

Regular Meeting of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Board
Friday, September 30, 2016, 12pm – 2pm,
Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, MD
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Chris Benzing
Debbie Bowden
Doris Cammack-
Spencer
Chris Clark
Timothy Dinsmore
Dean Fisher
Andrew Garte
Cynthia Gurne
John Hartline
Josh Hastings
John Hickman
Anne Jones
Chris Kaselemis
Kamilla Keldiyarova
Kimberly Kratovil
Wilbur Levengood
Denise Lovelady
Doris Mason
Erroll Mattox
William McGowan
Steve McHenry
Alicia Moran
Mary O'Keeffe
Temi Oshiyoye
Gail Owings
Michael Pennington
Steve Pennington
Joanne Richart-
Young
Dan Rider
Terrence Sankar
Alice Settle-Raskin

Emily Snyder
Weida Stoecker
Cindy Stone
Ron Studds
Matthew Tefteau
Mike Thielke
Don VanHassent
Scott Warner
Lori Werrell
Lara Wilson

RMC Staff:
Executive Director,
Charlotte Davis
Program Administrator,
Meredith Donaho

Guest Speaker:
Brian Prendergast

Chair Doris Mason called the meeting to order at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Chair Mason asked the participants to review the minutes from the prior Executive Board meeting and called for a motion to accept the minutes. Mike Pennington made a motion to accept, Joanne Richart-Young seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The minutes from the January 8, 2016 Executive Board Meeting were accepted.

Rural Health Plan for the State of Maryland Proposal

Chair Mason introduced the first item on the agenda: a review of a proposal submitted by the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) to request a contract award to conduct a Rural Health Plan for the State of Maryland, in conjunction with the State Office of Rural Health (SORH). Chair Mason presented the proposal and called for questions.

As part of the study, MRHA will assess the current state of Maryland's rural health, collect data from Maryland's rural counties, and analyze the collected data and prepare a Rural Health Plan. The MRHA requested \$30,000 for expenses to conduct the study. MRHA Executive Director, Lara Wilson, and MRHA Board Chair, Lori Werrell, were available via conference call to answer questions and concerns. There were no questions or comments. Chair Mason requested a motion to approve the proposal request. Josh Hastings made a motion to approve, Joanne Richart-Young seconded the motion; all were in favor. The proposal was accepted for funding.

Guest Speaker: Brian Prendergast

Matthew Tefteau introduced the guest speaker, Brian Prendergast, Program Manager of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Mosquito Control Administration. Mr. Prendergast provided a presentation and overview of the Mosquito Control Administration and its initiatives to raise Zika awareness throughout the State.

The primary goal of the Mosquito Control Administration is to prevent the occurrence of mosquito-borne disease in humans, pets and livestock. Key highlights from the presentation concluded that all cases of Zika virus in Maryland have been travel-related. The Asian Tiger Mosquito can be a transmitter of Zika, and is most active throughout the day and breeds in containers that hold relatively clean water. It is imperative that rainwater is dumped from containers to prevent the mosquitoes from breeding.

Mr. Prendergast also informed the Board that the Mosquito Control Administration works with beekeepers to inform them of scheduled sprays and informs them ahead of time so that they can protect their beehives.

Prior to the Committee Reports, Chair Mason introduced two new Executive Board members, Cindy Stone, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and Emily Snyder, Maryland Farm Bureau. Chair Mason also led introductions around the room.

Committee Reports

Financial

Charlotte Davis provided a financial report of the Council. As of September 12, 2016, the Council has \$356,088.58 available revenue; the Council is in a good financial position. To date, the Council has spent \$32,828.42 in expenses, which is 8.4% of its available funds.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Scott Warner, Chair of the RMPIF Committee, provided an update on RMPIF. The RMPIF Grant Review Board will meet Tuesday, October 4, 2016 to review the received grant proposal. Grant awards will be publicly announced by Friday, October 14, 2016. The RMC received 43 applications with over \$3 million in requests.

