

RMC Legislative Luncheon and Executive Board Meeting  
Friday, January 26, 2018, 12pm – 2pm,  
President’s Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD  
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Tyler Abbott	Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio	Debbie Pfeil	Roxanne Wolf
Emily Abramson	Jim Hanson	Rick Pollitt	Duane Yoder
Julianna Albowicz	Roger Harnell	Holly Porter	Sarah Yoo
Delegate Kathy Alfzali	John Hartline	Alison Porter	Bob Zimmeroff
Betty Ammond	Josh Hastings	Delegate Pam Queen	Senator Craig Zucker
Mike Arntz	Rick Hemphill	Odette Ramos	
Susan Banks	Mary Hodge	Michael Raup	Guest Speakers:
Chris Benzing	Mark Hoffman	Richard Reinhardt	Secretary Kelly Schulz,
Paul Benzing	Stephen Hubbard	Louise Reynells	Maryland Department
Richard Blair	Delegate Rick Impallaria	Marlene Rivas	of Labor, Licensing and
Paul Blitz	Jeanine Johnson	Delegate Sheree	Regulations; Senator
Debbie Bowden	Melissa Kelly	Sample-Hughes	Adelaide Eckardt
Delegate Ben Brooks	Kimberly Kratovil	Bill Satterfield	
Buck Browning	Cherie Krug	Alice Settle-Raskin	
Mindie Burgoyne	Scott LeRoy	Rylie Shewbridge	RMC Staff:
Sandra Burnett	Commissioner	Daniel Smith	Executive Director,
Anthony Casey	WilburLevengood	Emily Snyder	Charlotte Davis;
Delegate Andrew Cassilly	Denise Lovelady	Paul Spies	Program Administrator,
Seth Cohen	Delegate Eric Luedtke	Robin Summerfield	Meredith Donaho;
Jordan B.Colbra	Bunky Luffman	Dennis Teegarden	Administrative
Steve Connelly	Sharan Marshall	Matthew Tefteau	Assistant,
Allison Cordell	Delegate Susan McComas	Mike Thielke	Amanda Clevenger
Gabrielle Cory	Delegate Pat McDonough	Lindsay Thompson	
Steve Dolbow	Ewing McDowell	Don Van Hassent	
Dick Eckardt	Steve McHenry	Britta Vanderlinden	
Melissa Einhorn	Senator Mac Middleton	Garrett Van Wicklen	
Shawn Eurn	Gail Morton	Victoria Venable	
Vanessa Finney	Chris Moyer	Delegate David Vogt	
Dean Fisher	Don Mulrine	Tyler Walch	
Delegate David Frasier-	Senator Shirley Nathan-	Scott Warner	
Hildago	Pulliam	Shelby Watson-	
Delegate Angela Gibson	Kelly Nicky	Hampton	
Delegate Jim Gilchrist	Deputy Secretary Julie	Mark Widmyer	
David Giusti	Oberg	Jamie Williams	
Rodney Glotfelty	Jason Pang	Jennifer Williams	
Santo Grande	Delegate Edith Patterson	Lara Wilson	
Cynthia Gurne	Kate Patton	Dave Wilson	
	Mike Pennington	John Wingrove	

Chair Josh Hastings called the meeting to order at 12:05p.m.

Chair Hastings called for a round of introductions and requested announcements from participants. Chair Hastings also asked participants for thoughts on what they believed makes “A strong rural Maryland.”

The new Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Julie Oberg, was introduced.

**Guest Speaker – Secretary Kelly Schulz, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations**

Chair Hastings introduced Secretary Kelly Schulz. Secretary Schulz shared updates on the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program taking place in Frederick and Washington Counties. The apprenticeship program will be statewide next year. The apprenticeship program for public high school students provides on-the- job skills training opportunities. Secretary Schulz also presented an award to the Rural Maryland Council recognizing the Council as an Ambassador of Maryland Apprenticeship for helping to spread the word on the power of apprenticeships.

**Guest Speaker – Senator Adelaide Eckardt**

Senator Eckardt provided updates on the work of the Task Force for Rural Broadband, Wireless and Cellular Service. Senator Eckardt emphasized the need for investments in infrastructure for rural communities, particularly broadband.

**Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 30, 2017 RMC Annual 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 Scott Warner, and all were in favor. The minutes from the November 30, 2017 RMC Annual Executive Board meeting were accepted unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Financial**

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2018 Budget as of January 10, 2018. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$324,171.45, and total grant expenditures of \$3,097,046.50. A motion was made by John Hartline to accept the FY18 budget. The motion was seconded by Mike Pennington, and all were in favor. The FY18 budget was unanimously accepted.

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

Chair Warner emphasized the importance of the impact RMPIF funds have on rural communities. Chair Warner thanked Governor Hogan for including \$6 million for RMPIF in the FY19 budget, there will be a need to advocate to keep the funds during the current legislative session. Midterm reports for FY18 MAERDAF award grantees were due January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and for RMPIF grant awardees due January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Health Care**

Health Care Committee Co-Chairs, Lara Wilson and Rodney Glotfelty, provided an update. The Rural Health Plan for the State of Maryland has been published and is available on the Maryland Rural Health Association’s (MRHA) website.

### **Legislative**

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs, Odette Ramos and Lindsay Thompson, provided an update. Copies of the RMC 2018 Legislative Priorities were distributed to participants. Copies of the Legislative Committee past meeting minutes and a legislative tracking sheet were also provided. The Legislative Committee has submitted support testimony for HB109 – Community Development Program Act of 2018, SB153 – Income Tax Credit – Oyster Shell Recycling – Sunset Extension, and SB154 – Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Phased Restoration. A letter of support was submitted for HB 43 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Perpetual Conservation Easements. The Rural Maryland Council will also be supporting an Angel Investment Tax Credit bill, and a bill to extend the Task Force for Rural Broadband, Wireless and Cellular Service. Rural Maryland Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2018 in the President’s Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis.

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

Charlotte Davis provided an update of the RMF; RMF President, Dan Rider, was unavailable to provide an update. The RMF has scheduled meetings for the Transfer of Wealth Study (TOW) Phase Two. The Phase Two of the study is intended to create and implement strategies to encourage investment in rural communities. Copies of the powerpoint and meeting notes from the January 19, 2018 TOW meeting were shared. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2018. The RMF is also working on a sequel to the “Rural Aspirations” film. The next meeting to discuss the film is scheduled for March 15, 2018.

### **GICA**

GICA Representative, Erroll Mattox, was not available to provide an update. Matthew Teffeau shared that the next GICA meeting will focus on agriculture education.

### **Executive Director’s Report**

Charlotte Davis shared that the Rural Summit on December 1, 2017 was well received and there were 270 attendees. Charlotte Davis has also been named as Chair of Partners for Rural America (PRA) and has been serving as Chair of the Task Force for Rural Broadband, Wireless and Cellular Service.

### **New Business**

#### **Nominating Committee and Board Elections**

Nominating Committee Chair, Mike Pennington, reviewed a slate of current RMC Officers and Executive Board Members. Copies of the slate were provided to attendees. Kevin Brooks representing the Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) has resigned from the Board. The current Executive Director of MRDC, Chris Benzing, has been nominated to take his place. A motion was requested to accept the nomination of Chris Benzing. A motion was made by Santo Grande, and seconded by Rodney Glotfelty. All were in favor, the nomination of Chris Benzing to the RMC Executive Board was unanimously accepted.

#### **“A Strong Rural Maryland Means...” Discussion**

Participants shared their thoughts for what makes rural Maryland communities strong:

- Heritage of past and heritage of future;
- Pride in where you live and pride in culture;
- Ability to participate in diverse county and cultural activities.

Participants shared their thoughts for what they would like to see more of:

- Maintain rural landscapes;
- Receive an equal opportunity to urban/suburban counterparts to compete in business/employment opportunities;
- Increase opportunities for youth employment;
- Ensure telemedicine and dental programs are in place and accessible;
- Investments in infrastructure, especially broadband;
- Fight to maintain health care professionals in shortage areas.

**Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, Chair Hastings requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 6, 2018, 12pm – 2pm, President’s Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD.