

RMC Executive Committee
November 6, 2019
Fisherman's Inn, 3116 Main St, Grasonville, MD 21638
Meeting Minutes

Participants: Scott Warner, Erroll Mattox, Greg Padgham, Mike Thielke, Lindsay Thompson, Susan O'Neill, Matt Teffeau, Josh Hastings and John Hartline; RMC Staff Charlotte Davis and Amanda Clevenger

The meeting convened at approximately 11:40 am.

Minutes

The minutes from the September 17, 2019 Executive Committee meeting were presented. Ms. Thompson moved to accept the minutes as presented; Mr. Mattox seconded; the minutes were adopted as presented.

The minutes from the September 27, 2019 Executive Board meeting were presented. Mr. Mattox moved to accept the minutes as presented; Ms. Thompson seconded; the minutes were adopted as presented.

Financial Report

Ms. Davis presented the financial report. Ms. O'Neill moved to accept the financial report as presented; Mr. Mattox seconded; the financial report was accepted.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Committee

Ms. O'Neill and Mr. Teffeau discussed the FY2020 RMPIF grants. The funds have been distributed except for a few MAERDAF awards. A FY2017 RMPIF grant project in Sudlersville, Queen Anne's County was recently recognized by the Community Development Network of Maryland. Mr. Hartline and Ms. Davis also participated in a check presentation ceremony at the Velocity Center in Indian Head, Charles County with the Governor on November 5th. The Center received \$350,000 from RMPIF Infrastructure for the reconstruction of a business center with the College of Southern Maryland.

Legislative Committee

With the departure of Odette Ramos, the Committee needs to identify a new co-chair. The Committee met on October 28 to discuss a few issues: Kirwan Commission, local government preemption. The Committee will begin working on the 2020 Legislative Priorities.

Mr. Hastings arrived at approximately 12:00 Noon.

Mr. Thielke asked about the Committee's work regarding Agriculture Innovation. F3 Tech will be doing a presentation on December 4 before the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology and Biotechnology on open source data. A suggestion was made to create an investment fund with farmers and watermen as the decision makers modeled after New York State's example.

Mr. Hartline arrived at approximately 12:05 pm.

Agriculture Committee

Mr. Mattox discussed the emerging issue of hemp production. UMES recently hosted a hemp conference. There is a soil health conference coming up with scholarships available for new and beginning farmers. Another issue to consider is saltwater intrusion.

Joint Planning and Development Committee

Work continues on the Strategic Plan. There was discussion of waiting until after the March 2020 crossover date. Ms. Davis will send out a Doodle Poll to find a date for a meeting at MDA. The goal is to present the Strategic Plan at the April 3rd Board meeting.

Nominating Committee

The Committee met on October 31st in Salisbury. A draft slate was presented. There is a current Legislative vacancy for Harford County. Senator Jason Gallion was suggested to fill that particular seat. Lindsay Thompson will reach out to Senator Gallion. Mr. Teffeau moved to recommend the presented RMC 2020 Executive Board at the Annual Meeting; Mr. Mattox seconded; the motion was adopted.

Foundation

No report.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Davis reported some personnel changes. The RMC program coordinator, Sam Biddle, was let go and a new Program Administrator, Megan D'Arcy, will start at the end of the year. Planning continues for the December 12 Rural Summit.

New Business - Letter to Governor re Broadband Funding

Pursuant to the September 27, 2019 Executive Board action, Ms. Davis presented a draft letter to the Governor requesting \$20 million in broadband funding. There was some discussion. Mr. Teffeau moved to table sending the letter and talking the Senate leadership on how best to move forward; Mr. Hastings seconded the motion; the motion was adopted.

New Business - MRHA

The Association reached out to the Chair to request a meeting. The Committee agreed to meet with their Executive Committee in Annapolis.

New Business - Rural Impact Awards

The nominations that were received were presented. The Executive Director will make the applications available online with a survey link for members to indicate awardees for Rural Volunteer, Rural Community Development and Rural Economic Development. After some discussion, Ms. Thompson moved to nominate the Rural Legacy Award to Senator Mike Miller; Mr. Hastings seconded; the motion was adopted. Mr. Mattox moved to nominate Del. Sheree Sample-Hughes as Rural Champion; Mr. Padgham seconded; the motion was adopted.

Mr. Mattox moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Thielke seconded; the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:55pm.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2020, 12:00 Noon – 2:00pm, Location TBD