



RMC Legislative Committee  
October 28, 2019  
Wye Research and Education Center  
124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD 21658  
Meeting Minutes

Participants: Lindsay Thompson, Susan Harrison, Gabbie Leach, Josh Bollinger, Kurt Fuchs, Greg Padgham, Denise Lovelady, Sara Visitainer, Debbie Bowden, Alice Settle-Raskin, Cassie Shirk, Scott Warner, Lenny Pfeffer, Steve McHenry and Charlotte Davis (staff)

The meeting convened at approximately 12:00 Noon. Co-Chair Thompson welcomed attendees who introduced themselves. Recent leadership changes in the Maryland House of Delegates with the death of Speaker Busch and the transition in the Maryland Senate were discussed.

The 2019 Legislative Priorities document was distributed. Issues to be discussed in 2020 include Kirwan education funding and the FY2021 Budget. Others discussed by the committee: ag education (approximately \$900,000 for 12 month teachers), Phase 3 WIP plan (counties and municipalities funding through the Bay Trust Fund for conservation practices), and Program Open Space. The State reports a small budget surplus but a structural deficit remains in future years.

The 2019 Legislative Review document was distributed. Steve McHenry reported that MARBIDCO is working on a small acreage next generation program and will need \$1.5-1 million in funding. Program Open Space funding was discussed. Maintenance and development of parks are impacting rural areas. The forestry industry is really suffering economically. The Hughes Center is working with the Chesapeake Conservancy using their GIS and is expecting to release its forestry report mid-year. They will be seeking an extension.

Other issues discussed: marijuana/hemp (65 participants in the program currently), broadband (Choptank Rural Electric Cooperative will be seeking legislation), pesticides, Phosphorus Management Tool, and the Maryland Food for Maryland Institutions workgroup certification program (Listening sessions will be held on Nov 13 in Denton at the VFW from 6-8pm and at SMADC on Nov 6). The Maryland Department of Health is working on regulations for the part-time Medical Director. Senator Eckardt's office will look into. Delegate Kerr will be reintroducing legislation to allow cover crops to be used for breweries. The Carbon Intensive Foods workgroup doesn't exist anymore but may be reintroduced. There may be proposed a moratorium on clam dredging.

Forestry advocates may be interested in establishing a thermal tier in the Renewal Portfolio Standard. The Governor announced clean energy legislation with a focus on nuclear but includes biomass. Solar siting remains an issue as well as local preemption.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00pm.

**Next meeting: January 6, 2020 at 2:00pm via conference call**

