

RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Via Web Conference
Minutes

Participants: Mike Thielke, Scott Warner, Dan Rider, Doris Mason, Meredith Donaho, Charlotte Davis, Susan Harrison

The meeting convened at approximately 10:01 am.

First item, recommendations for FY16 were reviewed. There were no comments for changes, and the recommendations were approved and adopted.

The Committee then discussed what RMC and RMF have charged the Committee for FY17. The Committee discussed the need for a strategic plan and the idea of paying for a consultant to help develop a plan. It was suggested that each committee needs to have precise mission and objectives established.

A clarification was established that the Executive Committee will be charged with leading and creating a timeline for the strategic planning process; while the Joint Planning and Development Committee will be involved in the process and will provide support, they will not be responsible for leading the strategic development planning.

The Committee also discussed areas and ideas for development and improvement that will be included in the strategic plan. A few identified issues to address included creating strategies for RMPiF that are clearer and better received by legislators, and establishing priorities and performance metrics. A few recommendations for the strategic plan also included reviewing MAERDAF performance metrics and evaluating which programs fit within the grant, defining entrepreneurship and expected outcomes related to it, and the need for creative solutions and programs.

Going forward, the Joint Planning and Development Committee will work on exploring ways to generate more funding for the Foundation – including efforts to pursue partnerships with community foundations, sponsorships, donations, etc., focus on a transfer of wealth study – investigating the services of Salisbury University or Towson University to help with the study, and work on building consensus to move forward on both of these priorities. The Committee will provide support to the Foundation, but the Foundation will be responsible for any execution regarding these priorities. Mike and Charlotte will also work on a statement of need and will forward it to Dan and the Foundation Board for input and approval. The Committee will also provide strategic plan recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Feedback on the AmeriCorps grant application was discussed, the RMC's grant proposal application was rejected. The feedback included that the proposal needed more staff development time allotted to the project and clearer deliverables needed to be established. The feedback also included there was a higher number of applicants this year, which made the selection process more competitive. The RMC will apply again next year with this feedback in mind and create a stronger proposal for acceptance.

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A proposed legislative tour of Smith Island was discussed. Smith Island United had contacted the RMC to propose a tour for legislators of Smith Island, and were seeking sponsorship. Several other state rural councils, including Utah, have hosted legislative tours in the past. The tour would include costs for transportation, lodging, entertainment, meals, etc. There was a concern from the Committee that legislators already familiar with Smith Island will go, but unfamiliar legislators (Baltimore, Montgomery Co., Prince George's, etc.) will not. There was also concern that the tour would exclude all of the counties on the Eastern Shore, and should be more inclusive to gain more traction, there would be great difficulty in getting legislators to do be involved, and there was considerable concern for the availability to commit time and resources.

While it was suggested that a similar tour could take place based on the Ag Commission Model of offering a tour in spring/fall focused on 2 counties that could also be incorporated into a RMC listening tour, the Committee reached a consensus that the RMC will decline and focus on its agenda and establishing priorities for RMPIF.

No other items or comments were offered.

Next meeting: May 18, 2016 at 10:00 am via conference call.