

RMC Legislative Committee
November 14, 2016
1pm-2pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Josh Hastings, Chair

Bill Christopher

Amy Crone

Senator Adelaide Eckardt

John Hartline

Erroll Mattox

Steve McHenry

Dortheann Sandusky

Chris Ann Szep

Scott Warner

Lara Wilson

Joanne Richart-Young

Odette Ramos

Alice Settle-Raskins

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator

Guest Speaker: Delegate Anne Kaiser

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:06 pm.

Guest Speaker: Delegate Anne Kaiser

Chair Hastings introduced Delegate Anne Kaiser of District 14, Montgomery County and Majority Leader to speak about her expectations for the 2017 Legislative Session. Delegate Kaiser shared that she expects the main issues for the upcoming session will focus on first, the budget; second, school construction, this will be a statewide and local investment issue with broad impact; third, college affordability, another issue with broad impact. Several other issues include revitalization of the horse industry, continued support for the Community Sustainability Tax Credit, library funding, implementing an agriculture curriculum in public education, and statewide land preservation. Delegate Kaiser also highlighted continued support for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF), and requested feedback from the Committee members on local land use issues as it pertains to solar pre-emption.

Delegate Kaiser was asked if she expects any new tax credits to be introduced this upcoming session. Delegate Kaiser responded that a more thorough analysis needs to be completed to determine which current tax credits are supporting the work they were meant to do, and which ones are successful. She suggested that the Committee members reach out to more than the rural legislators during the session.

Review of September 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chair Hastings asked for a review of the September 19th meeting minutes and requested recommendations for changes. Senator Eckardt requested that her name be corrected. No other recommendations were offered. The minutes with the correction were unanimously accepted.

Review of the 2017 Legislative Priorities

Chair Hastings provided an overview of the draft for the 2017 Legislative Priorities. Several changes were made, including fiscal year numbers were updated, and a request was made by Senator Middleton to include a brief mention about support for the Rural Healthcare Delivery Work Group of the Maryland Health Care Commission in the "Rural Health" section. Chair Hastings requested a motion to accept the

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2017 Legislative Priorities draft. Senator Eckardt made a motion to accept, the motion was seconded by Joanne Richart-Young. All were in favor, the 2017 RMC Legislative Priorities was accepted unanimously.

Other Issues

Renewable Energy Sprawl

Chair Hastings discussed that the RMC, Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), and a few other organizations will be forming a mini-work group to address the issue of renewable energy sprawl. The RMC has taken the position, as outlined in its 2017 Legislative Priorities, to support energy policies that promote long-term, locally generated, renewable energy, but are opposed to energy policies that obstruct agriculture and are opposed to expansion without local input. Work groups addressing the issue of solar and wind energy use could potentially introduce as many as 12 or 13 bills this upcoming legislative session.

New Legislative Committee Chair

Chair Hastings will be stepping down as Chair of the Legislative Committee by the end of 2016, he is nominated to become the Board Chair of the RMC. Chair Hastings requested that nominations be submitted for the new chair position, nominations can be submitted to the RMC.

During session, the Legislative Committee will meet every two weeks via conference call to review policy positions. The Legislative Chair is responsible for leading these calls, discussing policies, and providing guidance.

New Meeting Time

The Legislative Committee will also be moving its meeting time in 2017 from 1pm to 3pm to avoid conflicting with the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Legislative Committee meeting time.

No other issues or business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, January 2, 2016, 3pm-4pm, Conference Call