

## **Minutes**

Rural Maryland Council Executive Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.  
Rams Head Shore House, Stevensville, MD

### Participants:

Doris Mason, Chair	Tom McLoughlin, Health Care Committee Chair
Josh Hastings, First Vice Chair	Erroll Mattox, Representing District 6 & GICA
Scott Warner, Immediate Past Chair	
Mike Pennington, Nominating Committee Chair	RMC Staff:
Matt Tefteau, Second Vice Chair	Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
	Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator

Chair Mason called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 pm.

### **Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 13, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Erroll Mattox to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Pennington, and all were in favor. The minutes from the September 13, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting were accepted unanimously.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 30, 2016 Executive Board Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Mike Pennington to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Matt Tefteau, and all were in favor. The minutes from the September 30, 2016 Executive Board Meeting were accepted unanimously.

### **Financials – FY17 Budget**

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2017 Budget as of October 12, 2016. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$332,901.65, and total grant expenditures of \$484,737.75 for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant disbursements. Anticipated expenditures include a \$30,000 grant to the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) for the Rural Health Care Plan for the State of Maryland; the grant agreement has been sent and needs to be signed and returned to process disbursement. Grant agreements and disbursements for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPPIF) have also been mailed to awarded organizations. The Rural Maryland Council will also be providing for 75% of reimbursement for health care insurance payment costs for the Program Administrator; the cost for the plan is unknown at this time.

The Rural Maryland Council received a request from the nonprofit organization 1000 Friends of Maryland to provide partial sponsorship for the facilitation of meetings to convene organizations to discuss renewable energy sprawl. The request is for \$5,000 for Land and Energy Caucus meetings. Legislative Chair, Josh Hastings, presented the request; the meetings would include the Rural Maryland Council and would focus on discussions for policies for energy and land use. The requested sponsorship would be provided from funds allocated for the Rural Maryland Council Legislative Committee. There were requests by the Committee to inquire what other organizations are contributing to sponsorships,

and if a layout of plans and meetings are available. Organizations that are currently involved in the Land and Energy Caucus include the Maryland Association of Counties, Maryland Farm Bureau, and Preservation Maryland. A motion was made by Tom McLoughlin to approve the request, contingent on the inquiries, to grant up to \$5,000 for sponsorship. The motion was seconded by Scott Warner. The requested was accepted; Matt Tefteau abstained from the vote.

Matt Tefteau also thanked the Rural Maryland Council and Rural Maryland Foundation for sponsoring the Maryland Department of Agriculture Legislative Tour Lunch.

### **Health Care Committee**

Health Care Committee Chair, Tom McLoughlin, provided an overview of the Health Care Committee Executive Summary, copy of which was distributed at the meeting. In addition to the Executive Summary, the full report will include the minutes, agendas, handouts and PowerPoint presentations from all Rural Maryland Council Health Care Committee meetings for 2015-2016. Chair McLoughlin also discussed the Committee activities related to its short-term objectives which focused on school based mental health centers and involved contacts with rural health care providers and other health related as well as educational organizations. In summary, the Committee recommends that the Rural Maryland Council continue to act as an advocate for rural health initiatives, particularly in support of the integration of a mental health component in primary care. Chair McLoughlin also recommends the possibility of fiscal initiatives through grants from the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund for projects addressing this issue and including the application of telemedicine in the process. Further recommended was the need for and importance of Staff follow up with the efforts already initiated.

After extended discussion, it was concluded that the Executive Committee members will review the summary based on the meeting and provide their input prior to its distribution Executive Board at the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **RMPIF**

Chair Scott Warner provided an update on the RMPIF grants. A press release was shared with the list of awardees for entrepreneur, infrastructure and health care projects. There were a few Regional Councils who were notified of the request for additional information for their applications by the MAERDAF Grant Review Board. A RMPIF Report is due to the Legislature by January 1, 2017. The RMPIF Committee will be setting up a time to meet and discuss lessons learned from the process in winter of 2017. Discussions may include the possibility of changes in ranking criteria for grant applications and ways to better enforce performance measures for awarded grants.

### **Legislative Committee**

Legislative Committee Chair Josh Hastings provided an overview of the draft 2017 Legislative Priorities. A suggestion was made to include a mention of Highway User Funds, particularly Payment In-Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to replace highway user funds for poorer counties.

### **RMC/RMF Joint Planning Committee**

RMC/RMF Joint Planning Committee Chair Mike Thielke was absent from the meeting. Charlotte Davis provided an update that the next meeting will take place November 9<sup>th</sup> via conference call and will include discussion regarding implementation of the strategic plan.

### **Rural Maryland Foundation**

Dan Rider, President of the Rural Maryland Foundation, was absent from the meeting; Charlotte Davis provided an update on the Foundation's activities. The Transfer of Wealth Study Request for Proposals has been submitted to Frostburg State University, Sage Policy Group, Beacon Group, and Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. The Request for Proposals have been advertised on the Rural Maryland Council website, newsletter, and eMaryland Marketplace. Screenings of the film "Farmland" and "Rural Aspirations" are scheduled for Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's Annual Conference. The next Rural Maryland Foundation meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2016.

### **GICA**

Erroll Mattox, Chair of the GICA Committee, shared 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 presented a draft of the FY2016 Annual Report. She asked for feedback for changes or additions to be shared within one week, the Annual Report will be finalized and shared with the Executive Board at the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Charlotte Davis also announced that the 2016 Grow Maryland Summit, partnered with Grow and Fortify, will be taking place December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club. The draft calendar of events for 2017 were also reviewed, there were no changes or suggestions offered.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chair Doris Mason thanked the staff for their work on the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grants and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) grants. She also thanked the Board for their work on the strategic plan.

### **New Business**

#### **November 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Agenda:**

Charlotte Davis presented proposals from local vendors, the proposals exceed the budgeted cost for the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of \$2,500. It was suggested that the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting venue take place at Quiet Waters Park Blue Heron Center, and to use their preferred catering vendor to stay within the budget. The draft agenda for the meeting was reviewed, Doris Mason offered to present the strategic plan including a full presentation if RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee Chair, Mike Thielke, preferred not to present, so that the RMC Executive Board will understand the plan in full detail.

#### **Nominating Committee:**

Charlotte Davis and Nominating Committee Chair Mike Pennington asked for Board Nominations and nominations for the Rural Champion Award. Nominations for the Rural Champion Award included Delegate Jay Jacobs, Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Delegate Sally Jameson, David Brinkley, and Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. Nominations for replacements for the RMC Executive Board included Lindsay Thompson, Executive Director of the Maryland Soil Conservation Districts, and Jordan Shockley for an aquaculture representative. Nominations to replace the Legislative Committee Chair included Steve

McHenry and Lindsay Thompson. Chair McLoughlin mentioned several possible candidates for the open Health Care Committee Chair position including, Dr. David Pruitt, Dr. Karen Kverno, Dr. Neal Reynolds, Holly Ireland, and Dr. Diana Abney. The Legislative Committee and Health Care Committee will also be asked if any members would like to be considered for the open Chair positions.

**Procurement Policy:**

Charlotte Davis provided an overview of the procurement policy for the Rural Maryland Council. It was suggested that the conflict of interest section be verified with the Assistant Attorney General in the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and that more clarity be provided in regards to requests for bids over \$5,000. Charlotte has requested feedback from the Board to finalize the policy.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

The next RMC Executive Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 24, 2017, 12pm-2pm,  
Location TBD