

RMC Legislative Committee
January 23, 2017
3pm-4pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Josh Hastings
Scott Warner
Steve McHenry
Lara Wilson
Kim Kratovil
Wilbur Levensgood
Don Mulrine
Erroll Mattox
Alice Settle-Raskins
Matt Teffeau

Odette Ramos
Bill Christopher
Kelly Dudeck

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:06 pm.

Review of November 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 14, 2016 Legislative Committee were reviewed. No recommendations were offered. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Updates and Overview of the 2017 Legislative Priorities & Session

Chair Hastings provided an overview of the 2017 Legislative Priorities. Governor Hogan announced in January that \$4 million would be included for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The Rural Maryland Council will meet with Legislators to encourage the funds allocated for RMPIF will remain in the budget.

In addition, the RMC will be hosting a Welcome Breakfast for Rural Legislators, and a Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly Executive Board Meeting, on Friday, January 27th at the President's Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis. Rural Maryland Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 9th, 8:30am – 12pm, with a luncheon reception from 12pm- 2pm, at Harry Browne's Restaurant. Governor Hogan will be presenting the Rural Maryland Day Proclamation to the Rural Maryland Council during the luncheon reception.

The Rural Maryland Council Senate Budget Hearing is scheduled for Friday, February 10th, 1pm-3pm. The House Appropriations Committee Hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 13th, 1pm-3pm. Additional information regarding the scheduled hearings will be shared with the Legislative Committee.

Legislative Tracking

The Rural Maryland Council will submit two letters of support for HB0002/SB0014 – Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Expansion, sponsored by Delegate Hixson and Senator Madaleno. Copies of the letters of support were made available for the Committee to review. An inquiry was made regarding the vetting process for submitting letters of support and testimonies. RMC Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, explained that the RMC Legislative Committee reviews and

recommends the letters of support and testimonies. The Committee will adhere to the policy that letters of support or testimonies will not be made for legislation or policies that are opposed by the Governor.

In addition, a spreadsheet containing legislative items of interest was also made available for the Committee to review.

Other Updates

- Following Rural Maryland Day, the 2017 “Taste of the Eastern Shore” Legislative Event will be held on February 9th, 5pm-9pm, at the Loews Annapolis Hotel.
- The Maryland Rural Health Association Legislative Luncheon will be held January 26th in the Anne Arundel County Delegation Room, House Office Building.
- Next Generation Farmland Program – The Administration is recommending to spread out funding over the next 2 fiscal years.
- Funding for the Community Legacy Program will be moved to the Capital Budget.
- It was suggested that the Committee include SB0116 - Program Open Space - Attainment of Acquisition Goals - Local Government Apportionment and Use of Funds, on its list of tracked legislation.
- It was also suggested the Committee include HB0101- Department of Housing and Community Development - Funding for Newly Constructed Single-Family Homes, on its list of tracked legislation, as it could impact rural communities.
- Several local pieces of legislation impacting agriculture and property rights in Howard County were also discussed.

No other issues or business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 20, 2016, 3pm-4pm, Conference Call