

Rural Maryland Council (RMC)  
Executive Board and Full Council Meeting  
President's Conference Center West  
Miller Senate Building, Annapolis  
January 24, 2014  
**Minutes**

RMC Executive Committee members present:

Scott Warner, Chair  
Doris Mason, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Tom McLoughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Mike Pennington, Past Chair

Executive Board members present:

Angela Spencer, District 2  
Donna Sasscer, District 3  
Loretta Lodge: District 4 candidate  
Josh Hastings: District 5  
Erroll Mattox: District 6  
Kevin Brooks: District 7  
Richard Steeg: For Profit Organizations  
Ken Korando: At-Large  
The Honorable Mike McKay, MACo  
Matt Tefteau, MD Farm Bureau  
Sharan Marshall, MD Assn of Public Library Administrators  
The Honorable Earl "Buddy" Hance, Governor's representative  
Greg Cole, DBED  
Emily Wilson, DNR  
John Hartline, Tri-County Council for Southern MD  
Mark Goldbach, representing Craig Hartsock, Western MD R&D Council  
Dr. Stephen Wright, UMD Extension  
Steve McHenry, Rural MD Foundation  
Dr. William McGowan, USDA Rural Development  
The Honorable Addie Eckardt  
The Honorable Jeanie Haddaway Riccio  
The Honorable Mac Middleton

RMC Staff members present:

Charlotte Davis, RMC Executive Director  
Carol D'Agostino, Purple Care PR  
Kathy Vernacchio, RMC Administrative and Communications Assistant

Elected and Appointed Officials:

Senator David Brinkley, District 4  
Delegate John Bohanan, District  
Delegate Jim Gilchrist, District 17  
Senator Jennie Forehand, District 17  
Senator Verna Jones-Rodwell, District 44B  
County Executive David Craig, Harford County

John Hall, USDA NRCS  
Linda Prohaska, Representative of Sen. Barbara Mikulski  
Kim Kratovil, Representative of Sen. Ben Cardin

Guests:

Joe Hoffman, Frostburg University  
Rod Pearson, Sr.  
Regan Cherney, Rural Counties Coalition  
Michelle Clark, MRHA  
Tom Curtin, MML  
Mary Beth Carrozza

The meeting convened at approximately 12:20 pm.

Guest Speakers:

Ms. Mason introduced The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Maryland Senate. President Miller spoke of growing up in a rural area. He talked about estate tax relief for young farmers. Regarding Highway User Revenues, the President stated that funding for municipalities will be restored, but not funding for the counties.

Speaker Michael Busch spoke immediately following Mr. Miller. Speaker Busch highlighted funding of \$500,000 for TEDCO and the Rural Business Initiative. The House of Delegates will be looking to address medical needs and stated that the new Prince George's hospital will impact Southern Maryland. He agreed with President Miller on highway user revenues. Two major challenges to the State is the budget deficit and adequate funding for education.

Senate Thomas Mac Middleton spoke briefly. He stated that he believed in rural and what we do; all food and fiber come from rural areas. 93% of farmers are part-time. They need jobs for the spouses. Rural broadband, health care and libraries are important.

Minutes:

The October 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed. Delegate Eckardt moved approval of the minutes; Mr. Mattox seconded: the motion was approved

2014 Executive Board Nominations:

The proposed officers and board slate was presented for approval. Mr. Mattox moved approval of the 2014 Executive Board nominations; Mr. Korando seconded; the motion was approved.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary, Mr. Earl "Buddy" Hance was recognized and called to the podium to make brief comments. The Secretary mentioned the transition in Southern Maryland away from tobacco. The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission are important. It's important that we all come together and speak with one voice. Agriculture is vital.

Legislative Committee Report:

Mr. Josh Hastings gave a brief report of the Legislative Committee and presented the 2014 Legislative Priorities. SB 137 was recently heard and reported favorably by the Senate Education Health and Environment Committee.

RMPIF Report:

Mr. Pennington gave a brief report on RMPIF and thanks all those who sent in letters of support.

The Chair recognized Delegate Jeanie Haddaway-Riccio and called her to the podium to make remarks. She highlighted her 11 years of service in the House of Delegates and that she was born and raised in the Mid-Shore area. She urged everyone to talk to their elected officials to support rural prosperity. Delegate Haddaway-Riccio mentioned failing septic system legislation that would allow Bay Restoration Funds to be used to hook up failing systems to public water. She cautioned that we should be vigilant on health care reform. She spoke about student debt as an issue and the need for more health care providers.

The Chair recognized Mr. Kevin Brooks with the Maryland Rural Development Corporation for his work with the Rural Maryland Foundation and MRHA for their work on the Rural Action Assembly. Lead MD and the MD Farm Bureau have also been supportive.

Dr. Bill McGowan, USDA Rural Development, and Dr. John Hall, USDA NRCS, spoke briefly.

The Executive Committee meeting concluded at approximately 2:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 28, 2014 at 12:00 Noon