

**Rural Maryland Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: September 22, 2020
Time: 9:00 am to 10:00 am
Location: Videoconference Call**

Participants: John Hartline, Scott Warner, Lindsay Thompson, Susan O’Neill, Matt Teffeau, Chris Benzing, Greg Padgham, Mike Thielke, Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Amanda Clevenger

Welcome and Agenda Overview

John Hartline, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Mr. Hartline welcomed committee members and thanked them for participating in this special meeting.

Financial Report

Charlotte Davis informed participants that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) contacted her to state that they approved the FY2021 grant awards but asked that the Council retain \$400,000 until the last quarter in FY2021 in case additional cuts need to be made. DBM suggested that the retainer be taken from Regional Councils as it would be easier administratively. Charlotte asked the Executive Committee to share their thoughts on this suggestion and provide alternative solutions.

Scott Warner stated that he was concerned that slashing the Regional Council budgets would greatly impact the Councils effectiveness and they would have to cut partner’s (and staff) through other projects. He stated that the Council’s deliver more bang for their buck and he would like to review the latest RMC Managing for Results (MFRs) as these metrics will support the Council’s impact. He would also like to know how this cut would affect the Tri-County Council of Western Maryland Regional Council (TCCWMD). Mike Thielke stated that the Regional Councils should be kept whole and suggested to dwindle down the MAERDAF/RMPIF grant awardees. Lindsay Thompson stated that we need to focus on people, not projects at this point. Chris Benzing suggested a straight cut across the board. Susan O’Neill stated that she was concerned that accepting DBMs suggestion may set a precedence for the Regional Council for future cuts. She also emphasized that this cut would greatly impact both the Upper and Mid Shore Councils.

The Committee decided it was best to reconvene on September 23rd at 10:30 am to discuss appropriate retention dispersal and Charlotte stated she would check in with TCCWMD and run the MFRs and distribute them to Committee members.

Adjourn

Chris Benzing moved to adjourn the meeting; Scott Warner seconded. Motion was passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. John Hartline thanked everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

Next Special Meeting: September 23rd at 10:30 am by videoconference call.