

Minutes

Rural Maryland Council Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, May 18, 2018 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Conference Call

Participants:

Josh Hastings, Chair	Rodney Glotfelty, Health Care Committee Co-Chair
Matthew Tefteau, First Vice Chair	John Hartline, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
Erroll Mattox, Second Vice Chair	
Dan Rider, President, Rural Maryland Foundation	
Mike Pennington, Nominating Committee Chair	
Mike Thielke, Joint Planning and Development Committee Chair	
Lindsay Thompson, Legislative Committee Co-Chair	RMC Staff:
Lara Wilson, Health Care Committee Co-Chair	Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
	Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator
	Amanda Clevenger, Administrative Assistant

Chair Hastings called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 pm.

Maryland Rural Health Association Proposal

Lara Wilson, Executive Director of the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), presented a collaborative partnership proposal to the Executive Committee. The proposal included technical assistance, advocacy and constituent outreach, and health care committee initiatives that the Maryland Rural Health Association would provide to the Rural Maryland Council for funding. A request was made by the Committee for MRHA to provide more specific activities, measurable objectives, and specific hours of input and dollar figures for activities. Lara Wilson will draft a Memorandum of Understanding including these requests and will provide the Executive Committee with the draft in two weeks.

Financials – FY18 Budget

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2018 Budget as of May 11, 2018. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$201,020.98, and total grant expenditures of \$3,308,181.50. A list of requests for funding and sponsorships was made available to the Executive Committee.

The Rural Maryland Foundation submitted two requests for funding to support outreach activities to promote the Rural Aspirations Version 2 Film (\$15,000.00), and the Transfer of Wealth Study (\$15,000.00). A motion was made by Lindsay Thompson to accept the requests for funding for the Rural Maryland Foundation for a total of \$30,000.00 to support outreach for Rural Aspirations Version 2 and the Transfer of Wealth Study. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox; all were in favor. The request for funding by the Rural Maryland Foundation to support outreach activities for Rural Aspirations Version 2 and the Transfer of Wealth Study were unanimously accepted.

The Rural Maryland Council also received requests for funding from the College of Southern Maryland to provide for gap financing to provide salary for staff for the Business Development Accelerator Program (BDAP) (\$20,000.00); Maryland Farm and Harvest sponsorship of \$5,000.00; Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation sponsorship for educational tours (\$10,000.00); Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-

Ecology to support the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) initiative (\$5,000.00); a request from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide support for a summer intern in Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, MD (\$5,200.00); and, a LEAD Maryland Fellow request for support for fellowship scholarship (\$600.00).

The Committee decided that in order to not set a precedent for receiving scholarship/intern support requests in the future, it would not be in the Rural Maryland Council's best interest to not provide support for the DNR summer intern request or the LEAD Maryland fellow. The requests will be sent to the Rural Maryland Foundation for review and consideration, and it was suggested that the Rural Maryland Council draft a policy regarding the provision of financial support for individuals.

The Committee voted to provide full support for the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation request, but requested a report that would show the specific locations of the educational tours and the statewide reach. The Committee also voted to support the Maryland Farm and Harvest sponsorship, and to increase the amount to \$15,000.00.

The Committee also reviewed the College of Southern Maryland request; several concerns were raised regarding setting a precedent for providing financial support for organizations that did not adequately budget, instead of supporting traditional sponsorship requests. The Committee decided not to support the College of Southern Maryland request.

It was also listed that \$60,000.00 in available FY18 funding could be used to hire a broadband consultant to assist with mapping for the Task Force for Rural Broadband. Charlotte Davis will draft a proposal for the Executive Committee to consider, for the remainder of FY18 funds, \$40,000.00 will be allotted for support of mapping for the Task Force for Rural Broadband.

A proposal was also submitted on behalf of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts to provide support for a Farmers Market education outreach program in Baltimore City (\$6,635.00). Lindsay Thompson presented the proposal. The Committee voted to support the request, Lindsay Thompson recused herself from the vote; Erroll Mattox abstained from the vote. The remainder of the Executive Committee voted in favor of support.

A proposal was also submitted by Program Open Space to provide support for the creation and dissemination of a survey for elected candidates (\$6,160.00). A concern was made by Matthew Tefteau regarding the political nature of the surveys. The Executive Committee did not review the proposal or vote to support it. In addition, the request for funds for the Harry Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology was not reviewed or voted, a request for a more formal and specific proposal from the Harry Hughes Center was requested.

An additional request was made for the Executive Committee to consider a sponsorship for the National Folk Festival in Salisbury, MD in September. A list of available sponsorship levels were made available to the Executive Committee. The Committee agreed to support a \$10,000.00 level sponsorship with the Rural Maryland Council logo advertised on a courtesy ride golf cart.

The Committee agreed to support the following requests: Rural Maryland Foundation, Rural Aspirations Video Outreach (\$15,000.00); Rural Maryland Foundation, Transfer of Wealth Study Outreach

(\$15,000.00); Maryland Farm and Harvest Sponsorship (\$15,000.00); Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation sponsorship (\$10,000.00); Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (\$6,635.00); National Folk Festival Sponsorship (\$10,000.00); and, \$40,000.00 allotted for the broadband consultant support. The total of \$111,635.00 was awarded for the requests with the remainder of FY18 funds. Josh Hastings requested a motion to approve the requests, a motion was made by John Hartline. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox; all were in favor. The motion to provide support for the \$111,635.00 in requests was unanimously accepted.

Charlotte Davis also shared that the Rural Maryland Council was working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Eastern Shore GIS Cooperative for the RuralStat updates, and would encumber \$45,000.00 from the remainder of FY18 available funds to support the project. The update of RuralStat is expected to be completed by fall 2018.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis shared a Managing for Results spreadsheet that was submitted to the Department of Budget and Management and the Maryland Department of Agriculture for recording program evaluation for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). The Rural Maryland Council staff will input data going forward.

A copy of the 2018 Legislative Review and copies of the draft reports for FY2017 for MAERDAF and RMPIF were also shared. A preview of a t-shirt design for the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake was also shared with the Committee.

The Rural Maryland Council will be hosting the Task Force for Rural Broadband meeting on May 21, 2018 at Steppingstone Farm Museum in Havre de Grace. A Task Force meeting will also be scheduled for August 16, 2018 at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Conference in Ocean City, MD. The Rural Maryland Council also finished the filming for Rural Aspirations Video 2 during the week of April 16, 2018, the film will be made available soon. A draft final report of the Transfer of Wealth Study will also be made available for the Committee, and will be available for distribution. The Rural Maryland Council will also be drafting a report of the agricultural education projects and programs supported by MAERDAF throughout the life of the grant program, the report is due September 1, 2018.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Chair Hastings made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm. The next RMC Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2018, Location TBD.