

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Board

Friday, January 29, 2016, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room West, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, Maryland

Participants:

Delegate Chris Adams	Dean Fisher
Delegate Kathy Afzali	Helen Fitzgerald
Peggy Alpert	Nancy Forlifer
Delegate Angela Angel	Delegate David Fraser Hildago
Delegate Erek Barron	Michael Franklin
Senator Gail Bates	Kurt Fuchs
Gerald Belsky	Christina Garrigan
Delegate Wendell Beitzel	Rodney Glotfelty
Chris Benzing	Delegate Robin Grammer
Richard Blair	Domenick Grande
Debbie Bowden	Santo Grande
Mike Brannon	Lisa Hall
Delegate Benjamin Brooks	Leslie Hart
Robert Buckey	John Hartline
Mindie Burgoyne	Josh Hastings
Shuan Butcher	Ron Hawkins
Roger Campos	Stephen Hershey, Jr.
Marly Cardona Moz	Terri Hill
Betty Carlson-Jameson	Delegate Seth Howard
Al Carr	Linda Janey
Delegate Andrew Cassilly	Tom Jarboe
Senator Robert Cassilly	Ann Jones
Chris Clark	Kevin Kamenetz
Rich Colburn	Chris Kaselemis
Senator Joan Carter-Conway	George Koste
Steve DeBoy	Delegate Stephen Lafferty
Douglas Deleaver	Jennifer Layton
Herbert Dennis	Joan Leatherman
Corey Dickens	Mike Leslie
Kwane Drabo	Wilbur Levensgood
Kelly Dudeck	Anne Lindner
Cynthia DuRant	Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti
Tammy Edwards	Denise Lovelady
Erin Fada	Gretchen Maneval
Brian Feldman	Sharan Marshall
John Fiastro	Dan Martin
James Fielder	Doris Mason
Vanessa Finney	Erroll Mattox
	John Mautz

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Minutes of January 29, 2016

Page 2 of 5

Delegate Johnny Mautz
Bill McGowan
Steve McHenry
Dan Morhaim
Don Mulrine
Senator Wayne Norman
Mary O'Keeffe
Temi Oshiyoye
Delegate Charles Otto
Gail Owings
Philip Parenti
Delegate Edith Patterson
Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Peter Perini
Deputy Secretary Wendi Peters
Anjali Phukan
Rick Pollitt
Larry Polsky
Jim Poulos
Odette Ramos
Nelson Reichart
Delegate Deborah Rey
Delegate Kirill Reznick
Jimmy Rhee
Chris Rice
Joann Richart-Young
Thomas Rider
Dan Rider
Janice Riley
Ellen Robertson
Delegate Barbara Robinson
Yvette Rooks
William Ruppertsberger
Sid Saab
Bernie Sadusky
Andrew Sargent
Tara Sargent
Dennis Satnick
William Schroedel

Michael Serio
Alice Settle-Raskin
Kathy Shahinian
Angela Shepherd
Delegate Haven Shoemaker
Evan Slaughenhaupt
Delegate Ana Sol-Gutierrez
Dona Sorce
Angela Spencer
Justine Springer
Anne Stringer
Delegate Kathy Szeliga
Delegate Jimmy Tarlau
Matthew Tefteau
Jeff Tosi
Patrick Tumulty
Tisha Tyler
Donald VanHassent
Sara Visintainer
Roseanna Vogt
Scott Warner
David Weissert
Lori Werrell
Delegate Chris West
Clara West
Raj Williams
A. Leigh Williams
Emily Wilson
Lara Wilson
Julie Woepke
Stephen Wright
Dr. Lih Young
Ron Young
Teresa Zent

RMC Staff:
Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Meredith Donaho, Administrative and
Communications Assistant

Chair Mason called the meeting to order at approximately 12:24 p.m.

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director for the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) thanked Senator Eckardt for sponsoring the RMC's use of the President's Conference Center West. She also recognized the elected officials in attendance.

Doris Mason, Chair of the RMC Board and Executive Director of the Upper Shore Regional Council introduced Mat Palmer, Deputy Legislative Officer, as our first guest speaker.

