

Rural Maryland Council
Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, August 29, 2013 at noon
Maryland Department of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
Annapolis, Maryland

Executive Committee members present:

Scott Warner, Chair; Mid-Shore Regional Council
Doris Mason, First Vice Chair; Upper Shore Regional Council
Thomas McLoughlin, Second Vice Chair

Executive Board members present:

Kathy Beisner, USDA Rural Development
Greg Cole, Department of Business and Economic Development
The Honorable Addie Eckardt, The Maryland House of Delegates
Rodney Glotfelty, Garrett County Health Department
Erroll Mattox, University of Maryland Extension
The Honorable Mike McKay, Chair, Allegany County Board of Commissioners; Maryland Association of Counties
S. Patrick McMillan, Department of Agriculture
Mike Pennington, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland
Anne Stringer, proxy for Carol Gilbert, Department of Housing and Community Development
Mike Thielke, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center
Ann Walsh, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Emily Wilson, Department of Natural Resources

Guests present:

Dr. Jon Andes, Eastern Shore of Maryland Education Consortium
Libby Campbell, Alice Ferguson Foundation
Mary Beth Carozza, Candidate for The Maryland House of Delegates, District 38C
Paula Chase Hyman, Maryland Municipal League
Ragen Cherney, Maryland Rural Counties Coalition
Michelle Clark, Maryland Rural Health Association
Susan R. Harrison, LEAD Maryland
Leslie Hart, Hagerstown-Washington County EDC
Josh Hastings, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Beverly Lang, Nurse Practitioners Association of Maryland
Gail Owings, Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area
Rodney Pearson, Sr., Candidate for Washington County Commissioner
Lenny Pfeffer, Candidate for Dorchester County Council
Brad Phillips, Maryland Association of Community Colleges
Linda Prochaska, Office of United States Senator Barbara Mikulski
M. Louise Reynnells, USDA Rural Information Center
Jocelyn Richardson, SMTCCAC
John Ryerson, Norseman Defense Technologies
Dorotheann Sadusky, Office of Senator James N. Mathias, Jr.
Joseph Scott, USDA Farm Service Agency
Randy Stapleton, CDW

Marlene Titus, Carroll Community College

Maria Triandos, Candidate for The Maryland House of Delegates, District 30A

Joseph D. Uhler, Candidate for The Maryland House of Delegates, District 36

Judge Mark Widmyer, Allegany County Orphans Court

Sharon Wilson, Health Outreach Worker & Navigator for Maryland's Eastern Shore

Staff members present:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Robert Bernhard, Administrative and Communications Assistant

Welcome and Agenda Overview

Mr. Warner provided a welcome and introductory remarks. He thanked Delegate Eckardt and other legislators for their continuing support of the Rural Maryland Council and thanked Ms. Mason and Mr. Pennington for their dedication and hard work to bring about the rebirth of the agency.

Minutes

The Executive Board reviewed the minutes of the previous Executive Board Meeting held on March 22, 2013. Commissioner McKay moved adoption of the minutes, Mr. Mattox seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted.

Financial Report

Ms. Davis provided a final report for Fiscal Year 2013. She and Mr. Warner had met with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to review the finances and create the Fiscal Year 2014 budget.

Ms. Davis proposed funding in the amount of \$2,500 for the Executive Director to travel to Vermont and participate in the Partners for Rural America conference. Delegate Eckardt moved approval of the funding, Mr. McLoughlin seconded the motion, and the funding was approved.

Ms. Davis proposed hiring of a marketing consultant to work on publicity and communications for the Rural Action Assembly, 2014 legislative agenda, MAERDAF, and other projects. She presented two bids for review by the Executive Board. Mr. Mattox moved approval of the bid by Purple Cat for \$5,015; Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion; and the bid was approved.

Ms. Davis proposed partnership with the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center with a contribution of \$10,000 for the Eastern Shore Business Plan Competition. Rural Maryland Council would also provide \$5,000 in prize money for the Invest Maryland Challenge's best rural business plan. Mr. Pennington moved approval of the partnership and funding, Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion, and the partnership and funding were approved.

Ms. Davis presented the Fiscal Year 2014 proposed budget. Commissioner McKay moved approval of the budget, Delegate Eckardt seconded the motion, and the budget was approved.

Legislative Committee Report

Ms. Davis reported that the Committee is still without a chair presently but that there had been interest in the position. She asked anyone else with an interest to contact Mr. Warner or herself. Formal nominations and a vote for the Committee Chair will take place at the annual meeting.

Healthcare Committee Report

Mr. McLoughlin reported that the committee had been in discussion as to what type of role it should play in the emergence of telemedicine in Maryland and suggested partnering with the Maryland Rural Health Association to hold roundtables throughout the state and possibly funding the Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center. He also reported that movement has been slowed during staffing vacancies in the State Office of Rural Health and Rural Maryland Council but that the Committee is preparing to move forward.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Mr. Warner reported that the Executive Committee had met with the staff of Lt. Governor Brown.

Ms. Davis announced that the Rural Maryland Council staff will draft a form letter in support of funding the RMPIF and she will circulate it widely within the next week. She asked that everyone send it on his or her own behalf to Governor O'Malley and continue to circulate it within their own networks.

