

Minutes

Rural Maryland Council Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 2018 10:00am to 11:00am
Conference Call

Participants:

Josh Hastings, Chair

Matthew Tefteau, First 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:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator

Amanda Clevenger, Administrative Assistant

Chair Hastings called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02am.

Maryland Rural Health Association Proposal

The Executive Committee reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) proposal submitted by Lara Wilson, Executive Director of the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), for MRHA to provide technical assistance, advocacy and constituent outreach, and health care committee initiatives for the Rural Maryland Council in the amount of \$50,000.00. There was concern that the proposal request was premature given a current standing agreement for \$50,000.00 that was executed in January 2018, and will be finalized in December 2018, to support the Phase Two of the Maryland Rural Health Plan. There was also concern that the MOU did not include specific outcomes or goals, although requested prior by the Committee, and did not address how the Rural Maryland Council would benefit from the services. In addition, the MOU did not qualify as an MOU, it is written as a fee-for-service agreement.

A motion was made by Mike Thielke to decline and deny the funding request by MRHA, and to direct MRHA to the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) grant programs as more appropriate avenues for funding requests. The motion was seconded by Mike Pennington. A question was called by Lindsay Thompson to request that the MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board reconsider the FY19 RMPIF proposal submitted by MRHA that was not accepted into Phase Two, and if the request would be appropriate. There was concern that the request for the MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board to reconsider the MRHA application could potentially create ill-will and undermine the integrity of the program.

Lindsay Thompson made a revised motion for the Executive Board to submit an official request to the MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board to reconsider MRHA's Phase One application, and allow MRHA to resubmit under the MAERDAF Phase Two application, and to decline and deny MRHA's MOU request for funding. The motion was seconded by Mike Thielke, all were in favor. It was decided that in future, funding requests will be directed to the Joint Planning and Development Committee.

The ongoing concerns with the Rural Maryland Council Health Care Committee will be addressed in future meetings.

Sponsorship Request – Harry R. Hughes AgroEcology Center

The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed a sponsorship proposal submitted by the Harry R. Hughes AgroEcology Center to provide funding support for six proposed regional workshops to address the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and Total Daily Maximum Load (TDML) initiatives in the three rural regions of Maryland. The costs (\$21,050.00) would include purchase of materials, facility rental, meals and speaker's travelling expenses. The Executive Committee requested more information on the projected target audience, goals and outcomes, and how the workshops would differ from similar workshops conducted in the past. The sponsorship request also included costs to conduct a survey of potential participants, the Executive Committee requested that the Council provide funding support for the survey first, and upon review of the results, determine a need for the workshops. A motion was made by Mike Pennington to approve funding for the initial survey, and to provide the results for determination of the need for the regional workshops. The motion was seconded by Mike Thielke, all were in favor. The motion to approve funding for the initial survey, and to provide the results for determination of the need for the regional workshops for the Harry R. Hughes AgroEcology Center was accepted unanimously.

MAERDAF/RMPIF Annual Reports

Copies of the finalized FY18 MAERDAF and RMPFI Annual Reports were made available for the Executive Committee to review. No requests for changes or questions were made. The Rural Maryland Council will submit the reports to the Department of Legislative Services by the June 30, 2018 deadline.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Chair Hastings requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mike Pennington, and seconded by Mike Thielke. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:55pm.

The next RMC Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2018, 12pm-2pm, Location TBD.