

**Rural Maryland Council
Executive Board and Annual Meeting
December 14, 2012
MD Department of Agriculture
Annapolis**

Attendees:

Executive Committee Members: Scott Warner, Chair; Wayne Clarke, 1st Vice Chair; Tom McLoughlin, 2nd Vice Chair; Bonnie Braun, Immediate Past Chair; Mike Pennington, Mike Thielke

Executive Board members: Erroll Mattox, Louise Reynnells, Leanne Mazer, Kevin Brooks, Dan Kugler, Matt Tefteau, Steve McHenry, Ken Korando, Kathy Beiser, Greg Cole, Taleah Parker, Emily Wilson, Will Breichner, Susan Harrison

Executive Director: Charlotte Davis

Guests: Mae Johnson, Conflict Resolution Center; Annie Kronk, MRHA; Michelle Clark, MRHA; Jim Youngquist, SERDI; Walter Chase

The meeting began at 11:00 am.

The Rural Maryland Council expressed its thanks to Interim Director, Mike Thielke.

The Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, briefly introduced herself.

Minutes:

The Executive Board reviewed the following minutes from the meetings held on:

- A. May 24, 2012 Executive Board Minutes

- B. Executive Committee Minutes
 - 1) November 22, 2011
 - 2) December 1, 2011
 - 3) January 30, 2012
 - 4) May 8, 2012
 - 5) September 28, 2012
 - 6) October 16, 2012
 - 7) October 31, 2012

Errol Mattox moved to ratify the minutes; Mike Pennington seconded; motion passed.

Financial Report

A financial report and budget was presented to the Executive Board. Kevin Brooks moved to accept the report; Mike Pennington seconded; motion was passed.

Regarding the Fiscal Year 2014 state budget, the Council requested level funding for FY 14. Although the Department of Agriculture will take a 4%-6% cut across the board, RMC and MAERDAF was submitted at FY 13 levels. The Executive Director will send out the RMC budget when it becomes available.

The MAERDAF grant received \$167,000 in FY 13. The Council reengaged the MAERDAF board which met in June and July. There were 20 applicants; of which, the board funded 10. There will be a supplemental process and will reengage the grant review board.

Mike Pennington moved to adjourn the Executive Board meeting; Emily Wilson seconded; motion passed.

The Annual Meeting was called to order around 11:30 am.

The slate of officers was presented to the Council. Kevin Brooks moved that nominations be closed; seconded by Mike Pennington. Motion passed.

The following officers were elected:

Chair: Scott Warner

1st Vice Chair: Wayne Clark

2nd Vice Chair: Tom McLoughlin

Past Chair: Bonnie Braun

The Legislative Chair, Wayne Clark, announced that the legislative committee will meet in January. Final recommendations for the 2013 Legislative Priorities will be presented at the January meeting.

Tom McLoughlin, chair of the Health care committee, gave a brief update on the committees efforts in following health care reform and making sure the rural areas are represented. He will have more to report at the January meeting.

Mike Thielke reported on some of the events in which the RMC participated. These included MML, MACO, 3 alumni events for LeadMD and the Maryland Rural Health Association Rural Health Summit.

Dan Kugler with the UM Extension announced a new strategic plan 2014-2019. He will be actively seeking out involvement and participation from RMC.

Scott Warner announced he will be forming a nominating committee to fill vacancies. The committee will also be reaching out to current members to make sure they still want to continue to serve.

Michelle Clark gave an update on the Health Enterprise Zones. MRHA received a MAERDAF grant to help advocate for a rural component. Of the 20 applications, 13 were rural. Of those, 10 applications were asked to present, of which 5 were rural. MRHA are confident that one of the HEZ will be rural.

Tom McLoughlin moved to close the Annual meeting and move into the Work Session; Mike Pennington seconded. Motion was passed.

Facilitated Work Session

The facilitated work session began around 12:00 pm.

Jim Youngquist gave a powerpoint presentation of the July meeting results. Jim will write a final report in the next couple of weeks and distribute to the Executive Committee.

Several points of conversation touched upon: advocacy versus programmatic; missing constituencies (business, faith, education, libraries, community colleges and environmental groups): implementation of broadband plans; eldercare; access to local food; outreach to local elected officers; outreach to other organizations; and developing a youth council.

The Council discussed reviving the rural summit and convening small issue forums focusing on three areas: economic development, quality of life and the environment. Also discussed was the governance structure and clarifying the statutory reasoning for including particular board members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next RMC Board meeting: Friday January 25, 2013