

RMC Spring Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting
Friday, April 6, 2018, 12pm – 2pm,
President’s Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Peggy Alpert
Mike Arntz
Danielle Bauer
Chris Benzing
Richard Blair
Debbie Bowden
Robert Branson
Bill Christopher
Lori Cichollo
Bea Dewing
Kelly Dudeck
Dean Fisher
Ellen Flowers-Fields
Rodney Glotfelty
Cynthia Gurne
John Hartline
Craig Hartsock
Josh Hastings
Rick Hemphill
Katie Hester
Kimberly Kratovil
Commissioner Wilbur
Levengood
Denise Lovelady
Bunky Luffman
Carol Masden
Erroll Mattox
Alan McCarthy
Steve McHenry
John Millemaci
Steve Pennington

Mike Pennington
Rick Pollitt
Hans Schmidt
Alice Settle-Raskin
Matt Tefteau
Lindsay Thompson
Garrett Van Wicklen
Roseanna Vogt
Scott Warner
Jamie Williams
Lara Wilson
Holly Wright
Bob Zimberoff

Guest Speakers:
Mr. Sergio Malarin, Wild
Kombucha; Mr.
Benjamin Birge, Prince
George’s County; Dr.
Michael Scott, Eastern
Shore Regional GIS
Cooperative

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

Chair Josh Hastings called the meeting to order at 12:15p.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 “rural prosperity” means, and to write responses on easel pad paper posted on the wall. The responses will be collected and shared at the next Executive Board meeting.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 26, 2018 RMC Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly 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 Erroll Mattox, and all were in favor. The minutes from the January 26, 2018 Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly Board meeting were accepted unanimously.

Guest Speaker – Local Business Spotlight - Sergio Malarin, Wild Kombucha

Chair Hastings introduced Sergio Malarin. Mr. Malarin shared samples of kombucha product made from local agricultural products. The company, Wild Kombucha, is based in Timonium, Maryland. The company received start-up funds from the Salisbury University Shore Hatchery Entrepreneurship Program, and has been able to expand in size. Mr. Malarin emphasized the need for small businesses to have access to angel investment programs.

Guest Speaker – Mr. Ben Birge, CountyStat Manager, Office of the County Executive, Prince George’s County

Mr. Birge shared how Prince George’s County utilizes analytic mapping for performance and program management. Mr. Birge shared Prince George’s County’s 311/CountyClick and CountyStat tools for measuring the effectiveness of customer service and program delivery. Specifically, Mr. Birge shared data from the Clean Sweep Initiative Program and Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI), and how visual data is used to influence policy and budget decisions within the County.

Committee Reports

Financial

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2018 Budget as of March 23, 2018. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$273,701.82, and total grant expenditures of \$3,097,046.50. A draft of FY2019 fund allocations was shared within the budget, including allocations for a fourth staff position and updates for the RuralStat. The Rural Maryland Council Executive Committee will meet May 22, 2018 to confirm the FY2019 Budget. A motion was made by Mike Pennington to accept the financials report. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox. All were in favor, and the financials report was unanimously accepted.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Chair Warner thanked Governor Hogan for including \$6 million for RMPIF in the FY19 budget. Copies of the updated guidelines and criteria for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and RMPIF were shared. The online application for both grant programs will be made available on the Rural Maryland Council website by April 30, 2018. The deadline for Phase I applications is Friday, May 25, 2018.

Health Care

Lara Wilson, Co-Chair, provided an update for the Health Care Committee. The Rural Health Plan interactive website has been launched. The next stage of the project is the implementation phase. Co-Chair Wilson has also started outreach to former members of the RMC Health Care Committee for further involvement in Committee meetings.

Legislative

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Lindsay Thompson provided the update. Copies of submitted written testimonies and the bill tracking sheet for the 2018 Legislative Session were shared with participants.

Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF)

Charlotte Davis provided an update of the RMF; RMF President, Dan Rider, was unavailable to provide an update. The RMF's next Transfer of Wealth Study (TOW) meeting will be held April 20, 2018, this will be the last meeting and will discuss strategy implementation. The Foundation will also be producing a second Rural Aspirations film, filming has been scheduled statewide for the week of April 16, 2018.

GICA

GICA Representative, Erroll Mattox, provided an update. The next GICA meeting is scheduled for May, more information will be coming soon.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis shared copies of the Rural Maryland Council staff activity reports. The Rural Maryland Council has partnered with USDA Rural Development to host a Small Business Lending Forum in Salisbury on May 10, 2018, and will be co-hosting a similar event in Western Maryland in the fall 2018. Ms. Davis requested participants interested in joining the Rural Maryland Council for the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake in July to sign-up for registration. The Council will be providing transportation to the event again this year. The Council will also be co-hosting a "Farmers in Health Care" Summit in September, and will co-host a Value Added Agriculture Summit in December in partnership with Grow & Fortify and Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Michael Scott, Director, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative, Salisbury University

Dr. Scott shared the history and background of the GIS program at Salisbury University. Project highlights that were shared included the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Remapping; Sea Level Change in the Chesapeake Bay; Open Source GeoDashboards; Geodashboards funded by RMPIF, including Ag GIS Extension projects; Coastline Erosion; and, Housing Stock/Quality Study projects.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Chair Hastings requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, September 28, 2018, 12pm – 2pm, Rod 'N' Reel Restaurant, 4165 Mears Avenue, Chesapeake Beach, MD.