

RMC Annual and Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, November 29, 2018, 6pm – 8pm,
Yellowfin Steak & Fish House, 2840 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater, MD 21037
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Mike Arntz	Donna Sasscer
Chris Benzing	Cathy Schwab
Robin Brungard	Rick Schwab
Trish Bucci	Jack Shaw
Don Darnall	Renee Sheehy
Cheryl DePinto	Jane Sinclair
Jim Eichhorst	Ryan Snow
Kurt Fuchs	Cindy Stone
Andrew Garte	Dan Sweeney
Cindy Greb	Matt Tefteau
The Honorable Guy	Lindsay Thompson
Guzzone	Scott Travers
The Honorable Jeannie	Don VanHassent
Haddaway-Riccio	John Walsh
John Hartline	Scott Warner
Josh Hastings	Shelby Watson-Hampton
Bob Kavetsky	Emily Wilson
Linda Kohler	Lara Wilson
Susan Lawrence	Jennifer Witten
Alyssa Massey	
Erroll Mattox	
Steve McHenry	
The Honorable Thomas	
McLain Middleton	
Melanie Miller	
Susan O'Neill	
Gregory Padgham	
Janice Palmer	
Mike Pennington	
Alice Settle-Raskin	
Dan Rider	
Allison Roe	

RMC Staff:
Program Administrator,
Meredith Donaho;
Administrative
Assistant,
Amanda Clevenger

Chair Josh Hastings called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Chair Hastings called for a round of introductions and requested announcements from participants. Chair Hastings also acknowledged elected officials.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 28, 2018 RMC Fall Quarterly Board Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Steve McHenry to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox, and all were in favor. The minutes from the September 28, 2018 Fall Quarterly Board meeting were accepted unanimously.

Rural Impact Awards

Three awards were presented for the 2018 Rural Impact Award Ceremony. The Outstanding Rural Volunteer Award was received by Mrs. Cathy and Mr. Rick Schwab, nominated by the Town of Ridgely, for leadership, dedication, and noteworthy volunteer achievement beyond the call of one's professional duties to help improve their community. The Outstanding Rural Community Development Award was received by For All Seasons for a program, project or organization that substantially improves the quality of life in multiple rural communities. The Rural Champion Award was received by Dr. Joseph Ciotola, Jr., and accepted by Linda Kohler on behalf of Dr. Ciotola, for outstanding leadership and public service in advocating for policy solutions to greatly benefit rural communities.

Committee Reports

Financial

Chair Hastings presented the FY2019 Budget as of November 8, 2018. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$93,698.41, and a total of \$4,539,599.96 in grant expenditures. A motion was made by Steve McHenry to accept the financials report. The motion was seconded by Lindsay Thompson. All were in favor, and the financials report was unanimously accepted.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Chair Scott Warner thanked Governor Hogan and his administration, and Senator Middleton for their support of RMPIF.

Legislative

Legislative Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson provided the update; Co-Chair Odette Ramos was not available. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2018 via conference call. Rural Maryland Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2019 in Annapolis, the Rural Maryland Council will partner with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Maryland Dairy Association to host a joint luncheon in the Senate building. The Welcome Breakfast for Rural Legislators will be scheduled for Friday, January 18, 2019 at the Maryland Inn in Annapolis.

Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF)

President Dan Rider provided an update of the RMF. President Rider shared that the Rural Maryland Philanthropic Development Strategies report has been finalized, copies were made available. The Aspire Rural Version 2.0 video will continue to be revised. The RMF will also be providing a biannual scholarship contribution of \$5,000.00 to the LEAD Maryland Foundation to support tuition for LEAD Fellows.

Agriculture

Agriculture Committee Chair, Erroll Mattox, provided an update. Industrial hemp will be grown in Maryland, more information will be provided at the next meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Chair Hastings provided an overview of the FY2018 Annual Reports, printed copies were made available. The Council has also partnered with Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit and Grow and Fortify to present the Grow and Fortify Summit on December 6, 2018 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Resort in Stevensville.

Special Awards

Three additional special recognition awards were presented. The Rural Friend award was presented to Susan Lawrence for her extraordinary efforts in supporting our state's rural areas. The Rural Dedication Award was presented to Mike Pennington for his leadership and dedication while serving 15 years on the Rural Maryland Council Executive Board. The Rural Legacy Award was presented to Senator Thomas Middleton for his extraordinary efforts to support agriculture, infrastructure, and to vastly improve rural quality of life.

New Business

Nominating Committee Chair Mike Pennington shared copies of the Rural Maryland Council Executive Board slate, which contained changes to the Executive Committee and board member replacements. Chair Josh Hastings will step down, and Scott Warner will be the new chair for 2019. Mr. Pennington requested changes or nominations to the slate. No changes were requested. Mr. Pennington requested a motion to approve the slate. A motion to approve was made by Steve McHenry, the motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox. All were in favor, and the Rural Maryland Council Executive Board slate for 2019 was unanimously accepted.

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 Matt Tefteau. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, January 25, 2019, 12pm-2pm, Miller Senate Building, Presidents Conference Rooms, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401