Ms. Davis reported that the Rural Maryland Council intends to make three changes to the statute establishing the RMPIF: add healthcare to the list of funding categories, increase the capacity for regional councils, and change the Fund's sunset date from 2020 to 2030 since eight years have elapsed so far with zero funding.

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA)

Mr. Mattox reported that he had been officially nominated to represent the Rural Maryland Council on the body but that the body had not yet convened.

Other Reports

Ms. Davis announced that the Executive Committee had met in May and agreed to cohost a roundtable with the State Office of Rural Health and Maryland Rural Health Association. The topic of the webinar has not been established. Ms. Davis is also serving on two task forces.

Ms. Davis announced the hiring of Mr. Bernhard, the Administrative and Communications Assistant, on July 1, 2013.

Ms. Davis asked for feedback on a series of five proposed new logos for the Rural Maryland Council. There was majority support for potential logo number two.

Mr. Warner announced that the Rural Maryland Council website is transitioning onto the Maryland.gov server and thanked Ms. Davis and Mr. Bernhard for their work on this process.

Ms. Davis proposed participation in the Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Convention, December 8-10 in Ocean City, Maryland. Mr. Warner, Mr. Mattox, Mr. Thielke, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Glotfelty each stated they were supportive of participation as a sponsor with a booth, which costs \$250.

Mr. Warner appreciated Mr. McMillan's support of the Rural Maryland Council for the past several years and thanked him for allowing the RMC space within the Marketing suite of the Maryland Department of Agriculture state office building.

Mr. McMillan discussed the important role of the Rural Maryland Council in Maryland, stated he was glad for the RMC's presence, and appreciated that the Executive Board chose to meet in the Maryland Department of Agriculture building.

Mr. Warner appreciated Delegate Eckardt's support and leadership of the Rural Caucus and Eastern Shore Delegation in the General Assembly.

Elected and Appointed Official Comments

Delegate Eckardt discussed recent successes in agriculture, fisheries, economic development, and healthcare. She stressed the importance of working efficiently with available funds and resources and making spending an investment, and she spoke in support of attending the 2013 Rural Action Assembly.

Rural Action Assembly

Ms. Davis presented the tentative agenda for the conference, October 17-18, 2013, in Aberdeen, Maryland. She announced that sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Ms. Davis called for nominations for the Rural Impact Awards to be submitted as soon as possible. The deadline is August 31, 2013. Ms. Davis announced there had been a proposal to present the Outstanding Legislator Award to Lt. Governor Brown and requested comments. Mr. Thielke, Delegate Eckardt, and Ms. Harrison spoke against awarding to Lt. Governor Brown. Ms. Davis requested additional nominations to be submitted as soon as possible and stated that anyone may nominate individuals for any award.

Mr. Warner announced that the Rural Maryland Council annual meeting will take place on Wednesday night, October 16, 2013, at the Rural Action Assembly and that more information will be forthcoming.

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)

Ms. Davis presented the Fiscal Year 2013 final report. A total of \$195,956 was awarded to eleven grantees.

On behalf of Ms. Sharan Marshall, Chair, MAERDAF Review Board, Ms. Davis announced that 30 applicants applied for a total of \$577,889 in funding for Fiscal Year 2014. She reported the Grant Review Board met on July 31, 2013 and unanimously agreed to fund a total of nine projects with the available \$167,000. She stated that, overall, decisions were made to avoid funding non-sustainable operating expenses, conferences, and meetings, and the Board favored proposals that provided actual projects and services.

Ms. Davis announced that the Grant Review Board will decide how to allocate some funds that had been unspent and returned from Fiscal Year 2013 after processing by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Warner said that there were many qualified applications and a very limited amount of funding, so it is very important that the RMPF receive funding during the upcoming legislative session.

2014 Work Plan

Ms. Davis presented her Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2014, which had been approved by the Executive Committee. Mr. McLoughlin moved approval of the Work Plan, Commissioner McKay seconded the motion, and the Work Plan was approved.

Public Comment

Ms. Walsh announced that the State Office of Rural Health is now fully staffed and able to provide technical assistance and data, as well as other services relates to rural health.

Mr. Thielke announced that Startup Maryland will be launching its campaign on September 9, 2013 in Ocean City, Maryland, and all should visit the tour bus as it makes stops throughout the state.

Mr. Cole announced that grant funding is available for small, woman-owned, and minority-owned businesses through the Department of Business and Economic Development.

Ms. Sadusky announced that new phosphorous regulations that had been proposed have been tabled until 2014.

Mr. Warner recognized Delegate Eckardt, Chairman Norman Conway, Chairman Mac Middleton, and Senator Mathias for their support of the Rural Maryland Council.

Commissioner McKay announced that he is representing the Rural Counties Coalition along with Mr. Cherney and asked people to speak with him about the organization.

Future Board Meetings

Mr. Warner announced that the next Executive Board Meeting will take place on October 16, 2013 at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen, Maryland. This meeting will include selection of new Executive Board members. A call for interested individuals will be sent out in advance of the meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Mattox moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Glotfelty seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.