Health Care

Charlotte Davis provided an update on the RMC Health Care Committee; Chair Tom McLoughlin was unavailable to attend the meeting. Chair McLoughlin will be resigning from the RMC Health Care Committee, the Committee will be wrapping up its work with a final report and executive summary to be made available to the Executive Board in November. The last Committee meeting will be Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

Legislative

Josh Hastings, Legislative Committee Chair, announced that the Legislative Committee is in need of a new Committee Chair. Chair Hastings will be stepping down from the Legislative Committee by the end of the year, and requested nominations to be shared with the Nominations Committee. Chair Hastings also discussed several issues the Committee will discuss this year including renewable energy sprawl, and introduced Kamilla Keldiyarova who works with Capital Strategies on behalf of the Corn Growers Association, who will be engaging in policy focused on ethanol production. The Legislative Priorities for 2017 draft will also be made available at the next meeting.

Strategic Plan

Mike Thielke, Chair of the RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee, provided an overview of the RMC Strategic Plan for 2017-2020. Chair Thielke discussed the four goals provided in the strategic plan, as well as mentioned several projects that align with the goals that the RMC will be working on within the next year, including the Transfer of Wealth Study and hosting the Partners for Rural America Conference in September 2017. Chair Thielke requested a motion to accept the strategic plan. Steve McHenry made a motion to accept, Josh Hastings seconded the motion; all were in favor. The RMC Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 was accepted.

Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF)

Charlotte Davis provided an update of the RMF; RMF President, Dan Rider, was unavailable to provide an update. The RMF's next meeting will be Thursday, October 13, 2016 via conference call. The Transfer of Wealth Study request for proposals has been submitted, it has been advertised on the RMC and RMF website and newsletter. The RMC and RMF will host a screening of "Farmland" at the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's Annual Conference on November 10, 2016.

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA)

Erroll Mattox, GICA Committee Chair, presented an update that the Committee received information from the last GICA Meeting on the Maryland Department of Planning's efforts to map fragmented

farmland. The Committee also received information and a presentation on the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Bee Pollinator Plan.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis provided a brief update on MAERDAF. The Council received 95 applications and awarded 42 awards to 42 organizations. The Council is currently working on drafting its FY2016 Annual Report, recruiting a new Administrative Assistant, finalizing and sending its September newsletter, and promoting The Future of Value-Added Agriculture Summit on Thursday, December 1, 2016. The Council is co-partnering with Grow Maryland to present the summit, and is currently soliciting sponsorships.

New Business

Town of Denton Request for Letter of Support

Charlotte Davis shared with the Board a request from the Town of Denton for the Council to provide a letter of support for a stormwater stream retrofit study grant. Ms. Davis asked for any questions or objections to the letter of support. No questions or objections were offered. Ms. Davis asked for a motion to approve providing a letter of support. Steve McHenry made a motion to accept, Erroll Mattox seconded the motion; all were in favor. The request to provide a letter of support to the Town of Denton was approved.

Procurement Policy

Charlotte Davis provided an update regarding the RMC's procurement policy. The RMC is exempt from the state procurement policy, but is required to have one of its own. Ms. Davis informed the Board that a draft procurement policy will be made available at the next meeting.

Nominating Committee

Mike Pennington, Chair of the Nominating Committee, discussed that 10 new members will be elected at the RMC Annual Meeting in November. There is a need for new Chairs for the Legislative and Health Care Committees. Chair Pennington requested that the Board submit nominations for the opening positions.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Mason announced that her term as Chair will be ending in December 2016, and she expects to be replaced by Josh Hastings. Chair Mason thanked the RMC Staff for their work. She also shared a special "thank you" to Bill McGowan, State Director Rural Development (Maryland and Delaware), USDA, for his contributions and support for projects all across Rural Maryland.

Adjournment

A motion was requested to adjourn the meeting by Erroll Mattox and the meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 28, 2016, 5:00pm – 7:30pm, Location TBD