

Minutes

Rural Maryland Council Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2018 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Harry Browne's Restaurant, 66 State Circle, Annapolis, MD

Participants:

Josh Hastings, Chair	Lara Wilson, Health Care Committee Co-Chair
Matthew Tefteau, First Vice Chair	
Erroll Mattox, Second Vice Chair	
Mike Pennington, Nominating Committee Chair	
Scott Warner, Immediate Past Chair and RMPF Committee Chair	RMC Staff:
Lindsay Thompson, Legislative Committee Co- Chair	Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
	Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator
	Amanda Clevenger, Administrative Assistant

Chair Hastings called the meeting to order at approximately 12:11 pm.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 22, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Matt Tefteau to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Pennington, and all were in favor. The minutes from the September 22, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting were accepted unanimously.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 3, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Lindsay Thompson to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox, and all were in favor. The minutes from the November 3, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting were accepted unanimously.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 30, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Matt Tefteau to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Pennington, and all were in favor. The minutes from the November 30, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting were accepted unanimously.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 30, 2017 Annual 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 Lindsay Thompson, and all were in favor. The minutes from the November 30, 2017 Annual and Executive Board Meeting were accepted unanimously.

Health Care Committee

Lara Wilson, Co-Chair, provided an update for the Health Care Committee. The final edits to the Maryland Rural Health Plan has completed and is being published. The Rural Health Plan will be distributed at the Maryland Rural Health Association's (MRHA) 2nd Annual Legislative Forum, and links to the draft web version will be shared with the Committee soon. The Rural Health Plan will also be presented to the Rural Caucus on February 8, 2018.

An inquiry was made regarding an email correspondence by the former Health Care Committee Chair, Tom McLoughlin, to the Committee. A suggestion was made to respond to Mr. McLoughlin and a copy of

the Rural Health Plan be sent to him. It was also suggested that the list of former Health Care Committee members also be reached out to for participation in the Rural Health Plan.

Financials – FY18 Budget

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. All grant funds for Maryland Agriculture Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) awards have been processed to awardees, except for the Upper Shore Regional Council.

A new expense line has been added to the budget for audio and visual services for the Task Force for Rural Broadband. This additional expense will need to be budgeted for in the next fiscal year if the Task Force for Rural Broadband is extended. The Rural Maryland Council may have an excess of funds available by the end of the fiscal year. Charlotte Davis shared that the Council will draft a request for proposals for updating the online Rural Stat, and will prepay for exhibiting at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and Tawes Crab and Clam Bake. In addition, a proposal will be drafted to pay for some of the Rural Aspirations #2 film production. Several requests for grant projects have also been proposed, more information will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting in March. A motion was made by Lindsay Thompson to accept the FY18 budget. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox, and all were in favor. The FY18 budget was unanimously accepted.

RMPIF

Chair Scott Warner provided an update for RMPIF. The Upper Shore Regional Council has not submitted a FY17 RMPIF final report or a scope of work and deliverables for the FY18 RMPIF application. It was discussed by the Committee that a certified letter be drafted to be sent January 17th that would require a response from the Upper Shore Regional Council within 30 days, and request a FY17 final report and approved plan and scope of work submission for FY18 funds. If the Upper Shore Regional Council does not produce the requests or does not respond, the funds allotted for the Upper Shore Regional Council will be re-allocated to the four remaining regional councils. A motion was made by Mike Pennington to approve the certified letter and requests. The motion was seconded by Lindsay Thompson, and all were in favor. The certified letter and requests were unanimously accepted. The certified letter will be drafted and mailed by RMC staff.

In addition, members of the RMPIF Committee met with Delegate McIntosh to discuss support for RMPIF funds in the FY19 budget in December. Members of the Committee will meet with Senator Kasemeyer in on January 19, 2018. Reminders for the FY18 MAERDAF and RMPIF interim reports have been sent, the reports are due January 23rd and 25th.

Legislative Committee

Lindsay Thompson, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, provided an update. Copies of the legislative tracking, past meeting minutes, and letter of support for HB 43 - Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Perpetual Conservation Easement, were provided to the Committee. The Rural Maryland Council will also be working with Delegate Lierman and Senator Eckardt on an Angel Investor Tax Credit bill. There may also be legislation to extend the Task Force for Rural Broadband, and mapping and inventory of state assets. Invitations were extended to the past and current MAERDAF and RMPIF awardees to request their attendance and participation in Rural Maryland Day on February 8th.

Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF)

Dan Rider, President of the Rural Maryland Foundation, was unavailable to provide an update. The update was provided by Charlotte Davis. 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. The next webinar for Phase Two is scheduled for Friday, January 19th. The Foundation will also be producing a second Rural Aspirations film. The Foundation held a whiteboard meeting to discuss ideas for the film on January 9th, and notes from the meeting were available for the Committee. Filming for the project is set for mid-April. More information on the second whiteboard meeting to discuss interview questions will be made available soon.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis shared that the 2017 Rural Summit received excellent feedback, and nearly 270 attendees participated in the event. A copy of a debriefing including the budget and evaluations were made available for the Committee. For the next Rural Summit, it has been suggested that the sponsorships increase the number of free registrations to maximize the attendance rate and reach a goal of 300 attendees.

New Business

Nominating Committee:

Mike Pennington, Chair of the Nominating Committee, shared that there is currently one Executive Board member vacancy. R. Kevin Brooks, representing the Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC), is stepping down from the Board. A suggestion was made for Chris Benzing, current Executive Director of MRDC, to be nominated to the position. A motion was made by Scott Warner to accept Chris Benzing nomination to the Rural Maryland Council Executive Board. The motion was seconded by Matt Tefteau, all were in favor. The nomination of Chris Benzing to the Rural Maryland Council Executive Board was unanimously accepted. The nomination will be presented at the January 26, 2018 Executive Board meeting.

January 26th Legislative Luncheon and RMC Executive Board Meeting and Agenda:

Charlotte Davis shared a draft agenda for the January 26th Legislative Luncheon and Executive Board meeting. Invitations have been sent to Congressmen Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, no response has been received. The RMC staff will continue to reach out to secure a guest speaker and local business to spotlight.

2018 Summit

The Rural Maryland Council has been approached by Grow and Fortify to partner for a value-added summit in fall 2018. Other suggestions for summits have included a focus on rural broadband. The Committee will revisit this topic at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Chair Hastings asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Lindsay Thompson, and seconded by Erroll Mattox. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm. The next RMC Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2018, Location TBD.