



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: January 14, 2022
Location: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chair John Hartline, Dan Rider, Susan O'Neill, Matt Teffeau, Lindsay Thompson, Mike Thielke, Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Dakota Matthews, Amanda Clevenger

Chair John Hartline welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:02pm. Chair Hartline asked for a motion to accept the November 10, 2021 minutes. Mr. Matt Teffeau moved the motion, Ms. Susan O'Neill seconded. Chair Hartline asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Chair Hartline asked if there was any opposition. There was none. The 11/10/2021 minutes were unanimously accepted. Chair Hartline asked for a motion to accept the December 1, 2021 annual meeting minutes. Ms. O'Neill made the motion, Ms. Lindsay Thompson seconded it. Chair Hartline asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Chair Hartline asked if there was any opposition. There was none. The 12/1/2021 minutes were unanimously accepted.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported as of January 11, 2022, the Council had distributed most of the grant funds and there were two outstanding. Ms. Davis expressed concern on the timing to get one of the awards out that is over \$100,000 and whether or not the grantee can spend the funds during the grant time period. Ms. Davis stated that they will speak to the grantee and discuss options. Ms. Davis further stated that \$253,136 has been expended for operating, with an available balance of \$246,864 remaining. The Committee discussed the grant amounts awarded and the differences between the available RMPIF funds and the final award with entrepreneurship being the lowest. Committee members asked that this be discussed at the next RMPIF Committee meeting. Ms. Davis reviewed the expenditures for the 2021 Rural Summit and stated that they were over due to audio visual needs and the conference was held over two days and not just one day. Chair John Hartline asked for a motion to approve the financial report. Ms. Lindsay Thompson moved the motion to accept the financial report, Ms. Susan O'Neil seconded it. Chair Hartline asked if all were in favor. All were in favor. Chair Hartline asked if there was any opposition. There was none. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

The Committee discussed the upcoming RMPIF Committee meeting and Grant Review Board meeting. The Committee members agreed to schedule additional RMPIF meetings as needed including the one scheduled for March 22, 2022 and to leave it virtual. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that the Legislative Committee adopted the priorities and provided an update on the legislative logistics; the legislative priorities postcard; the position statements; virtual Rural Maryland Day; and, Maryland Day. Committee members discussed SB56 and upcoming legislation related to non-emergency rural transportation, ag preservation and tire recycling.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that Mr. Dan Rider sent an email with an update for the Rural Maryland Foundation which included the strategic plan development, the transfer of wealth project, and preparing for the next meeting in March. Mr. Matt Teffeau reported on the Agricultural Commission meeting and stated the Taste of Maryland Agricultural event was moved to March 3, 2022 and will be held at the Maryland Live Casino venue.

Mr. Mike Thielke reported that the Joint Planning and Development Committee will continue to review progress on the Strategic Plan. Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that staff are still working on materials for a recruitment and membership campaign and asked to present the outreach materials at the next meeting. Ms. Davis discussed interest by Sara Seitz, with the Office of Rural Health to convene the Healthcare Committee and rename it the Health Committee and the interest in developing a Rural Housing Committee. Mr. Thielke asked that the two

people recommending these two Committees submit something in writing on what the purpose is of the new Committees and what they will accomplish.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided her Executive Director's Report which included asking Committee members to review the draft 2021 Annual Report and provide feedback to staff; the RESI report; Rural Summit debrief and evaluations; staff activity reports. The Committee discussed the economic impact analysis report completed by RESI and recommendations were provided to make changes in the report. Changes discussed included adding data to certain figures and moving data from the appendix to the front of the report. The Committee discussed Summit evaluations that included participants generally needed more time for the breakout session; less panelists; include more time between the sessions; more best practices and high light case studies (e.g. Harford County presentation); and, draw more attention to the vendors. Committee members discussed a new location for the event.

The Committee discussed the upcoming Executive Board meeting and agenda and it was decided to hold the January 28, 2022 meeting virtually. The Committee discussed the current inflation challenges, and it will be discussed at the RMPIF Committee.

Chair John Hartline asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Scott Warner moved the motion and Mr. Mike Thielke seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm

Next Executive Committee Meeting Scheduled: Friday, March 25, 2022, 12 pm – 2 pm Location: Harry Browne's Restaurant, 66 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401