

RMC Executive Committee
July 22, 2015
Ramshead Shore House, Stevensville, MD
Minutes

Participants:

Scott Warner, Chair; Doris Mason, First Vice Chair; Josh Hastings, 2nd Vice Chair; Mike Pennington, Immediate Past Chair; Tom McLoughlin, Health Care Committee Chair; Mike Thielke, Joint Planning and Development Committee Chair; Dan Rider, Rural Maryland Foundation President; Erroll Mattox, GICA Representative; John Hartline, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland; and Charlotte Davis, RMC Executive Director

The meeting convened at approximately 11:20 am.

The Committee discussed membership in the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA). Mr. Thielke moved that RMC should become a member; Mr. Hastings seconded; the motion was approved unanimously. An additional agenda item was added to include discussion of reintegration with MRHA.

Minutes: Warner

The minutes from the March 27th meeting were discussed. A typo under the Legislative Committee was identified. Mr. Thielke moved to accept the minutes with the correction; Mr. Pennington seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Davis

The RMC Executive Director presented the FY 15 end-of-year spending and FY 16 proposed budget. For Fiscal Year 2015, the Council had \$277,184 in available funding of which \$234,432.10 was spent. A balance of \$42,751 in InvestMaryland (DBED) funding will be carried over in FY 2016. A budget amendment will be prepared. For FY 2016, the Council received \$167,985 in General Fund revenues. A budget of \$209,472 was presented to the Executive Committee. Mr. Thielke moved to accept the Financial Report; Ms. Mason seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee: Pennington

Two new members were appointed by the Maryland Association of Counties: Mr. Doug Howard from Carroll County and Mr. Wilbur Levensgood from Caroline County. The Executive Committee asked that RMC Executive Director have a conversation with the Rural Counties Coalition and give a report at the next meeting. The Committee discussed which legislators to consider for the Executive Board.

Youth Engagement and Assessment Initiative: Mason

Ms. Mason reported that the Upper Shore Regional Council has updated the youth dashboard website. They have added two tabs and are looking for funding to add employment and scholarship information. The query function has been improved and can now run data into an Excel spreadsheet. There is also a feedback button.

RMPIF: Pennington

There will be a meeting set up with various administration representatives during the upcoming Maryland Association of Counties convention to be held in Ocean City. The RMC will also staff a booth in the exhibition hall with the large RMPIF display.

Legislative Committee: Hastings

The Committee has not met since the legislative session ended in April. The Phosphorus Management Tool is currently in place; nutrient trading could be helpful for farmers. The O'Malley administration had regulations before the Maryland Department of the Environment, but there are currently no intentions to present any new regulations. Alternative energy was discussed. The RMC could host a policy conference to further the issue. There was a suggestion to host jointly with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Mr. Pennington moved to offer to partner with ESLC on an Alternative Energy Conference at the Tidewater Inn in Easton; Ms. Mason seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Joint Planning and Development Committee: Thielke

Mr. Thielke presented the Committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Committee recommends that the Planning and Development Committee membership be expanded to include representation from other RMC committees. The Committee is also recommending that the RMC committee structure be given more definition and that a strategic plan be adopted. RMC Bylaws should also be a part of this discussion. Members discussed expanding the RMC Executive Committee to include all Committee Chairs and allow voting rights. The Executive Director will confer with the Department's Assistant Attorney General on possible bylaw changes. Mr. Hastings moved to expand voting members of the RMC Executive Committee; Mr. Pennington seconded; the motion was approved unanimously. Further discussion on the Joint Committee's recommendations included discussion on a 3 or 5 year strategic plan. An expert in strategic plans and management should be hired. The plan should be linked with the Rural Maryland Foundation but should include separate strategies for both the Rural Maryland Council and the Rural Maryland Foundation. Ms. Mason moved adoption of the Joint Planning and Development Committee's recommendations to the RMC Executive Board; Mr. Pennington seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Health Care Committee: McLoughlin

The Committee has met three times this year. The Chair worked to develop the Committee membership. A guest speaker came to the meeting held on July 7, 2015 to describe his experience in operating a business in telemedicine. They have set a monthly meeting for the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on August 7, 2015.

There was discussion regarding reintegrating the Maryland Rural Health Association with the RMC. The Executive Director will draft a letter to inquire as to any interest in reintegration.

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture: Mattox

The Commission has not met since last year. The Executive Director will inquire with the Maryland Department of Agriculture on future meetings.

Rural Maryland Foundation: Rider

The Foundation has met a few times this year and produced a short video called Rural Aspirations. The video was accepted and shown at the Southern Maryland Film Festival. There is an opportunity for the Foundation to sponsor a showing of the movie "Farmland" at the Chesapeake Film Festival to be held in September in Easton. A condition of sponsorship will include showing of the Aspire video.

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund: Davis

The deadline for applicants was July 15, 2015. The RMC received 53 applications requesting over \$890,000. The MAERDAF Grant Review Board will be meeting on July 29th to discuss applications and make award decisions.

The Fiscal Year 2015 Annual report was completed and submitted to the Department of Legislative Services as required by statute.

September 25, 2015 RMC Executive Board meeting

The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the September 25, 2015 Executive Board meeting. An invitation will be extended to Mr. Joe Getty with the Governor's Office to be the featured guest speaker. The Nominating Committee will be added to announce nominations for officers. The RMC Annual Meeting will also be moved to December 2nd, the night before the Rural Summit in Annapolis.

At approximately 4:05 pm, Mr. Mattox moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Pennington seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Next meeting: September 3, 2015, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 pm at the Ramshead Shore House in Stevensville.