

RMC Spring Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting
Friday, April 5, 2019, 12pm-2pm,
House Office Building, Conference Room 170, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Tyler Abbott
Mike Arntz
Anne Balduzzi
Chris Benzing
Janice Booth
Debbie Bowden
Kimberly Brandt
Buck Browning
Trish Bucci
Elly Cowan
Jean Fabi
Senator Brian Feldman
Kurt Fuchs
Kenrick Gordon
R. Allan Gorsuch
Santo Grande
Gretchen Hardman
John Hartline
Josh Hastings
Mark Hoffman
Joanne Ivancic
Mina Izadjoo
Parviz Izadjoo
Amy Keller
Melissa Kelly
Deena Kilmon
Robert Kozak
Cherie Krug
Robert Kutchman
Nancy LaJoice
Will Land
Gabrielle Leach
Commissioner
Wilbur Levensgood
Denise Lovelady
Bunky Luffman
Erroll Mattox

Alan McCarthy
Kyle McColgan
Steve McHenry
Jerry McLaurin
Cristy Morrell
Don Mulrine
Randall Nash
Susan O'Neill
Greg Padgham
Ross Peddicord
Rick Pollitt
Linda Prochaske
Sandy Pruitt
Kelley Ray
Dan Rider
Alice Settle-Raskin
Renee Sheehy
Cassie Shirk
Jane Sinclair
Ryan Snow
Cindy Stone
Matt Tefteau
Mike Thielke
Steven Umberger
Garrett Van Wicklen
Roseanna Vogt
Scott Warner
Kathy Whaley
Jack Wilson
Julie Woepke
Bob Zimberoff

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis,
Executive Director;
Program
Administrator,
Meredith Donaho;
Administrative
Assistant,
Amanda Clevenger

Guest Speakers:

The Honorable Kelly
Schulz, Maryland
Department of
Commerce; Ms.
Roxanne Wolf, Shore
Gourmet

Chair Scott Warner called the meeting to order at 12:27pm.

Chair Warner requested introductions from the participants. Immediate Past Chair Josh Hastings requested announcements from the attendees.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 25, 2019 Rural Maryland Council Winter Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting. No comments or suggestions for revisions were made. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilbur Levengood to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Erroll Mattox, and all were in favor. The minutes from the January 25, 2019 Rural Maryland Council Winter Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting were accepted unanimously.

Guest Speaker

The Honorable Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce

Secretary Kelly Schulz of the Maryland Department of Commerce provided a brief overview of updates including the success of the apprenticeship program, regional economic development listening sessions, subcabinet collaboration projects, and two new positions added to the Department of Commerce.

Committee Reports

Financial

Charlotte Davis presented the FY2019 Budget as of March 21, 2019. The Rural Maryland Council has total operating available revenue of \$273,928.94, and a total of \$5,809,090.55 in grant expenditures. All of the grant awards for FY2019 grants have been expended. The Council has received \$119,034.41 in returned grant funds from FY2017 to FY2018 from Cecil County Office of Economic Development, West Cecil Health Center, and the Maryland Forestry Association. These returned funds will be added to the available pool of funds for FY2020 grants. A motion was made by Wilbur Levengood to accept the financial report; the motion was seconded by Chris Benzing. All were in favor, and the FY2019 Budget as of March 21, 2019 was unanimously approved.

Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF)

President Dan Rider provided an update of the RMF. President Rider shared that more information will be forthcoming in regards to updated membership due forms, which will be made available on the Foundation website and sent by email. He encouraged participants to renew their memberships. The Foundation is also releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Rural Aspirations Version 2.0. More information will be made available on the Foundation website.

Guest Speaker

Ms. Roxanne Wolf, Development and Education Director, Shore Gourmet

Ms. Wolf provided an overview of the work Shore Gourmet is doing to promote and market specialty herbs including aronia berries, ginseng, ginger and more on the Eastern Shore. Ms. Wolf highlighted the market demand for specialty herbs, collaborations and partnerships currently existing, and the benefits of supporting the specialty herb market.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Co-chairs Susan O'Neill and Matt Tefteau provided the Committee update. The RMPIF Committee met on March 21, 2019 in-person and approved the allocation of funds for the FY2020 grant cycle. RMPIF has received \$6,167,000 for FY2020. The Committee agreed to follow the same funding formula allocation as last year, which will provide \$2,055,667 to each Regional Council; \$4,111,333 to each of the three RMPIF categories (Infrastructure, Entrepreneurship and Health Care); \$513,917 to Rural Maryland Council; and, \$513,917 to the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF). An additional \$167,000 separate budget line-item for MAERDAF will also be included, for a total of \$680,917 provided to the MAERDAF fund. Copies of the updated guidelines and criteria were also provided. Chair Warner requested a motion to approve the allocation of funding for FY2020 and the updated guidelines. A motion was made by John Hartline to approve; the motion was seconded by Santo Grande. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the allocation of funding for FY2020 MAERDAF and RMPIF, and the guidelines, were unanimously approved. The online applications for MAERDAF and RMPIF will be made available on April 29, 2019.

Legislative

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Lindsay Thompson and Odette Ramos were unavailable to provide an update. Charlotte Davis shared that the 2019 Legislative Session was successful, highlights included \$10 million in funding provided for rural broadband, and the inclusion of language to support agriculture education in the Kirwan Commission report. Copies of all submitted support testimony and bill tracking were provided.

Agriculture

Agriculture Committee Chair Erroll Mattox provided an update. Chair Mattox shared that industrial hemp will be a major topic of concern because there is no existing infrastructure in Maryland to support the processing of hemp.

Joint Planning and Development

Joint Planning and Development Chair Mike Thielke provided the update. Chair Thielke shared that a Board Retreat for strategic planning has been scheduled for Friday, May 24, 2019 at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 9am – 3pm. Copies of an evaluation survey were provided. Chair Thielke requested everyone to fill out the survey, the feedback gathered will be evaluated at the May 24th Board Retreat. A consultant will be hired to help facilitate the May 24th Board Retreat. The survey will also be available online.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis shared that the Council has sponsored tickets to attend the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake on July 17, 2019 in Crisfield. Sign-up sheets were made available. Charlotte Davis also shared that Calls for Proposals for the 2019 Rural Summit were open, and the application form was available online. The due date for proposals is May 31, 2019. The Council will also be hosting MAERDAF/RMPIF outreach sessions, including: May 2nd at Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely; May 3rd at Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland in Hughesville; May 8th at Byron Memorial Park in Williamsport; and, a webinar on May 9th. Registration is available online. Copies of the staff activity logs were made available.

Adjournment

RMC Spring Quarterly Executive Board Meeting

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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 1:55pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, September 27, 2019, 12pm-2pm, Wharves of Choptank Visitor and Heritage Center, 3 Crouse Park Lane, Denton, MD 21629