

RMC Executive Committee  
January 8, 2019  
Fisherman's Inn, 3116 Main St, Grasonville, MD 21638  
Meeting Minutes

Participants: Scott Warner, Chair; Joh Hartline, 1s Vice Chair; Susan O'Neill, RMPIF Committee Chair; Dan Rider, President Rural Maryland Foundation; and Charlotte Davis, RMC Executive Director

The meeting convened at approximately 12:15 pm. Since there was no quorum present, approval of the November 13, 2018 RMC Executive Committee meeting and the November 29, 2018 RMC Executive Board meeting minutes were deferred until the next Executive Committee meeting.

#### Financial Report

Executive Director Davis presented the FY2019 financial report. All RMPIF funds with the exception of \$42,304.45 have been expended. The MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board met on December 21, 2018 to make final FY2019 decisions. Additional awards of \$351,906 were made with grant agreements and disbursement requests in process. The Board agreed to allow the remaining funds to carry over into the next fiscal year. Task Orders for the RuralStat update and the broadband mapping project have been sent to ESRGC. RMC Operational expenses are currently running under budget.

#### RMPIF Committee

Susan O'Neill along with Matt Tefteau will take over as RMPIF Committee Co-Chairs. The Committee will convene at the end of February to review FY2020 budget decisions, FY2020 guidelines and criteria and to review a progress report on the RMPIF program.

A contract writer, Kathy Bosin, has been hired to analyze FY2017 and FY2018 grant reports and to identify themes, stories and issues to consider for the future implementation of the program. Reporting requirements will need to be tightened to ensure that RMC receives adequate information on grant funds leveraged, jobs created and other information to show impact.

#### Legislative Committee

The Committee met on December 17, 2018 to discuss the 2019 Legislative Priorities and any upcoming issues for the General Assembly Legislative Session to begin on January 9, 2019. The 2019 Legislative Priorities document was reviewed.

The Task Force on Rural Broadband finalized and submitted its final report on January 7, 2019. Efforts will be made to enact the recommendations to allow rural electric cooperatives to have access to rights-of-way for broadband purposes. The Upper Shore Regional Council gave an update on a broadband pilot project.

Other legislation to consider will include angel investments and Opportunity Zones. A suggestion was made to consider hosting regional education sessions on Opportunity Zones. The Committee will meet via conference call on January 14, 2019 at 3:00 pm.

#### Joint Planning and Development Committee

The Committee, which has not met in some time, will be meeting in February 2019. Issues to consider include: FY2019 work plan progress, FY2020 Planning Priorities, RMC Committee structure, evaluation

and update of the RMC Strategic Plan and a planned RMC Executive Board retreat. The Committee will develop a 10 question survey to distribute to RMC members to prepare for the Board retreat and Strategic Plan update.

#### Rural Maryland Foundation

President Rider gave an update of Foundation activities including the work on transfer of wealth, a new video and a new scholarship program with LEAD Maryland. Recently, the Mid-Shore Regional Council suggested that the Foundation act as a fiscal sponsor for the Eastern Shore Healthy Waters Roundtable. The Roundtable, a coalition of municipal and county leaders and stakeholders, will be applying for a Maryland Department of Natural Resources Coastal Bays Trust Fund grant and needs a fiscal sponsor. The Foundation will consider the proposal at the next Foundation meeting on March 7, 2019. There was some discussion regarding a potential proposal from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. Goals for the new year include: updating the website and identifying accomplishments.

#### New Business

The committee reviewed the agenda for the January 25, 2019 Legislative Lunch. Since Sen. Van Hollen is unable to attend, an invitation will be extended to Mr. Steve Shuh, the new Executive Director of the Governor's Opioid Operational Command Center. Susan O'Neill will reach out to Warwick Mushrooms for the Business Spotlight. RMC will also host a welcome breakfast for new legislators on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>.

Efforts are underway to begin planning for the Rural Summit scheduled for Thursday December 12, 2019. The Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on January 31 at 10:00am via conference call. Issues to discuss include: venue selection, potential themes and the keynote speaker.

Discussion was held regarding the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting currently scheduled for Tuesday March 19, 2019. Since several members have reached out that that date does not work, the meeting will be rescheduled to Friday March 22, 2019 at 12:00 Noon at Harry Browne's in Annapolis.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00pm.

Next Meeting: Friday March 22, 2019 at 12:00 Noon at Harry Browne's Restaurant in Annapolis.