

Minutes

RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mid Shore Regional Council Offices, 8737 Brooks Drive, Suite 101, Easton, MD

Participants: Mike Thielke, Scott Warner, Doris Mason, Bill Barnes, Susan Harrison, Daniel Rider, Charlotte Davis, Kathy Vernacchio

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:01 a.m.

Chairman Mike Thielke welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief synopsis of the purpose of today's meeting. Following the conference call of May 13, 2015, it was concluded the Committee should have a face-to-face meeting to vet topics previously discussed.

Minutes

Chairman Thielke reviewed the May 13, 2015 meeting minutes. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. There being no modifications noted, Doris Mason made a motion to accept, Scott Warner seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

RMC Overall Priorities for FY16

Based upon its discussions, it was determined that the following priorities be selected and utilized in RMC's and RMF's considerations for the coming year. Specifically, the committee feels these priorities should be included in the criteria used in the MAERDAF Grant Program with regard to focusing the selection and distribution of awardees.

1. Health
2. Agriculture
3. Workforce and Economic Development
4. Youth Engagement
5. Renewable Energy/Biomass Energy
6. Broadband

Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Specific Recommendations for FY16

1. Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund
 - RMC should continue every effort in support of funding RMPIF in the FY17 State Budget.
2. Committee Structure
 - RMC should maintain its existing committee structure and work towards improving and strengthening it.
 - Create precise missions and objectives for each committee so that they may be more productive and effective for the benefit of RMC.
 - The Joint P&D Committee should include a representative from each of the other RMC committees to achieve a broad range of issues and perspectives.

3. Strategic Plan

- It was unanimous among the committee that a three-year strategic plan is required for RMC. Now that the RMC has been resurrected and momentum has been developed on rural issues throughout the State, future planning and development efforts in the organization would benefit from a comprehensive strategic plan.
- The Planning and Development Committee has offered to work with an outside facilitator to define the scope and content of the strategic plan.

4. Economic Development

- Youth Engagement – RMC should continue its efforts in completing and expanding the Youth Engagement Survey Initiative and determine actionable steps in response to the outcomes produced.
- Entrepreneurship – RMC should continue and seek new ways to expand its visibility in support of entrepreneurship throughout Maryland’s rural areas.
- Broadband – RMC should continue its leadership role as a voice to encourage local solutions in the Last Mile aspect of internet access throughout Maryland’s rural areas.

5. Community Development

- RMC should continue its efforts to organize a coalition of rural community development organizations from throughout the State in order to determine the gaps and needs for housing and community development revitalization.

Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF) Specific Recommendations for FY16

1. Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

- RMF should continue every effort in support of funding RMPIF in the FY17 State Budget.

2. Fund Development

- RMF should create and execute a strategy in pursuit of grant funding from private foundations in support of addressing Maryland rural issues.

3. Transfer of Wealth Study

- RMF should continue its initial efforts to engage the Community Foundations throughout Maryland in support of a statewide study on the transfer of wealth from the rural areas of Maryland and how best to retain and access the wealth for the benefit of rural issues.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon

Next meeting: August 27, 2015 at 10:00 am via conference call.