



## RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 3, 2021

Time: 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Kimberly Kratovil, Chris Benzing, Tyler Patton, Dakota Matthews, John Hartline, Greg Padghm, Don Mulrine, Cassie Shirk, Debbie Bowden, Matt Tefteau, Susanne Richards Zilberfarb, Steve McHenry, Alice Settle-Raskin, Debbie Bowden, Dan Rider, Andrew Cassilly, Janice Palmer, Scott Warner, Diana-Lynne Hsu, Kelly Dudeck, Helen, Charlotte Davis, Dakota Matthews, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy.

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Co-chair Chris Benzing called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm and welcomed everyone.
- II. Review of April 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Co-chair Chris Benzing reviewed the April 19, 2021 minutes with the Committee and requested a motion to approve. Steve McHenry moved to accept the 4/19/2021 minutes, Tyler Patton seconded. There was no opposition to the minutes. The 4/19/2021 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Updates
  - A. Special Session: Co-chair Chris Benzing reported that there will be a special session from December 6 to 10, 2021 that will focus on congressional redistricting, veto overrides, and electing a new treasurer.
  - B. Leadership Changes: Charlotte Davis reported that Derek Davis will run for Treasurer and Kathleen Dumais was appointed as a Montgomery County Judge so the two leaders of the House of Economic Matters Committee will change as well as Anne Kaiser from the Ways and Means Committee will be stepping down with Delegate Attaberry as the replacement chair. Additionally, resignation of Senator Peters and the appointment of Senator Michael Jackson to the Public Safety, Transportation and Environmental Subcommittee and Senator Zucker will take over as chair of the Capital Budget Subcommittee.
- IV. Review Draft of 2022 Legislative Priorities: Co-chair Chris Benzing and Ms. Charlotte Davis reviewed the 2022 Legislative Priorities with the Committee. Ms. Davis informed the Committee that RMC requested \$9 million in the FY2023 operating budget. Ms. Davis further stated that staff met with David Brinkley and he was fairly positive that RMC may receive additional funds but did not commit to the \$9 million. Ms. Davis inquired if there was additional funding for Broadband and Mr. Tyler Patton stated that the only money that will come is if they pass the infrastructure bill and there is currently \$400 million. Mr. Dan Rider asked if this is the location where we advocate for MARBIDCO to get the annual funding for the Wood Products Equity Investment Fund account. Steve McHenry stated that this a recommendation from the Forestry Economic Strategy Report. The Committee felt it should be added as a priority. Mr. John Hartline discussed the inclusion of nonemergency healthcare transportation as a priority. Ms. Davis felt it should be included under the Transportation subheading. The Committee agreed. Ms. Susanne Zilberfarb stated that agriculture education is a priority for everyone and did not see

it in the priorities document. Ms. Davis recommended a broader workforce development piece to include education under this category. The Committee discussed taking a more comprehensive look at the educational system and ways we can make improvements as it relates to workforce training. Mr. Scott Warner suggested that this should be brought to the Think Tank at the Foundation and could result in white paper about the issue. The Committee agreed. Additional topics discussed included Think Big and right-of-way legislation; Program Open Space; and reassessing value-added properties. Ms. Davis stated that she would make the changes discussed and that we have until the end of January to make additional changes.

- V. Other: Co-chair Chris Benzing reviewed the following dates with the Committee meeting.
- A. 2022 Legislative Committee Dates: Meetings every other Monday, starting January 10, 2022 through the session.
  - B. Legislative Lunch – January 28<sup>th</sup>: Committee discussed the location of the lunch since the Miller Senate Building is not available. It was decided to let the Executive Committee decide.
  - C. Rural Maryland Day – February 10, 2022: Co-chair Chris Benzing stated that this event may be held remotely since access maybe limited to the State buildings and the Miller Senate Building rooms are not available. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that she has a call with Soil Conservation District as RMC has traditionally partnered with them for Rural Maryland Day to see how they would like to proceed given the situation.
  - D. Maryland Day – March 25, 2022: Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that RMC plans to host a lunch for legislators at Lawyers Malls again this year with the focus on celebrating Maryland farmers, watermen, and rural communities.

Mr. John Hartline mentioned that he went C.T. Wilson to ask the Chair of the House to see if the Delegates will be free to attend their Taste of Southern Maryland event in February. Mr. Hartline stated that he will share the information once he learns. Taste of Maryland Agriculture Dinner is planned for February 3, 2022, and Taste of the Eastern Shore is planned to be in person and held on February 10, 2022. Susanne Zilberfarb shared that MAEF will be hosting a *Socialize and Sip* event about ag education on November 16, 2021 at 7pm.

- VI. Adjourn: Co-chair Chris Benzing adjourned the meeting at 1:02pm.

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 10, 2022, 2pm-3pm, Zoom Teleconference**