

RMC Legislative Committee
March 13, 2017
2pm-3pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Lindsay Thompson, Co-Chair

Josh Hastings

Mike Pennington

Lara Wilson

Bill Christopher

Joanne Richart-Young

Scott Warner

Don Mulrine

Erroll Mattox

John Hartline

Steve McHenry

Kim Kratovil

Doris Mason

Sara Visintainer

Alice Settle-Raskins

Senator Addie Eckardt

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:04 pm.

Review of February 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the February 27, 2017 Legislative Committee were reviewed. No recommendations were made. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Legislative Tracking

Several item requests for the Legislation Committee to review included:

- **SB266/HB281 - Environment - On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Best Available Technology for Nitrogen Removal.** There is an amendment in the bill for the funds to come out of the Bay Restoration Fund, and specifically out of the MDA Cover Crop program. The Committee has recommended continued monitoring of the bill.
- **SB931/HB1592 -Local Jurisdictions - Zoning Authority - Generating Stations.** Renewable energy has been a concern for many rural communities. MACo has submitted support testimony. The Committee recommended support testimony.

Several other bills were identified for discussion, including:

- **HB 1063 – Agriculture – Maryland Healthy Soils Program.** There was concern how the bill defines “healthy soil”. The Committee recommended continued monitoring.
- **SB611/HB807 - Health Occupations - Requirements for the Practice of Optometry - Miscellaneous Revisions.** Maryland Rural Health Association has reviewed the bill and determined there is no concern for rural communities, no position has been taken. The Committee recommended no position.
- **SB796 - Economic Development - County Economic Development Tax Incentives Program and One Maryland Tax Credit.** A letter of support has been submitted.

Other Updates

- Rural Maryland Day: Charlotte asked for feedback about Rural Maryland Day and asked for suggestions for improvements. No suggestions were offered, the event received positive feedback.
- Budget Update: The House Appropriations Subcommittee has cut funding for RMPIF from \$4 million to \$3 million. The House Appropriations Subcommittee rejected DLS recommended cut of \$2.5 million from the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program.

No other issues or business were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, March 27, 2017, 3pm-4pm, Conference Call