

## **Minutes**

Regular Meeting of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Committee

Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

*Rams Head – Shore House, 800 Main Street, Stevensville, Maryland 21666*

### Participants:

RMC Chair, Scott Warner

RMC First Vice-Chair, Doris Mason

RMC Second Vice-Chair and Legislative Committee Chair, Josh Hastings

RMC Health Care Committee Chair, Thomas McLoughlin

RMC Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture Representative, Erroll Mattox

RMC Executive Board Member, John Hartline

RMC Executive Director, Charlotte Davis

RMC Administrative and Communications Assistant, Kathy Vernacchio

Chairman Warner called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 31, 2014 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. The Chair asked for corrections or changes, or a motion to accept. Mr. Mattox made a motion to accept, Mr. Hastings seconded the motion, the Committee voted to accept the Minutes as presented.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Financial**

Ms. Davis presented the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. To date we have spent approximately \$100,000.00. FY15 MAERDAF funds are completely spent. A portion of the Special Fund Carry Over has been encumbered to pay for the Upper Shore pilot for the Youth Assessment and Regional Planning Study.

There was no motion to accept the financials as there was an error in printing and the column showing actual expenses year-to-date did not print.

#### **Youth Engagement Project**

Ms. Mason presented a status report. The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship administered a survey to middle and high school students in Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. We did eight youth focus groups to discuss the survey results. One middle school focus group was conducted in each county, two high school focus groups were conducted in Cecil and Queen Anne's Counties, and one high school focus group was conducted in Kent County. We hosted three town halls.

The youth focus groups were asked to identify things they liked and disliked in their communities. After identifying their likes and dislikes, students were asked to identify attributes of their ideal community. Using modeling and craft materials, they then created models. The models they created were very intricate showing things like high-speed internet and hospitals. Most of them were very clear they wanted to preserve open space and agricultural land as well as have social activities in a town center where they could go for entertainment. The entertainment indicated included skating rinks, football stadiums, shopping, etc. The youth involved were very engaged and took their work very seriously.

The town hall participation included county administrators, county executives, 4-H leaders, Kent Forward, guidance counselors, members of the chambers of commerce and others. USDA folks came to the town hall in Cecil. Unfortunately, because of scheduling, we did not get a large number of young people. Queen Anne's County had the largest number of youth participants.

We are waiting for a final report from the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship; however, an executive summary report dated December 12, 2014 was presented to the Executive Committee. The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship has forwarded the data sets of the survey to Washington College so they can start their work on mapping the results.

Washington College has started analyzing the data and has engaged students to participate in the project. Ms. Mason asked for the Executive Committee's input regarding the design and complexity of the proposed dashboard.

The Committee then discussed the lessons learned during this pilot. All involved agreed it is important to engage members of the school board and community leaders far in advance of administering the survey, executing the youth focus groups and holding the town halls.

### **Legislative**

The Rural Maryland Council has partnered with several other organizations to host a Welcome Breakfast for New Legislators. The Breakfast will take place Friday morning January 30, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. prior to our quarterly Executive Board meeting, which will start at 12:00 noon that same day.

Mr. Hastings told the Committee the Legislative Committee has met twice since the last Executive Committee meeting. The Legislative Committee met December 4, 2014 and January 12, 2015.

During the December 4, 2014 meeting Ed Modell and Merle Rockwell, mediators with the Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Center, were present to facilitate a discussion to help prioritize issues important to RMC members for the upcoming 2015 Maryland Legislative Session. Participants were asked to rank priorities during a voting exercise.

The January 12, 2015 Legislative Committee was conducted via conference call. There were approximately 14 participants. The Committee discussed potential legislative priorities for the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session. Committee members approved the draft priorities and made a motion for them to be presented to the Executive Committee for final approval.

After some discussion, the Committee decided the Legislative Priorities should be modified to address the need for expansion of the scope of practice for nurse practitioners. Mr. Warner asked for a motion to accept the Legislative Priorities as submitted with an understanding the wording under the Rural Health topic would be amended to include language to broaden the scope of nurse practitioners. The amended language would be developed with the guidance of the Legislative Committee Chair and the Chair of the Health Care Committee. Ms. Mason made the motion to accept, Mr. Hastings seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

February 19, 2015 will be Rural Maryland Day in Annapolis. A draft agenda for the day was presented to the Committee. Members of the Rural Maryland Council will meet with legislators of the General Assembly.

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

Ms. Davis provided a brief report on the status of RMPIF. The Committee discussed the likelihood of the State budget including funding for RMPIF.

### **Health Care Committee**

Mr. McLoughlin advised invitations were sent to 20 individuals he identified as potential Health Care Committee participants. He reached out to additional individuals who might not participate on the Committee, but may act as a resource. Mr. McLoughlin will work with RMC staff to follow up on the invitations and schedule a meeting of the Health Care Committee.

Mr. Warner suggested Mr. McLoughlin be appointed as the RMC representative to MRHA's Board and asked for a motion from the Executive Committee. Mr. Hastings made the motion, Ms. Mason seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA)**

Mr. Mattox said GICA's next meeting would be in March. The Commission only meets twice yearly.

### **Planning and Development Committee**

The Planning and Development met on December 12, 2014. The next meeting is January 21, 2015.

The Planning and Development Committee was asked to weigh in on the December 22, 2014 letter from Maryland Rural Health Association. Through a deliberative process, it was decided that MRHA and the RMC should hold separate events for 2015. The RMC will support MRHA's annual conference and will engage MRHA as a partner in developing the health care track of the RMC's conference.

**Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF)**

Mr. Warner reviewed the list of individuals who have answered the Foundation's appeal. Two names were missing from the current list, Scott Warner and Doris Mason each contributed \$100.00 to the appeal. The current donation total is currently \$950.00. Mr. Warner said the Foundation would generate follow up letters to remind members about contributing to the campaign.

Mr. Warner asked Ms. Davis to premier the Aspire video for members of the Executive Committee. He told the Committee the video was presented to members of the Regional Councils and county officials during the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo's) Winter Conference; it received a warm response.

**Executive Board Meeting Agenda for January 30, 2015**

The Executive Committee reviewed the agenda for the January 30, 2015 meeting of the Executive Board. Josh Hastings will be out of town; therefore, Charlotte Davis will present the Legislative Committee report. Mr. Mattox will not be able to present the GICA report as he has another commitment that day. He advised there is nothing new to report as the Commission only meets twice a year. However, if anyone has anything they would like brought before the Commission, they can contact him directly he will be happy to present it.

Mr. Warner asked that the item "Executive Director's Report" be added under Board and Committee Reports. He also requested add an item under the Rural Maryland Foundation heading to update the Board on the status of the Foundation's Financial Donation Campaign.

**Adjournment**

The next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2015 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway in Annapolis, Maryland

As there was no further business before the Committee, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hastings moved to adjourn, Ms. Mason seconded and the meeting adjourned.