

Regular Meeting of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Board
Friday, April 8, 2016, 12pm – 2pm,
President’s Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Kevin Atticks
Diana Abney
Brian Banks
Jim Beauchamp
Richard C. Blair
Mike Brannon
Kevin Brooks
Elizabeth Chung
Amy Crone
Douglas DeLeaver
Tim Dinsmore
Jack Ensor
Vanessa Finney
Dean Fisher
Kurt Fuchs
Thomas Gardner
Rodney Glotfelty
Robert Gorsuch
Heather Gramm
Roxanne Hale
Lisa Hall
John Hartline
Craig Hartsock
Josh Hastings
John Huggins
JohnDre Jennings
Ann Jones
John Kane
James King
Rona Kramer
Mikra Krasniqi
Michael Leslie
Loretta Lodge
Bill Mackey

Doris Mason
Erroll Mattox
Bill McGowan
Steve McHenry
Mayur Mody
Alicia Moran
Don Mulrine
Dominick Murray
Gina Navarro
Peter O'Neill
Temi Oshiyoye
Nicholas Redding
Mary Margaret Revell
Goodwin
Joanne Richart-Young
Dan Rider
Donna Sasscer
Dennis Satnick
Mindy Schneider
Alice Settle-Raskin
Angela Singleton
Dona Sorce
Ron Studds
Matthew Tefteau
Garland Thomas
Emily Tocknell
Don VanHassent
Caroline Varney-Alvarado
Sara Visintainer
Roseanna Vogt
Ann Walsh
Charlisa Watson
Jamie Williams
Lara Wilson

Katherine Wilson
Jennifer Witten
John Wobensmith
Dr. Lih Young

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

Guest Speakers:
Secretary Joe Bartenfelder,
Maryland Department of
Agriculture
Secretary Kelly Schulz,
Maryland Department of
Labor, Licensing and
Regulation

Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Doris Mason, Chair of the RMC Board, asked the participants to review the minutes from the prior meeting and called for a motion to accept. Rodney Glotfelty motioned to accept; Joanne Richart-Young seconded; all were in favor. The minutes from the January 29, 2016 Executive Board Meeting were accepted.

Chair Mason led introductions around the room for each meeting participant. Matt Tefteau then introduced the first guest speaker, Secretary Bartenfelder.

Guest Speaker: Secretary Bartenfelder

Secretary Bartenfelder spoke about the importance of rural business and its direct impact on supporting a strong economy statewide. He emphasized the agriculture industry fuels \$8 billion a year to Maryland's economy; the MDA is working with all groups, including rural businesses, to make sure they stay open and viable by placing an emphasis on marketing nationally and internationally. The MDA is also working with environmental groups, and increasing educational awareness of farming practices and "life on the farm", which has received very positive feedback.

Charlotte Davis mentioned the success of the "Farmland" screenings the RMC/RMF partnered to present at areas around the State, including Caroline County Public Library and the Maryland Agricultural Education Council in Cockeyville. Chair Mason introduced Secretary Schulz.

Guest Speaker: Secretary Schulz

Secretary Schulz emphasized the need for workforce development opportunities in rural areas. She mentioned specifically the Maryland Apprenticeship Program, developed as a recommendation by the Augustine Commission, which created a pilot program for one rural school and one urban school to offer apprenticeships in STEM/manufacturing as a means to study the effectiveness of school apprenticeship programs. The pilot program was a success. STEM/advanced manufacturing apprenticeships offer high school students with the opportunity to learn an in-demand trade and graduate with the ability to directly enter the workforce prepared. Rural Maryland is prime for STEM careers. Apprenticeships will benefit agriculture communities, who are struggling to find young workers to replace the aging farmer workforce.

Committee Reports

Financial

Charlotte Davis provided a financial report of the Council. For the remainder of Fiscal Year 2016, the Council has \$80,028.00 available revenue; the Council is in a good financial position for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2016. A budget for Fiscal Year 2017 was also presented, total revenues are budgeted for \$2,167,000, and expenses budgeted for \$285,711.00. The increase in revenue is due to funding support to be received for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund in Fiscal Year 2017.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Scott Warner, Chair of the RMPIF Committee, was unavailable to attend the meeting; Chair Mason presented a RMPIF PowerPoint and thanked the administration for the allocation of RMPIF funding for the first time in its history. RMPIF will receive \$2 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2017. The RMPIF

Committee will be meeting on Friday, April 22nd at noon to discuss deliverables and to construct a report due to the legislature by July 1st to include explanations for allocations and rationale, guidelines and criteria, and measurements/metrics; all comments and suggestions were invited. Priority funding areas for the grant program include regional infrastructure projects, rural entrepreneurship development, rural community development, programmatic assistance, education, and rural health care organizations; in addition, funding will also be allocated to the five regional councils, MAERDAF, and the RMC.

Legislative

Josh Hastings, Legislative Committee Chair, reviewed activities and legislative priorities for 2016 including a successful Rural Maryland Advocacy Day held on February 11th and the RMC's participation in Rural Caucus meetings. He shared literature which was presented during the 2016 Legislative Session which included the bill tracking list, and a list of submitted support testimonies and a letter of inquiry. The RMC also was active in supporting Program Open Space funding and attended the bill signing. The Legislative Committee also worked with the Health Care Committee on support for bills this session, including Senate Bill 411 and HB 1494 – Income Tax Credit for Preceptors in Areas with Health Care Workforce Shortages.

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA)

Erroll Mattox, GICA Committee Chair, presented an update. The Committee is currently working to establish inter-relationships with other government agencies to monitor regulations and impacts on agriculture.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis provided a brief update on the Joint Planning and Development Committee, including that they will be working to provide support to the Executive Board for a strategic planning process taking place this year. Ms. Davis also provided a brief update on the Health Care Committee. The most recent meeting included a guest speaker, Dr. Cheryl De Pinto, who provided info on diagnostic and treatment options for addressing youth depression and mood disorders. The Committee will use this info and resources to identify possible strategies for increasing access to quality mental health care in rural areas.

Ms. Davis also provided an update on recently accomplished activities, including recently concluded presentations with Volunteer MD Sessions, which ended in early March, as a way to reach out to nonprofits about MAERDAF funding opportunities. Ms. Davis will be working with the RMPIF Committee to file a report by July 1st explaining the allocation and rationale for RMPIF funds. More work on this will take place at the RMPIF Committee meeting scheduled for April 22nd. In upcoming months, the RMC will be resuming Community Development meetings to be held around the state, in partnership with the Community Development Network of Maryland, and the RMC will be a sponsor for the Delmarva: A Region of Possibilities Conference on May 5, 2016.

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, and to help support with a donation. The RMF will also be working this year to provide funding for a Transfer of Wealth Study, which will measure where wealth is leaving the State, and will be working on more fundraising, including serving as fiscal agents and charging a fee for services.

New Business

Chair Mason reviewed the MAERDAF guidelines and criteria, provided as a handout. There were no questions or comments made by participants. Chair Mason also provided updates on the Board Strategic Planning Retreat, comprised of the RMC Executive Board and RMF Board, who will meet April 27th and 28th with a consultant, Kathleen Case, at a location to be determined. A strategic plan draft timeline was distributed.

Chair Mason also reminded that an e-vote on the Fiscal Year 2017 budget will be made available and emailed to board members in June. She added that RMPIF guidelines and criteria will be shared for external feedback.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm. The next RMC Executive Board Meeting will be held Friday, September 30, 2016, 12pm-2pm, at Gambrill State Park, Frederick, MD