



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)

RMC Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: December 2, 2020

Time: 12pm- 1pm

Location: Zoom Teleconference

Recorded Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XxpA3taK0I>

Participants: John Hartline, Scott Warner, Daniel Rider, Chris Benzing, Susan O'Neill, Brigitte Carty, Don Mulrine, Cassie Shirk, Amy Crowding, Kimberly Kratovil, Andrew Rose, The Honorable Steve Hershey, Beth Hill, Erroll Mattox, Brandi Dillon, The Honorable Addie Eckardt, Shelby Watson- Hampton, Tina Williams, Tony Thakur, Greg Padgham, Polly Binns, Bill Valentine, Cindy Stone, The Honorable Michele Guyton, Kurt Fuchs, Ryan Snow, The Honorable George Edwards, Steve McHenry, The Honorable Mary Ann Lisanti, Debbie Bowden, The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Dave Wheelan, The Honorable Katie Fry Hester, Gretchen Hardman, Anne Hairston, Josh Hastings, Cheryl DeBerry, Leslie Hart, Dean Fisher, Jennifer Walsh, Kathy Bosin, Chuck Ernst, Elizabeth Chung, Cherie Krug, The Honorable Mike McKay, The Honorable Douglas Peters, Chris Kaselemis, Jennifer Howell, Alice Settle-Raskin, Lara Wilson, Richard Marks, Matthew Tefteau, Wilbur Levengood, Megan Galvin, Melissa Kelly, Mike Thielke, Santo Grande, Sara Seitz, Matthew Hurd, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy, Dakota Matthews

Welcome and Agenda Overview

John Hartline, Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting at 12:02pm. Mr. Hartline informed participants that the meeting would be recorded for minute taking and recording the actions. He reviewed the agenda that included the Rural Impact Awards, the 2021 Board Nominations and the Executive Director's Report. He praised the Council staff for their amazing work considering all of the adjustments that needed to take place due to the pandemic. Meeting materials were sent to participants prior to the meeting by email and were made available on the RMC website.

Rural Impact Awards

John Hartline introduced the Rural Impact Awards ceremony and asked the following presenters to introduce the awardees who were each provided three minutes for an acceptance speech.

- Josh Hastings presented the Rural Community Volunteer award to Erroll Mattox, for his leadership, dedication, and noteworthy volunteer achievement beyond the call of one's professional duties to help improve their community.
- Dan Rider presented the Outstanding Rural Economic Development award to The Greater Cumberland Committee, for their leadership, dedication, and noteworthy achievement to help improve economic development opportunities in rural communities. Jennifer Walsh, Executive Director accepted the award.
- Mike Thielke presented the Outstanding Rural Community Development award to Dave Wheelan, for his leadership, dedication, and noteworthy achievement to help improve rural communities through his online publications of the Talbot Spy and Chestertown Spy.
- John Hartline presented the Rural Champion awards to Senator Douglas J.J. Peters and Senator Stephen Hershey, Jr. for their outstanding leadership and public service in promoting legislation and policy solutions to benefit rural communities.

Ryan Snow, Acting Director with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Kimberly Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative for U.S. Senator Ben Cardin both presented congratulatory statements to the awardees and presented them with citations for recognizing their great work.

Nominating Committee

Chris Benzing, Chair of the Nominating Committee announced that the committee asked for a call for Board nominations at the September meeting and the Committee met on November 4th to determine the 2021 Executive Board and Officers. Mr. Benzing reported John Hartline was renominated as RMC Chair, Greg Padgham was nominated for 1st chair and he (Chris Benzing) will serve as 2nd vice chair and remain chair of the nominating committee. Mr. Benzing was pleased to welcome Dr. Heidi Anderson to the Executive Board and recognized Josh Hastings for his service as he will be stepping down from the Board. RMC will be welcoming three new board members-Sam Shoge from Kent County, Debbie Bowden from Caroline County and Matt Halloway from Wicomico County. Mr. Benzing completed presenting the slate from the nominating committee and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Mr. Benzing moved to accept the slate as presented. Wilbur Levengood seconded; all were in favor of accepting the slate as presented. The motion passed to accept the presented Board slate.

Executive Director's Report

Charlotte Davis reported that the staff activity reports were included in the packet and that the Council welcomed a new staff member, Dakota Matthews from Frostburg as their Program Coordinator. Ms. Davis pointed out the 2021 calendar and highlighted the upcoming meetings-Rural Maryland Day on 2/11; Legislative Committee will start meeting bimonthly on 1/11 throughout session; and Rural Summit starts planning on 1/7. She reported that a link for the FY2020 Annual Report was included in the meeting packet and is available on the RMC website. Lastly, Ms. Davis announced that it was RMC's 25th anniversary and the milestones were included in the packet. Ms. Davis asked if there were any new questions. No questions were asked. Charlotte recognized the legislators that joined the meeting and thanked them for attending. Senator Edwards, Senator Hershey, Senator Peters, Senator Hester, Senator Eckardt, Delegate Mckay, Delegate Guyton, Delegate Sample-Hughes and Delegate Lisanti.

New Business

Mr. Hartline asked if any legislators joining the meeting would like to speak. Senator Eckardt thanked RMC for all their great work throughout the 25 years and thanked her legislator colleagues for being engaged in the Council and congratulated Senator Peters and Senator Hershey for joining forces and moving things along. Josh Hastings spoke that as a local government legislator, RMC is important and has great impact on the local level through their activities and grant programs.

Adjourn

John Hartline asked for a motion to adjourn. Chris Benzing moved to adjourn; Steve McHenry seconded. The motion was passed to adjourn the meeting at 1:02pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, January 29, 2021, 12 pm – 2pm Location: TBD