

## **Minutes**

Rural Maryland Council Executive Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 24, 2017 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.  
Harry Browne's Restaurant, 66 State Circle, Annapolis, MD

### Participants:

Josh Hastings, Chair

Matt Teffeau, First Vice Chair

Erroll Mattox, Second Vice Chair

Doris Mason, Immediate Past Chair

Mike Pennington, Nominating Committee Chair

Scott Warner, RMPIF Committee Chair

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator

Amanda Clevenger, Administrative Assistant

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

Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, introduced the RMC's newest staff member, Amanda Clevenger, to the Executive Committee.

### **Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the October 25, 2016 Executive Committee 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 Teffeau, and all were in favor. The minutes from the October 25, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting were accepted unanimously.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 28, 2016 Executive Board 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 Doris Mason, and all were in favor. The minutes from the November 28, 2016 Executive Board Meeting were accepted unanimously.

### **Financials – FY17 Budget**

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. There are three outstanding grant agreements for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) grant program, these agreements have not yet been received to process disbursement.

The Transfer of Wealth Study, which was budgeted for \$45,000.00, has actual costs of \$30,000.00, which leaves an additional \$15,000.00 in the budget. These extra funds could be re-allocated to support a need to increase the budgeted amount for conference sponsorships, an updated rural stat on the website, and to purchase a new computer for the office. The re-allocations will be addressed at the next Executive Committee in March with an updated budget.

### **Health Care Committee**

Charlotte Davis provided an update for the Health Care Committee. The new co-chairs, Lara Wilson and Rodney Glotfelty, will be meeting with RMC staff for a conference call on March 16, 2017 to discuss ideas for the Committee and to plan meeting dates and times. The status of the Rural Health Care Plan for the State of Maryland will also be discussed.

### **RMPIF**

Chair Scott Warner provided an update on RMPIF. The RMPIF Report has been submitted to the Department of Legislative Services, the Governor, and legislators. Interim reports for RMPIF and MAERDAF are due on January 25, 2017. Governor Hogan has announced in his budget that \$4 million has been allocated for RMPIF for FY2018.

There was a question regarding if the RMC was encouraging RMPIF grantees to submit thank you letters to legislators. The RMC does not require that grantees submit thank you letters, but does require that grantees acknowledge the RMC in press releases, media announcements, etc. pertaining to their grant awards, as outlined in the grant agreements. It was discussed that the grant agreements could be revised to require that grantees would have to submit a press release, and to request that they submit a thank you letter to legislators. The RMC will also contact grantees to ask for letters of support for RMPIF to be presented to the Senate Budget and Taxation and House Appropriation Hearings on February 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Legislative Committee**

Chair Josh Hastings provided an update of the Legislative Committee. The Committee is currently looking for a new chair. An invitation to co-chair has been extended to Odette Ramos, Community Development Network of Maryland, and Lindsay Thompson, Thompson Ag Associates, who have both expressed interest. RMC staff will conduct a follow-up to confirm the new co-chairs. The Committee held a meeting on January 23, 2017, the next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2017. The Committee has submitted two letters of support for SB14/HB2 – Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Expansion. A tracking sheet of monitored legislation was presented to the Committee.

### **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 February 1<sup>st</sup> via conference call. There will also be a conference call on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss ideas for hosting a “Last Mile” Broadband Roundtable event, which is an item listed in the FY17 Work Plan.

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

Dan Rider, President of the Rural Maryland Foundation, was absent from the meeting; Charlotte Davis provided an update on the Foundation’s activities. The RMF held a meeting on December 15, 2016 and has agreed to offer its service to act as a third party Workforce Investment Board (WIB). This would require the RMF to post and monitor contracts to the eMaryland Marketplace. The Transfer of Wealth Study Work Group also met via conference call on December 16<sup>th</sup> to review two proposals submitted by the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and BEACON. The work group agreed to choose the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. A request has been made for the Executive Committee to approve the Center

for Rural Entrepreneurship proposal for the Transfer of Wealth Study. A motion was made by Josh Hastings to approve the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship proposal. The motion was seconded by Matt Teffeau, all were in favor. The approval to award the Transfer of Wealth Study contract to the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship was accepted unanimously.

#### **GICA**

Erroll Mattox, Chair of the GICA Committee, shared that the Committee has no recent updates.

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

Charlotte Davis shared that the December 1<sup>st</sup> Grow Maryland Summit was very well-received. Charlotte also shared highlights from her recent trip for LEAD Maryland to India and Dubai.

#### **New Business**

##### **January 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Agenda:**

Charlotte Davis shared a draft agenda for the January 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly Executive Board Meeting. Chair Hastings will email additional edits to the agenda, and additional revisions will be made once speakers are confirmed. A second email blast will also be sent out in the coming week to encourage more registrations.

##### **Rural Maryland Day:**

Charlotte Davis announced that Governor Hogan has been confirmed to present the Rural Maryland Day proclamation on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the lunch reception reserved at Harry Browne's. Thirty appointments have been scheduled with legislators, many of whom serve on the Budget and Taxation and House Appropriation Committees. An announcement will be sent to the RMC Executive Board to invite them to attend the proclamation presentation and luncheon.

##### **2017 Rural Summit:**

Charlotte Davis shared that the Rural Summit Planning Committee will meet via conference call on January 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential themes, venue locations, and keynote speakers for the Rural Summit scheduled tentatively for Friday, December 1, 2017. A packet of potential venues was reviewed by the Executive Committee. Some suggestions for potential themes included transportation, infrastructure, rural entrepreneurship, value-added products, and highway user revenues.

##### **Youth Engagement Committee:**

Doris Mason announced that she is interested in chairing an RMC Youth Engagement Committee. Potential activities or focuses could include reaching out to 4-H groups, keeping young farmers engaged, and youth start-ups and entrepreneurship. A vote is needed by the RMC Executive Board to make the Committee official; Doris will present her plan for the Committee at the January 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly Executive Board Meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm. The next RMC Executive Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 12pm-2pm, Location TBD