Guest Speaker: Mat Palmer

Mr. Palmer announced that the Governor is putting money in the budget for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund. He has also fully funded the regional councils as the mandated amount of \$200,000. The Governor will restore \$20 million in FY 2017 and \$40 million in FY 2018 to Program Open Space. By FY 2019, the program will be restored to full funding. Mr. Palmer stated that the Governor is committed to Rural Maryland and rural communities. Mr. Palmer also mentioned the early college program, PTECH, an innovative approach to blend high school, college and work experience. It will be a 6 year integrated program with four locations throughout the State. Two of the locations will be on the Eastern Shore and Western Maryland.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair reviewed the minutes asking the membership if there were any changes or corrections. With no changes or corrections offered, there was a motion for the minutes to be accepted. Scott Warner made a motion to accept, Wilbur Levensgood seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously accepted.

Committee Reports

Financial

Charlotte Davis provided a financial report of the Council. For Fiscal Year 2016, the Council has \$116,201 available revenue; as of January, 2016, we have spent \$94,534.64. We are in a good financial position for 2016. Chair Mason asked if there were any questions regarding the financials. With no questions from the floor, Davis moved to motion, all were in favor, and the motion was accepted.

Youth Engagement Project

Chair, Doris Mason, provided the group with the results of the youth study. She told those present that the Upper Shore Regional Council along with the Rural Maryland Council partnered with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship to conduct a pilot study on the Upper Shore.

In all, 2500 young people were engaged to discuss what they would like to see in their communities, politically, economically and socially ten years into the future. Recurring themes for workforce development opportunities were expressed in the surveys. The Upper Shore Regional Council, in partnership with Washington College with a grant from the Verizon Foundation, worked to create the METS Guild which is a set of three hands-on training tracks designed to give new technological skills to students in grades seven through nine in an out of school environment.

Nancy Forlifer of the Western Maryland Health System spoke about a similar initiative taking place in Allegany County to assess the engagement of Western Maryland youth – the Bridges to Opportunity survey. The survey had similar results with youth identifying employment prospects and civic

engagement as areas where they would like more opportunities.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Scott Warner, RMPIF Chair, spoke on the proposed budget allocation of \$2,000,000 for the RMPIF. We thank the governor for his support.

Legislative

Josh Hastings, our Legislative Committee Chair provided a list of 2016 legislative priorities including a focus on rural economic development, funding of the RMPIF remains a top priority, supporting efforts to encourage rural development in the form of tax credits to new or expanding businesses, and supporting viable agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and rural communities. Other focuses include expansion of rural broadband, transportation funding, and rural health initiatives.

There was a reminder that on February 11, 2016, RMC will hold its Rural Maryland Day in Annapolis at 8:30 a.m. in the Neall Conference Room at the James Senate Building to meet with legislators before and after session so that we might discuss legislative priorities.

Planning and Development Committee

Charlotte Davis, because Committee Chair Mike Thielke was unavailable to attend, provided an update on the activities of the joint Rural Maryland Council/Rural Maryland Foundation Planning and Development Committee. Priorities and issues identified include workforce and economic development, youth engagement, health care, continuation of the broadband issue, agriculture and energy . There is also a need for the Council to create a strategic plan this year, and the committee will support the Executive Committee with this initiative.

Health Care Committee

Charlotte, Tom McLoughlin was unavailable to attend, spoke on the Committee's priorities for the year, which will include increasing the access rural communities will have to excellent resources in medical personnel in areas, and investing time in supporting initiatives that will screen for early detection for youth depression and substance abuse.

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture

Erroll Mattox, the RMC Representative on the Commission, reported that a few new updates have taken place including that raw milk has been approved for pet food. This year, the commission will consider contacting Tourism Directors in counties that have not yet adopted regulations on sampling.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis reported on recent activities of the Executive Director. Ms. Davis advised the group the RMC has just completed a very successful 2015 Rural Summit, which had a good turnout and received excellent feedback. The RMC has also been collaborating with Volunteer Maryland to hold information

sessions throughout the State, and has 4 more upcoming.

Rural Maryland Foundation

Dan Rider, Board President, reminded those present that the role of the Foundation is to act as a conduit to allow the RMC to continue its mission. As the RMC and the Foundation move forward in their mission, it is important to demonstrate our commitment to various philanthropic organizations we might solicit to support us. Mr. Rider reminded those present to contribute to the Foundation.

Adjournment

With no further questions or comments, Chair Mason concluded the meeting by asking for a motion to adjourn. The motion was accepted by Bill McGowan, no one seconded; the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.