



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting Minutes  
Date & Time: Thursday, March 10, 2022, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chair Mike Thielke, Susan Harrison, Scott Warner, John Hartline, Charlotte Davis, Dakota Matthews, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy

Chair Mike Thielke welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Chair Theilke reviewed the minutes from the November 2, 2021 meeting and asked several questions. Questions related to adjusting the times frames on the Strategic Plan for goals 2.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4; adding more structure to RMC committee's document; include DLS, DBM and RMPIF under 5.1; recommendation for the Rural Maryland Foundation to take on goal 5; completed tasks for 6.2 and 6.3; and, the distribution of the Rural Maryland Foundation Strategic Plan. Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that staff adjusted the Strategic Plan to update the timeframes for Goal 2.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4; staff updated structure on the Committees list and have met with the Chair of the Health Committee and are currently scheduling meetings with the Chairs for Agriculture and the Housing Committees and will plan to complete those meeting by the next meeting; staff will continue to update the succession plan in preparation for review at the next quarterly meeting; and the Foundation voted on their Strategic Plan at the March 9, 2022 meeting and it will be discussed at the next quarterly meeting with the Committee. Chair Thielke asked the Committee if there were any changes or edits to the 11/2/2021 minutes. There were none. Chair Thielke asked for a motion to accept the 11/2/2021 minutes. Mr. Scott Warner moved the motion, Mr. John Hartline seconded it. The 11/2/2021 minutes were unanimously accepted.

The Committee reviewed the FY2023 work plan. The Committee discussed the MAERDAF annual report, and it was decided to start the report in July 2022 instead of August 2022 to allow staff more time to develop it and to include a summary of the grantee outcomes. While an annual report is not required for RMPIF, the Committee encouraged staff to consider creating a RMPIF annual report as well. The Committee discussed the legislative letters, and it was decided to send a generic list of all the awardees organized by district and include a statewide category and send it to every legislator along with a personalized cover letter.

The Joint Planning and Development (JPD) Committee reviewed the following components of the FY2023 Workplan:

Legislative Committee - The JPD Committee decided to let the Legislative Committee decide on the legislative priorities and they will focus on general organizational priorities only.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Committee – The JPD Committee decided that they would like to educate the new administration and help to identify a permanent funding source next year. Mr. Scott Warner made the motion to change the sunset date and identify a permanent funding source. Susan Harrison seconded it. Chair Mike Thielke asked to amend the motion that this is a recommendation for the Executive Committee, and it is a priority for the upcoming FY2023. The Committee approved the amended version. Chair Thielke asked if there was any other discussion. There was none. The JPD Committee unanimously accepted the motion to recommend to the Executive

Committee to seek legislation that would identify a permanent funding source and remove the current 2030 sunset date in statute during the upcoming FY2023 legislative session.

Rural Broadband Planning and Technical Assistance: The JPD discussed hosting a symposium that would provide an update on the status of rural broadband and it would be a way for the Council to advocate to the new administration and the importance of the Office of Statewide Broadband. Chair Mike Thielke asked for a motion to recommend to the Executive Committee for the Council to host a broadband symposium in May 2023 that would provide an update on the status of rural broadband and highlight the importance of the Office of Statewide Broadband. Ms. Susan Harrison moved the motion, Mr. John Hartline seconded the motion. Chair Thielke asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion was unanimously approved to host a broadband symposium in May 2023.

Youth Engagement: The JPD Committee discussed hosting a Student Rural Maryland Day in March 2023 and discussed the layout of the day which may include two legislature meetings, go to the floor, provide a lunch with speakers and take the kids to visit legislative committee members. The JPD Committee discussed that this would involve an active involvement of planning with the school. Ms. Susan Harrison stated that the University of Maryland Extension provides an internship program and there might be a way to involve RMC with this program that includes University level interns working with extension and the State's rural communities. Additionally, Ms. Harrison stated that 4-H program offers a Day in Annapolis program that helps students learn about policy process and governance. The Committee recommended targeting regions to learn if there is interest in such a program to include juniors and seniors in High School. Chair Mike Thielke made a motion for the next fiscal year that the workplan include planning and development and validating an interest from school systems. Ms. Susan Harrison seconded the motion. Chair Thielke asked if there were any questions. Mr. Scott Warner recommended that the language in the work plan the deals with retaining youth should be removed and that there is discrepancy between engaging youth and retaining youth. Mr. Warner further stated that the Council needs to be clear on what we are doing and be clearer on the expectations. The Committee did not pass the motion. The Committee discussed the difference between the Youth Engagement Committee and the Youth Engagement Project. The Committee discussed combining the two categories as they may overlap. Chair Thielke made the recommendation that this get deferred to the Youth Committee.

