

RMC Fall Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting
Friday, September 29, 2017, 12pm – 2pm,
Nick's Airport Inn, Hagerstown, MD
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Julianna Albowicz
Andrew Donlon
Rodney Glotfelty
Craig Hartsock
Josh Hastings
John Kinnaird
Commissioner Wilbur Levengood
Erroll Mattox
Steve McHenry
Delegate Mike McKay
Mike Pennington
Shannon Reed
Dan Rider
Alice Settle-Raskin
Emily Snyder
Angela Spencer
Paul Spies
Cindy Stone
Matt Tefteau
George Vogelsang
Roseanna Vogt
Scott Warner
Lara Wilson

RMC Staff:

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

Guest Speakers:

Mr. Phil Ridenour, Director,
Hagerstown Regional Airport;
Commissioner John Barr,
Washington County;
Senator Andrew Serafini;
Ms. Mary Shank Creek, Palmyra
Cheese Farms

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

Chair Hastings called for a round of introductions and requested announcements from participants.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the April 7, 2017 Spring Quarterly 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 Delegate Mike McKay, and all were in favor. The minutes from the April 7, 2017 Spring Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting were accepted unanimously.

Guest Speakers

Chair Hastings introduced the first guest speaker, Senator Andrew Serafini. Senator Serafini highlighted community and economic development projects revitalizing Downtown Hagerstown, including the Maryland Theatre. Senator Serafini also highlighted new projects including school construction and health care initiatives to address the heroin and opioid crisis.

Commissioner John Barr of Washington County discussed several upcoming events in the county, and highlighted the importance of the Hagerstown Regional Airport and small businesses in the community.

The local business spotlight featured Washington County farmer, Ms. Mary Shank Creek, who discussed her agriculture business, Palmyra Cheese Farm, and her work producing milk from Ayrshire dairy cows to make local cheese products.

Mr. Phil Ridenour, Airport Director for the Hagerstown Regional Airport, presented an overview of the regional airport, its economic benefits to the Hagerstown community, and upcoming projects. Mr. Ridenour highlighted that the airport has produced 800 jobs directly and 1,600 jobs indirectly for the surrounding communities. Mr. Ridenour also addressed the airports assets, capitol projects, and services, and the Sierra Nevada Corporation, which serves as a flight training school.

Committee Reports

Financial

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2018 Budget as of September 18, 2017. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$464,503.95, and total grant expenditures of \$49,413.05. A motion was made by Mike Pennington to accept the FY18 budget. The motion was seconded by Matt Tefteau, and all were in favor. The FY18 budget was unanimously accepted.

A proposal for a funding request of \$50,000.00 for the Phase Two of the Maryland Rural Health Plan was presented by Lara Wilson, Executive Director of the Maryland Rural Health Association. Chair Hastings called for questions or comments regarding the proposal. With no questions or comments, Chair Hastings requested a motion to accept the proposal for funding. A motion was made by Steve McHenry to approve the proposal request. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox. All were in favor, and the Phase Two of the Maryland Rural Health Plan proposal was accepted for funding unanimously.

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. The plan will be featured on National Rural Health Day on November 16, 2017. Lara Wilson will also present the Rural Health Plan at the 2017 Rural Summit. Lara Wilson and Rodney Glotfelty requested feedback for Phase Two of the Rural Health Plan.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Scott Warner, Chair of the RMPIF Committee, provided an update on RMPIF. RMPIF. Copies of press releases announcing the awardees for FY18 for MAERDAF and RMPIF were shared. For RMPIF, a total of 53 applications were submitted with a total of \$4,152,568.00 requested. A total of 27 grants totaling \$1,571,999.00 were distributed to 27 organizations. For MAERDAF, a total of 119 applications were submitted with a total of \$1,642,296.00 requested. A total of 34 grants totaling \$680,515.00 were distributed to 32 organizations.

Legislative

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs, Odette Ramos and Lindsay Thompson, were unavailable to provide an update. Charlotte Davis announced that the Legislative Committee will set-up a meeting in November to discuss 2018 Legislative Priorities. The Rural Maryland Council will also be working with Delegate Lierman and Senator Eckardt in the upcoming legislative session on an Angel Investor Tax Credit bill.

Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF)

Charlotte Davis provided an update of the RMF; RMF President, Dan Rider, was unavailable to provide an update. The RMF conducted a close-out call on the Transfer of Wealth (TOW) Study with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, and will be working on strategies for Phase Two of the TOW project. Copies of the final report for Phase One of the TOW Study were distributed to participants.

GICA

GICA Representative, Erroll Mattox, provided an update. The next GICA meeting is scheduled for sometime in the fall.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis shared that the Rural Maryland Council hosted the Partners for Rural America (PRA) Annual Conference from September 10th-13th, which included trips to the Eastern Shore and Washington, DC. The Council met with Congressman Andy Harris and a representative from Congressman Van Hollen's office. Charlotte has been elected chair of PRA. The Rural Maryland Council has also attended the Maryland Municipal League Conference, Tawes Crab and Clam Bake, and the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Conference. Charlotte is also the chair of the Taskforce for Rural Broadband, which held a meeting at Chesapeake College on September 19, 2017. The next Taskforce for Rural Broadband meeting is October 26, 2017, in Frederick County. An op-ed regarding rural broadband written by Chair Hastings and published in the Baltimore Sun was shared with participants.

New Business

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair, Mike Pennington, requested nominations for officers and members for the Rural Maryland Council Executive Board. The Rural Maryland Council will be reauthorizing its current membership, new members will be announced at the Annual Executive Board Meeting on November 30, 2017.

Rural Impact Awards

Charlotte Davis requested nominations for the 2017 Rural Impact Awards. Forms and guidelines were distributed to participants. The Rural Impact Awards Ceremony will be held at the Annual Executive Board Meeting on November 30, 2017.

2017 Rural Summit Update

Charlotte Davis announced that registration for the 2017 Rural Summit is now open. Post cards marketing the conference were shared with participants.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Chair Hastings requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Pennington. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 30, 2017, 7pm – 9pm, DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, Annapolis, MD.