

RMC Winter Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting  
 Friday, January 25, 2019, 12pm-2pm,  
 Presidents Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD  
 Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Tyler Abbott	Kurt Fuchs	Lesley Lopez	Mark Widmyer
Julianna Albowicz	Neil Gaffney	Bunky Luffman	Samuel Williams II
Delegate Steve Arentz	Senator Jason Gallion	Karen Malkin	Lara Wilson
Michael Arenz	Delegate Jeff Ghrist	Ewing McDowell	Dave Wilson
Senator Jack Bailey	Delegate Jim Gilchrist	Steve McHenry	Julie Woepke
Delegate Kumar Barve	Rodney Glotfelty	Kim Novak	Senator Craig Zucker
Chris Benzing	Cynthia Gurne	Julie Oberg	
Mike Binko	Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio	Susan O'Neill	
Richard Blair	Jim Hanson	Delegate Charles Otto	RMC Staff:
Karen Blandford	Gretchen Hardman	Angie Pace	Charlotte Davis,
Henry Bogdan	John Hartline	Greg Padgham	Executive Director;
Janice Booth	Delegate Wayne Hartman	Janice Palmer	Program
Debbie Bowden	Craig Hartsock	Nyasha Patrick	Administrator,
Gilbert Bowling	E. Fatima Hasan	Zach Peters	Meredith Donaho;
Delegate Andrew Cassilly	Josh Hastings	Wendi Peters	Administrative
Senator MaryBeth Carozza	Rick Hemphill	Senator Doug Peters	Assistant,
Marcel Cochran	Ken Hennings	Holly Porter	Amanda Clevenger
Carol D'Agostino	Senator Katie Fry Hester	Bill Reddish	
Sarah Dahl	John Hickman	Dan Rider	
Andrew Donlon	Yolanda Hipski	Rachel Rosebrock	Guest Speakers:
Taylor Donoghue	Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes	Senator Johnny Ray Salling	The Honorable Chris
Heidi Dudderar	Delegate Jay Jacobs	Alice Settle-Raskin	Van Hollen, United
Senator Adelaide Eckardt	Randy Jenkins	Renee Sheehy	States Senator;
Senator George Edwards	Shawn Jester	Cassie Shirk	Ashley Biggs, State
Ashley Everett	Ann Jones	Adel Shirmohammadi	Outreach Librarian;
Jean Fabi	Rachel Jones	Sam Shoge	Jack Reitnauer,
Regina Faden	Bill Jorch	Josh Smith	Warwick
Senator Brian Feldman	Joe Kangas	Ryan Snow	
Charlene Ferensic	Amy Keller	Paul Spies	
Colby Ferguson	Melissa Kelly	Ann Swanson	
Kent Finkelsen	Deena Kilmon	Matt Teffeau	
Dean Fisher	Linda Kohler	Terenda Thomas	
Larry Frelow	Kimberly Kratovil	Lindsay Thompson	
	Delegate Carol Krimm	Scott Travers	
	Cherie Krug	Gary Van Wicklen	
	Nancy LaJoice	Don VanHassant	
	Leanne Mazer	Roseanna Vogt	
	Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood	Scott Warner	
	Sean Looney	Shelby Watson-Hampton	

Chair Scott Warner called the meeting to order at 12:10pm.

Chair Warner and Executive Director Charlotte Davis acknowledged elected and state agency officials.

### **Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 29, 2018 Rural Maryland Council Annual and Executive Board Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Josh Hastings to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, and all were in favor. The minutes from the November 29, 2018 Rural Maryland Council Annual and Executive Board meeting were accepted unanimously.

### **Guest Speakers**

#### **United States Senator Chris Van Hollen**

Senator Van Hollen discussed key highlights from the Farm Bill including increased federal funds and a change in the funding formula to provide continued support for the Rural Conservation Program, and increased funding for rural broadband expansion. Senator Van Hollen also discussed the urgency to respond to the opioid epidemic, and the need to provide more resources and investment to modernize infrastructure in rural communities.

#### **Ms. Ashley Biggs, Outreach Librarian, Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

Ms. Biggs provided an overview of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and the resources available to assist individuals residing in rural communities. Ms. Biggs presented specialized equipment and services available for rental through the agency for rural communities.

#### **Mr. Jack Reitnauer, Warwick Mushroom Farms**

Mr. Reitnauer presented information on the Warwick Mushroom Farm facility located in Cecil County, the operations of the facility, and the process for cultivating large varieties of mushrooms for retail.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Financial**

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2019 Budget as of December 21, 2018. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$375,651.94, and a total of \$5,425,872.55 in grant expenditures. Charlotte Davis requested questions regarding the budget, no requests for questions were made.

#### **Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)**

Chair Scott Warner shared that the FY2020 Administrative Budget released by Governor Hogan on January 18, 2019 included \$6million for RMPIF. Copies of the press release announcing the funding were provided. Chair Warner expressed thanks on behalf of the Rural Maryland Council to Governor Hogan and his administration for funding support.

### **Legislative**

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Lindsay Thompson and Odette Ramos provided the update. Copies of the 2019 Legislative Priorities were provided. The Rural Maryland Council Legislative Committee will next meet on January 28, 2019 via conference call at 3pm. Rural Maryland Day is scheduled for February 14, 2019.

**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. Chair Mattox shared that industrial hemp will be a major topic during the 2019 Legislative Session, and encouraged interested attendees to join the Committee.

**Joint Planning and Development**

Joint Planning and Development Chair Mike Thielke was unavailable; Charlotte Davis provided an update. The Joint Planning and Development Committee will meet via conference call on February 25, 2019 to discuss the FY2020 work plan.

**Executive Director's Report**

Charlotte Davis shared that the Rural Maryland Council has reconvened the Rural Summit Planning Committee to plan for the 2019 Rural Summit on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Rural Summit Planning Committee will meet via conference call on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 10am-11am. Sign-up sheets to participate on the Summit Planning Committee were made available. The Rural Maryland Council recently submitted the Task Force for Rural Broadband Recommendations Report in mid-January. The Council is currently planning for Rural Maryland Day on February 14, 2019, sign-up sheets were made available. Copies of the Rural Maryland Council staff activity reports were made available.

**Adjournment**

Chair Warner requested announcements from attendees. With no other business to discuss, Chair Warner requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 5, 2019, 12pm-2pm, House Office Building, Conference Room 170, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401