Denton, Easton, Cambridge and Salisbury.

Agricultural Economic Development Specialist

Wenfei Uva stated the Buy Local Challenge Week has concluded and seemed to be a big success, Secretary Richardson joined in the festivities by coming to Easton. The Mid Shore Agriculture Directory is almost ready to go to the printers; finalization of sponsors is being completed now. Wenfei is helping to develop Education Farm Tours to help promote agriculture in the region. Establishing Shore Gourmet Markets in the region is ongoing; to date four locations have been secured. Wenfei is also assisting in the development of a Vineyard Management Company; a seminar is being scheduled in the near future to determine a need.

Eastern Shore Economic Development/Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) partnership

Mr. Warner announced that the FLC Mid-Atlantic Region Annual Meeting is currently being held (September 15-17, 2008) at the Rocky Gap Resort near Cumberland, Maryland. This year's focus is on "Frontiers of Technology Transfer." Talbot County Economic Development Director Paige Bethke is representing the Eastern Shore at the event. A technology transfer educational seminar for Eastern Shore companies is being planned for January 29, 2009 at Salisbury University. The event will introduce the mechanics of tech transfer to the companies and to clearly educate companies as to "what's in it for them" to work with federal labs.

Eastern Shore BRAC impact study for the Eastern Shore Partnership
The MSRC has not yet received notice of the second round of BRAC grants.

Eastern Shore Business and Economic Development Dashboard Specialist position

Mr. Warner announced interviews were conducted on August 7 by representative of all the participating organizations (Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, MSRC, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES), ESRGC (Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative) and BEACON (Business, Economics, and Community Outreach Network, Franklin P. Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University)) and a unanimous decision was made to offer the job to Mr. James Garrity. He accepted the offer and started on September 8. Mr. Warner informed everyone that Mr. Garrity is traveling with the TCCLES this morning and will be on the tour today.

Economic Development and Transportation Planner position
EDA is finalizing the grant for this position

New Business

The next Mid-Shore Regional Council meeting will be at the Krystal Q in Easton on Wednesday, November 12. This concluded our formal business as we arrived at Hoopers Island to board a boat to take us to our tour of Patuxent River Naval Air Station with the TCCLES.

Other matters

None

Member comments/requests

None

Adjourn

This portion of our day was concluded at 9:15 a.m.