RMC Legislative Committee
Tuesday, November 21, 2017
9am-10pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:
Odette Ramos, Co-Chair
Lindsay Thompson, Co-Chair
Josh Hastings
Erroll Mattox
Carol Masden   Alice Settle-Raskins
John Hartline   Steve McHenry
Kelly Dudeck   Senator Adelaide Eckardt
Matt Teffeau   Bill Christopher
Scott Warner
Don Mulrine   RMC Staff:
Lara Wilson   Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Jennifer Witten   Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:03 am.

2018 Legislative Priorities
Charlotte Davis shared a draft of 2018 Legislative Priorities. There is a budget deficit of $251 million, a decrease from what was previously projected. The Rural Maryland Council will continue to request $6 million for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF).

The Capital budget is expected to look similar to last year's. It was recommended that the dollar figure requested for Program Open Space (POS) funds be included in the budget requests section, and MARBIDCO's Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program will receive its own bullet point to separate the line items.

Additional suggestions included:
• A sentence for support of the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, support for Community Legacy, and the Angel Investor Tax Credit;
• Place broadband support in economic development, include verbiage on collecting an inventory of state assets for resource sharing agreements, extension of the Task Force, and lower costs for service providers;
• A sentence regarding VLT funding;
• Emphasis on expanding telehealth with broadband services;

2018 Calendar Dates
Dates for the 2018 Legislative session, including Leg Committee meeting dates/times, the RMC Legislative Luncheon and Rural Maryland Day were shared with the Committee.

With no other updates, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 pm.

Next meeting: TBD, the Committee will meet via conference call in mid-December to approve the 2018 Legislative Priorities.