Entrepreneurship Program: Chair Mike Thielke stated that StartUp Maryland can be removed as they are currently inactive.

Rural Conferences, issue forums, regional and local meetings: The Committee reviewed the list presented and Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that planning next spring for the Rural Summit.

Coordinate RMC Executive Board Meeting and Working Committee Meetings: Chair Mike Thielke clarified that that Executive Board is supposed to have a chair from each of the Committees.

Rural Maryland Foundation: Chair Mike Thielke stated that he asked for a copy of the current MOU from 2014 between RMC and RMF and asked for it to be on the agenda for the next meeting to be reviewed and with the Foundation Board at their next meeting. Chair Thielke would like to start working on an updated MOU. Chair Thielke reported that the Foundation discussed the research and data collection component at their meeting that was held earlier in the week.

Representative the Rural Voice: Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that the Sustainable Growth Commission can be taken off since it is defunct. The Committee discussed adding the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition and the Maryland Tourism Coalition.

The following contains the discussion from review of the draft version of the FY2022 Working Committee Description and Contacts document:

Nominating Committee: The JPD Committee discussed the role of the Nominating Committee, and it was recommended to change the name to Nominating and Membership Committee in the bylaws. Chair Mike Thielke made the motion to recommend to the Executive Committee to change the name to *Nominating and Membership Committee*. Mr. John Hartline moved the motion to change the name. Mr. Scott Warner seconded it. The motion to take the recommendation to the Executive Committee to change the Nominating Committee name to Nominating and Membership Committee was unanimously approved.

Joint Planning and Development Committee: Ms. Charlotte Davis highlighted the new text that includes the vetting process for new proposals brought to RMC.

Legislative Committee: No changes recommended

RMPIF Committee: No changes recommended

Health Committee: Ms. Charlotte Davis provided background information stating that there is interest from the Director of Rural Health Sara Seitz to Chair the Committee. Ms. Davis further stated that staff met with Ms. Seitz to review the goals and outcomes and an upcoming rural transportation roundtable proposal. The Committee was comfortable with resurrecting the Health Committee with the focus of convening in order to develop issues which lead to white papers given specific topics and it was recommended to expand the Health Committee and to send an email to re-engage former members. Chair Mike Thielke made the motion to recommend to the Executive Committee to resurrect the Health Committee; change the bylaws to reflect the new name from Health Care Committee to Health Committee; to expand members to have comprehensive representation from the entire State; and, the role of the Committee is to convene and take on statewide related issues and present white papers with comprehensive action steps to solve problems on these specific topics; and, the first topic will be on statewide rural health transportation to be funded by the Rural Maryland Foundation. Mr. Scott Warner moved the motion, Ms. Susan Harrison seconded it. The motion to recommend to the Executive Committee to resurrect the Health Committee; change the bylaws to reflect the new name from Health Care Committee to Health Committee; to expand members to have comprehensive representation from the entire State; and, the role of the Committee is to convene and take on statewide related issues and present white papers with comprehensive action steps to solve problems on these specific topics; and, and the first topic will be on statewide rural health transportation to be funded by the Rural Maryland Foundation was unanimously approved.

Agricultural Committee: The JPD Committee decided to defer the review of this committee until the next meeting.

Housing Committee: The JPD Committee discussed changing the name to Rural Housing Committee and Ms. Charlotte Davis provided background on the issue. The Committee discussed the need for a white paper to address the problem. The Committee recommended adding Habitat for Humanity, Claudia Wilson Randall, and Duane Yoder. The JPD Committee decided to ask the Housing Committee to conduct some introductory meetings and discuss their objectives and present it to JPD Committee that could include sharing ideas that includes field trips, networking, and possible a white paper. A formal recommendation was not made but staff will move forward with items discussed.

The JPD Committee discussed membership and recruitment and are waiting on a marketing piece that will be shared at the next meeting. The JPD Committee discussed the MAERDAF priorities, and it was discussed that they are currently fairly broad and from the committees discussion and white papers might narrow down future priorities. Chair Mike Thielke suggested that the priorities stay the same.

The Committee discussed outreach to the University of Maryland Institute of Governmental Services to help the Council design the new survey and the goal is to have staff present an issues survey at the next meeting for review.

The Committee discussed the next meeting, and it was moved to Thursday, June 24, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The Committee adjourned the meeting at 12:02pm.

**Next Meeting: *Thursday, June 24, 2022 10:00am-12:00pm by teleconference***