

RMC Executive Committee  
September 3, 2015  
Mid-Shore Regional Council, 8737 Brooks Drive, Suite 101, Easton  
Minutes

Participants: Scott Warner, Chair; Josh Hastings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Mike Pennington, Immediate Past Chair; Mike Thielke; Tom McLoughlin; Dan Rider; Erroll Mattox; Charlotte Davis, RMC Executive Director; and Kathy Vernacchio, RMC staff

The meeting convened at approximately 10:11 am.

Minutes

The minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Mike Pennington moved to accept the minutes; Josh Hastings seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes from the April 10, 2015 RMC Executive Board meeting were distributed. Any corrections and changes should be directed to Charlotte Davis.

Financial Report

Charlotte Davis gave the financial report. For FY 2016 the RMC has received \$167,985 in General Funds with a carryover of \$42,751 in Reimbursable Funds. To date, the RMC has spent \$15,411.64 on operations. The Executive Director reported that the RMC has paid MRHA for sponsorship of the October 2015 health conference. Mike Pennington moved to accept the financial report; Josh Hastings seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Erroll Mattox come in at approximately 10:20 am.

Nominating Committee

Mike Pennington presented the Nominating Committee report. There are vacancies with legislators although an invitation was recently extended to Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes. Charlotte Davis will talk to Delegate Sally Jameson and Senator Mike Miller about serving on the RMC Executive Board. Dan Rider will talk to Andrew Cassilly.

There was discussion regarding the Rural Maryland Foundation President; currently, Steve McHenry represents the Foundation on the RMC Executive Board because at the time there was no Foundation President. Josh Hastings motioned to have Dan Rider serve on the RMC Executive Board representing the Foundation and Steve McHenry serve as a Special Appointment to the Board. The RMC Bylaws allow for up to two special appointments to the Board. Tom McLoughlin serves as the first special appointment. Mike Pennington seconded the motion; the motion was approved unanimously.

A suggestion was made to consider hosting a small tour with urban legislators to be held in May 2016.

Legislative Committee

The Committee will meet on September 21, 2015 from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 pm at the Talbot County Library in Easton. The Committee has invited Senator Steve Hershey to speak and will begin discussing the 2016 Legislative Priorities. A draft white paper on Program Open Space will also be presented.

Joint Planning and Development Committee

Mike Thielke reported that the Committee met via conference call on August 27, 2015. They discussed the MAERDAF grant process and the strategic plan. The Joint Planning and Committee will report back in November.

#### Healthcare Committee

Tom McLoughlin reported that minutes were included from the last two committee meetings in July and August 2015. The next meeting will be held on October 6, 2015.

#### Governor's Interagency Commission on Agriculture

Erroll Mattox reported that the commission is scheduled to meet on November 3, 2015. There was discussion of a recent article in the Delmarva Farmer submitted by Secretary Bartenfelder. It was suggested that the Council consider submitting an op-ed to the Delmarva Farmer highlighting Rural Prosperity and how spending decisions are made locally and results in no new government.

#### Rural Maryland Foundation

The Foundation is hosting a screening of Farmland on September 19<sup>th</sup> as part of the Chesapeake Film Festival. The Rural Aspirations video will be shown first. After the screening, a short panel discussion will be held. A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will be held in the movie theater lobby. Suggestions for panelists were made with Charlotte Davis contacting different organizations. A web screening of the movie will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am for those who have not seen the movie yet.

#### September 25 RMC Executive Board Agenda

The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the September 25 Executive Board meeting.

#### MAERDAF Criteria

There was discussion on how make it better known that while the RMC advocates for and administers funding for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund, it has no control on who receives a grant or how much. Decisions are made by an independent board set out by statute. Last year, the RMC gave to the MAERDAF board a list of priorities which were well received by the Board. For the next grant round, the RMC should develop grant guidelines and criteria which should be included in the announcement of grant proposals. Also, the decision makers should be included as well. It was suggested that the MAERDAF Grant Review Board select a Chair of the group. The RMC Executive Director will develop a list of criteria and distribute for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting.

#### RMC Bylaws

The Executive Director drafted suggested changes in the RMC bylaws to expand the membership of the Executive Committee. Changes were reviewed. Josh Hastings motioned to accept the changes and forward to the RMC Executive Board for review before adoption by the full Council at the Annual Meeting; Mike Pennington seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

#### RMC Executive Director Report

Charlotte Davis briefly discussed the Executive Director's activity report and reported that a meeting with the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition President, Doug Howard, had been set up for the following week.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:40 pm.

Next meeting: November 4, 2015 12:00 Noon to 2:00 pm at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD