

Rural Maryland Council  
Executive Board Meeting  
March 28, 2014  
Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland  
Minutes

**Attendees:**

Scott Warner, Chair  
Tom McLoughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Mike Pennington, Immediate Past Chair  
The Honorable Addie Eckhardt  
Carol Gilbert, DHCD  
Santo Grande, Delmarva Community Services  
John Hartline, Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland  
Craig Hartsock, Western MD Resource Conservation and Development Council  
Josh Hastings, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy  
Loretta Lodge, Kent County Chamber of Commerce  
Erroll Mattox  
Dr. Bill McGowan, USDA Rural Development  
Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO  
Donna Sasscer, St. Mary's Office of Economic Development  
Al Silverstein, Talbot County Chamber of Commerce  
Perry Stutman, Town of Queenstown  
Matt Tefteau, MD Farm Bureau  
Mike Thielke, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center  
Eimly Wilson, DNR  
Dr. Steven Wright, UMD Extension  
Guests:  
Peggy Alpert  
Jon Andes  
Robin Bartlett Frazier  
Laura Benzel  
Paige Bethke  
Katie Boston-Leary  
Bob Bowie Jr.  
Ummu Bradley Thomas  
The Honorable David Brinkley  
Betty Carlson-Jameson  
Michelle Clark, MRHA  
Richard Colgan, UMD School of Medicine  
Jana Davis  
Connie DeJuliis

Fred. Donald Dickson. Jr.  
Faith Elliott Rossing  
Alce Fields  
Dean Fisher, MEA  
Kurt Fuchs, Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit  
The Honorable Ron George  
Michelle Goodwin  
Leslie Greenberg  
Debbie Grosh  
Jon Hall, USDA NRCS  
Melanie B. Holland  
Edward Holland III  
John LaFerla  
Jim McCormick  
Karen McLoughlin  
Laura McMahan  
Suzanne Moore  
Kerry Ose, Volunteer MD  
Gail Owings  
Irene Padilla  
Rodney Pearson  
Anjali Phukan  
Christine Plater  
Linda Prochaska, Sen. Mikulski  
Lisa Purnell, USDA NRCS  
Mary Louise Reynnells, USDA i  
Dorotheann Sadusky, Sen. Mathias  
Robby Sheehan  
Dick Sossi  
Mitchelle Stephenson  
Beverly Stickles  
Cydny Teal  
Ken Timmerman  
Vernetta Tyson  
Ed Vitalos  
Cindy Walsh  
Clara West  
Lynn Whitby  
RMC Staff:  
Charlotte Davis  
Kathleen Vernacchio

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:35pm.

### **Minutes**

The January 24, 2014 Executive Board Meeting minutes were discussed. Mr. McLoughlin moved to approved the January meeting minutes; Mr. Mattox approved; the minutes were adopted.

### **Financial Report**

RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis presented the FY 14 financial report. Mr. Pennington moved to approve the report; Mr. McHenry seconded; the report was approved.

Ms. Davis presented a draft Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015 and stated that the Council was still working on details for a youth engagement study. Ms. Davis asked for the Council to consider giving authority to the Executive Committee to consider the youth engagement study for FY 14 since the next scheduled Executive Board meeting won't occur until August. Mr. McHenry moved to give the Executive Committee authority to approve an additional budget item for a youth engagement study; Mr. Hastings seconded; the motion was approved.

### **Legislative Committee**

Mr. Josh Hastings, Chair of the Committee, reviewed the 2014 Legislative Priorities. The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund legislation sponsored by Senator Conway and Delegate McIntosh were moving. SB 137 has passed the Senate and just passed out of the House Environmental Matters Committee; HB 1024 passed the House. MAERDAF and RMC Operating costs were included in the FY 2015 State budget at \$167,000 each. Transportation funding includes \$16 million for pothole repair. RMC testified in support of HB 1492 which restructures the telecommunications tax and will help expand rural broadband. RMC also supported legislation to expand the MD Loan Assistance Repayment Program. HB 11 will allow local governments to assess Bay Restoration Funds for failing septic systems. Most storm water management fee repeal bills are dead for the session. The Committee is waiting for Accounting for Growth regulations. There are several bills on the phosphorous management tool; currently, the budget includes funding for an economic impact study. The proposed increase to the minimum wage passed the House and is pending in the Senate.

### **Healthcare Committee**

Mr. Tom McLoughlin, Chair of the Committee, discussed the Committee's previous work including the current task force headed by the MD Health Care Commission on Telemedicine. The Committee is considering convening to discuss appropriate projects to fund under the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (if funded).

### **Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)**

Mr. Mike Pennington, Chair, gave a brief update. The bills are moving, but there is no funding yet. In responses from the MD Department of Budget and Management, they are considering the Fund for a supplemental appropriation.

### **Governors Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA)**

Mr. Erroll Mattox represents the RMC on the Commission. The Commission meets twice a year and last met in the spring.

### **Guest Speakers**

Ms. Kerry Ose with Volunteer Maryland gave a brief overview of Volunteer Maryland. Located in the Governor's Office for Service and Volunteerism, they administer a Volunteer Coordinator program through Americorps.

Dr. Jack Smith, Chief Academic Officer, with the Maryland State Department of Education spoke about education funding. There is an April 3<sup>rd</sup> application deadline for a federal grant for rigorous programs in rural schools. There are also opportunities growing for rural digital programs. There is a USDA grant program for students, books, fees and laptops. Mr. Greenberg asked about farm to school programs. Ms. Bethke asked about curriculum development and the changes to standards. Mr. Vitalos commented that the biggest problem is connecting schools and make sure the needs of the community are met.

Dr. Jon Andes, with the Eastern Shore Education Consortium spoke on behalf of Dr. Memo Diriker. The Consortium recently updated its economic impact study of education which is available at [www.esmec.org](http://www.esmec.org). Overall, total operating budgets of local school systems total \$700 million and have a \$2.5 Billion impact a year. There are 31,000 jobs on the shore alone.

### **Youth Study**

Ms. Davis discussed briefly the proposed youth survey. Mr. McHenry moved to give authority to the Executive Committee to approve moving forward with the study; Mr. Hastings seconded; the motion was approved.

### **Formation of Additional Committees**

Ms. Davis announced the reformation of the Planning and Development Committee. Members interested in being a part of this committee should let her know.

### **Rural Maryland Foundation**

Mr. Warner announced that the Foundation Board of Trustees recently met in March and elected a new President, Dan Rider.

**Announcements**

Ms. Davis reminded members to submit the required State of Maryland Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure Requirement.

The USDA NRCS will be holding informational session on the recently passed Farm Bill. Flyers are available to those interested.

At approximately 2:00 pm, Mr. Mattox moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. McLoughlin seconded; motion was approved.

**Next Executive Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 20, 2014**