

RMC Legislative Committee
Monday, December 11, 2017
1:00pm-2:00pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Odette Ramos, Co-Chair
Lindsay Thompson, Co-Chair
Bill Christopher
John Hartline
Josh Hastings
Kim Kratovil
Sharan Marshall
Erroll Mattox
Steve McHenry
Don Mulrine
Nancy Nunn
Alice Settle-Raskin
Shannon Reed
Dan Rider
Sara Visintainer
Scott Warner
Lara Wilson

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:02 pm.

Minutes

The meeting minutes from the November 21, 2017 Legislative Committee were shared. Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson requested changes to the minutes. A request was made by Alice Settle-Raskin for her last name to be corrected. Co-Chair Thompson requested a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve with the correction was made by Don Mulrine, and seconded by Alice Settle-Raskin. The November 21, 2017 meeting minutes with the correction were approved unanimously.

2018 Legislative Priorities

Charlotte Davis shared a draft of the 2018 Legislative Priorities. An introduction regarding the projected budget deficit was included, and a sentence supporting the restoration of the Small, Women and Minority-Owned Business Account funds was added. Additions also included verbiage on the Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless and Cellular Service recommendations, support for the creation of the Community Development Fund, and support for expansion of telehealth for preventative and critical service health care.

A suggestion was made to include a breakdown of the agriculture sectors and industries, including how much is represented by forestry, that is included as mentioned in the reference to the \$8 Billion annual

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output of agriculture products in Maryland (second page, Viable Agriculture, Aquaculture, Forestry & Rural Communities paragraph).

It was also discussed if the minimum wage debate should be included under rural economic development, the Committee agreed that it would not be included because it will be hard to reach a consensus on the issue. Another suggestion mentioned net neutrality.

2018 Calendar Dates

The Rural Maryland Council will host its Legislative Luncheon and Executive Board meeting on Friday, January 26, 2018 in the President's Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building in Annapolis. The Rural Maryland Council will also partner with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts for Rural Maryland Day on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

With no other updates, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:27 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, January 15, 2018, 3pm -4pm, Conference Call.