

RMC Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly Executive Board Meeting  
Friday January 27, 2017, 12pm – 2pm,  
President's Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, MD  
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Gary Allen	Jeannette Fernandez	Chip MacLeod
Nana Amamos	Vanessa Finney	Carol Masden
Senator Gail Bates	Dean Fisher	Doris Mason
Kathy Beisner	Ellen Flowers-Fields	Delegate Susan McComas
Dawn Beitzel	Kurt Fuchs	Rob McCord
Delegate Wendell Beitzel	Audry Gagnon	James McCormick
Mark Belton	Andrew Garte	Steve McHenry
Chris Benzing	Delegate Jim Gilchrist	Diana Modelski
Craig Beyroudy	Rodney Glotfelty	Alicia Moran
Mike Binko	Ana Gomerez	Don Mulrine
Richard C. Blair	Ed Goyda	Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
Jan Booth	Heather Gramm	Shalewa Noel-Thomas
Luis Borunda	Santo Grande	Mary O'Keffe
Josh Boston	Sue Gray	Merril Oliver
Debbie Bowden	Sheila Greenwood	Temi Oshiyoye
Brandon Bowser	Cynthia Gurne	Bud Otis
Tammy Bresnahan	Joy Hall	Mathew Palmer
Kevin Brooks	Roger Harrell	Katie Parks
Mindie Burgoyne	John Hartline	Susan Payne
Kim Calvert	Craig Hartsock	Mike Pennington
Doris Cammack-Spencer	Josh Hastings	Alma Plummer
Judy Carbone	Pat Heggarty	Ken Reichard
Delegate Mary Beth Carozza	Courtney Highsmith	Louise Reynnells
Susan Casey	Amoretta Hoerber	Eric Robison
Kevin Chesley	Jennifer Holz	Rachel Roman
Chris Clark	Jeanine Johnson	Commissioner Richard Rothschild
Allison Cordell	Ann Jones	Pam Ruff
Amy Crone	Jonathan Kays	Senator Johnny Ray Salling
Carol D'Agostino	Christopher Kersey	Bill Satterfield
Jana Davis	Kimberly Kratovil	Andrew Sargent
Herbert Dennis	Delegate Susan Krebs	Stephen Schatz
Tim Dinsmore	Delegate Stephen Lafferty	Alice Settle-Raskins
Steve DolbowHeidi	Chris Lokey	Senator WilliamSmith
Dudderar	Denise Lovelady	Ryan Snow
Kelly Dudeck	Bunky Luffman	Emily Snyder
Nancy Easterling	Thomas Luginbill	Derrick Southard
Kristie Eberly	Jolene Lutz	

Regular Meeting of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Board

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Joan Strang  
Della Stull  
Mark Stutzman  
Robin Summerfield  
Richard Tabuteau  
Matthew Tefteau  
Lindsay Thompson  
Matia Vanderbilt  
Don VanHassent  
Lydia VanKouteren  
Bob Vaughn  
Roseanna Vogt  
George Vogelsang

Roseanna Vogt  
Scott Warner  
Jennifer Williams  
Rajeshwari Williams  
Dave Wilson  
Lara Wilson  
Jamie Windon  
Jennifer Witten  
Dr. Lih Young

RMC Staff:  
Executive Director, Charlotte  
Davis  
Program Administrator,  
Meredith Donaho,  
Administrative Assistant,  
Amanda Clevenger  
  
Guest Speakers:  
The Honorable Addie Eckardt,  
The Honorable Thomas “Mac”  
Middleton,  
Les Knapp, Maryland Association  
of Counties (MACo)

Chair Josh Hastings called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Chair Hastings introduced guest speaker Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton. Senator Middleton spoke of the many challenges impacting rural communities and expected highlights for the upcoming legislative session, including access to rural health care.

Chair Hastings introduced guest speaker Senator Addie Eckardt. Senator Eckardt spoke of several highlights for the legislative session including economic development, highway user revenues, and access to broadband.

**Announcements**

Chair Hastings requested brief announcements from attendees regarding topics the RMC should be made aware of or updates on current projects.

**Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 28, 2016 Annual Board Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Steve McHenry to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Doris Mason, and all were in favor. The minutes from the November 28, 2016 Annual Board Meeting were accepted unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Financial**

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2017 Budget as of January 6, 2017. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$248,449.26, and total grant expenditures of \$1,752,304.00. All funds for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) have been expended. The Council is in good financial position.

### **Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)**

Scott Warner, Chair of the RMPIF Committee, provided an update on RMPIF. Chair Warner presented the RMPIF Reports that were distributed to the Board. The RMPIF Report has been submitted to the Department of Legislative Services, the Governor, and legislators. Governor Hogan has announced in his budget that \$4 million has been allocated for RMPIF for FY2018. The RMC thanks Governor Hogan for his support.

### **Health Care**

Health Care Committee Co-Chairs, Lara Wilson and Rodney Glotfelty, provided an update. The Committee will be resuming activities in the spring. Last year, the Committee focused on adolescent health and depression disorders. This year, the Committee will focus on the updated Rural Health Plan for the State of Maryland, conducted by the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) with the support of the State Office of Rural Health, RMC, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The study will look at health disparities in all 18 rural counties.

### **Legislative**

Chair Hastings provided an overview of the 2017 Legislative Priorities. A copy of the priorities was distributed to the Board. Chair Hastings also announced that the Committee is in the process of looking for a new chair.

### **Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF)**

Charlotte Davis provided an update of the RMF; RMF President, Dan Rider, was unavailable to provide an update. The RMF is leading the effort for a Transfer of Wealth Study, an economic study that would examine the transfer of net wealth in rural Maryland counties. The Foundation received two proposal submissions from the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and BEACON. A comparison chart of the proposals was presented to the Board. The Foundation recommended the Board accept the proposal submitted by the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. A motion was made by Mike Pennington to accept the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship proposal. The motion was seconded by Santo Grande, and all were in favor. The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship proposal for the Transfer of Wealth Study was accepted unanimously.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Charlotte Davis shared that the Grow Maryland Summit held in partnership with Grow and Fortify on December 1<sup>st</sup> was well-received. The RMC is beginning to plan for its 2017 Rural Summit scheduled for Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Rural Summit Planning Committee will meet January 30<sup>th</sup> by conference call to discuss themes, keynote speakers, and potential venues. In addition, Charlotte introduced the RMC's newest staff member, Amanda Clevenger, who will be serving as an Administrative Assistant.

### **New Business**

#### **Youth Engagement Committee**

Doris Mason presented an overview for a potential Youth Engagement Committee to the Board. The Committee will expand upon the youth engagement study the Council conducted in 2015. Sign-up sheets were distributed for interested participants to join the Committee. Chair Hastings requested a motion to make the Youth Engagement Committee official. A motion was made by Mike Pennington.

The motion was seconded by Rodney Glotfelty, all were in favor. The Youth Engagement Committee was made an official committee and was accepted unanimously.

**Guest Speaker – Les Knapp, Maryland Association of Counties (MACo)**

Chair Hastings introduced Les Knapp, Legal and Policy Counsel, Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) as a guest speaker. Mr. Knapp spoke of several key highlights for the upcoming legislative session including energy generation facilities and the impact of energy development on open space and agricultural lands. Energy development has a major impact on rural communities. Renewable energy sprawl can fragment the two major economic industries for rural communities: agriculture and tourism. In addition to renewable energy sprawl, three other initiatives for MACo in the coming session include highway user revenues, broader infrastructure survey, and local flexibility for school construction. MACo will also be looking at legislation that will create a grant program to offset the costs for mandated home sprinkler systems.

**Announcements**

Chair Hastings introduced Senator James Mathias, who spoke briefly regarding the health care challenges affecting rural communities and opportunities for communities to grow.

An announcement was made for Rural Maryland Day scheduled for Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, sign-up sheets were made available for interested participants to join. It was also announced the “Taste of the Eastern Shore” event, hosted by the Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore, is also scheduled for the evening of February 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Loews Annapolis Hotel.

**Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 7, 2017, 12pm -2pm, President’s Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building