

RMC Spring Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting
Friday, April 7, 2017, 12pm – 2pm,
President's Conference Center East, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, MD
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Gary Allen
Peggy Alpert
Kathy Beisner
Kevin Brooks
Doris Cammack-Spencer
Vanessa Finney
Robin Frazier
Secretary Mike Gill
Rodney Glotfelty
R. Allan Gorsuch
Santo Grande
Cynthia Gurne
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Roger Harrell
John Hartline
Josh Hastings
Dale Hawks
Emily Hollis
John Huggins
Anne Jones
Chris Kaselemis
Jim Kinnaird
Kimberly Kratovil
Denise Lovelady
Bunky Luffman
Chuck Manto
Angela Martin
Erroll Mattox
Steve McHenry
Alicia Moran
Don Mulrine
Temi Oshiyoye
Mike Pennington
Steve Pennington

Mark Powell
Odette Ramos
Joanne Richart-Young
Andrew Rose
Jason Schellhardt
Alice Settle-Raskin
Emily Snyder
Cindy Stone
Anne Stringer
Matt Tefteau
Jessie Thomas
Lindsay Thompson
Roseanna Vogt
Scott Warner
Shelby Watson-Hampton
Carol West
Lara Wilson
Jamie Windon

RMC Staff:

Executive Director, Charlotte
Davis
Program Administrator,
Meredith Donaho,
Administrative Assistant,
Amanda Clevenger

Guest Speakers:

Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder
Comptroller Peter Franchot
Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford
Dr. Bernie Sadusky, Maryland
Association of Community
Colleges

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

Chair Hastings introduced Vanessa Finney, Executive Director of the Maryland Forests Association, and sponsor of the Spring Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting.

Chair Hastings introduced special guest Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Mike Gill. Secretary Gill spoke of the importance of economic development for strengthening infrastructure and health care in rural communities.

Guest speaker Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder of the Maryland Department of Agriculture was introduced by Chair Hastings. Secretary Bartenfelder spoke of the importance of rural communities and agriculture.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 27, 2017 Legislative Luncheon and 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 Joanne Richart-Young, and all were in favor. The minutes from the January 27, 2017 Legislative Luncheon and Executive Board Meeting were accepted unanimously.

Announcements

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

Guest Speaker – Comptroller Peter Franchot

First Vice Chair, Matt Teffeau, introduced guest speaker Comptroller Peter Franchot. Comptroller Franchot spoke of the vital importance of rural small businesses to the success of the State, and contributions rural communities make to the strength of Maryland's economy. Comptroller Franchot specifically mentioned several items of legislation that would have a direct impact on small businesses in the State.

Chair Hastings introduced special guest Jamie Windon of Lyon Distillery, the local business spotlighted for the event.

Committee Reports

Financial

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2017 Budget as of April 6, 2017. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$168,244.84, and total grant expenditures of \$2,165,745.16. The Council is in good financial position. The Council will be drafting a FY18 budget, which will be shared and approved by the RMC Executive Committee in May. The Council will also be drafting a plan for spending leftover funds available from FY2017.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Scott Warner, Chair of the RMPIF Committee, provided an update on RMPIF. Chair Warner announced that for FY2018, \$3,667,000.00 will be awarded to RMPIF. The RMC thanks Governor Hogan, the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates for their support. Copies of tentative timelines for RMPIF and the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) were shared.

For FY2018, the application process will include an initial abstract proposal submission, followed by a review and invitation to accepted applicants to submit a full grant application. Abstract proposal submissions will be announced soon.

Health Care

Health Care Committee Co-Chairs, Lara Wilson and Rodney Glotfelty, provided an update. The Committee will continue 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.

Guest Speaker – Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford

Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder introduced Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. Lt. Governor Rutherford spoke of vital importance of agriculture to the success of the State, and contributions rural communities make to the strength of Maryland's economy. The Lt. Governor also spoke of his experiences and background working in the agriculture sector.

Committee Reports

Legislative

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs, Odette Ramos and Lindsay Thompson, provided an update. Copies of tracked and submitted support testimonies, letters, and letters of information for 2017 legislation were distributed to attendees. Senate Bill 717/ House Bill 1169 - Connecting Rural Maryland Act of 2017 was passed. The legislation establishes the Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service. The 22-member task force, which includes four members of the Senate and four members of the House of Delegates, must study and make recommendations regarding how Western Maryland counties; Southern Maryland counties; Eastern Shore counties; and Frederick, Carroll, and Harford counties can work together to obtain federal assistance to improve internet, broadband, wireless, and cellular services and accessibility in the affected counties. Rural Maryland Council Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, has been named as the Chair of the task force. More information regarding the task force will be made available soon.

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 Center for Rural Entrepreneurship is conducting the study. A Technical Advisory Committee webinar was hosted on March 28, 2017. The Transfer of Wealth project schedule was made available for attendees. The next webinar will be held May 10, 2017. The RMF will also be procuring requests for proposals for the Lower Eastern Shore Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) One Stop Operator. More information will be made available on the RMF's website.

GICA

GICA Representative, Erroll Mattox, provided an update. The topic for the next GICA meeting will focus on agri-tourism.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis shared that the Council is working on planning the 2017 Rural Summit. The theme for the Summit is "Bridging the Divide: Strengthening Rural and Urban Communities." Sponsorships are now available. The Rural Summit Planning Committee will next meet on May 15, 2017. The Council will also be co-hosting a small business event on May 4, 2017 at Chesapeake College with the Federal Reserve of Richmond. On May 24, 2017, the Council has partnered with USDA Rural Development to host a 2017 Rural Broadband Forum in Annapolis. More information will be available on the RMC's website.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Bernie Sadusky, Maryland Association of Community Colleges

Chair Hastings introduced guest speaker Dr. Bernie Sadusky. Dr. Sadusky spoke of the importance of community colleges for strengthening rural communities, and retraining workers in response to growing automation and outsourcing concerns. Dr. Sadusky also spoke of several items of legislation that would impact funding for community colleges, and discussed ways that communities can support local community colleges.

New Business

Chair Hastings requested announcements regarding last thoughts from the audience.

Adjournment

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

Next Meeting: Friday, September 29, 2017, 12pm -2pm, Location TBD