



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
RMC Spring Quarterly Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Date & Time: April 8, 2022, 12 pm – 2pm
Location: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chair John Hartline, Greg Padghm, Alice Settle-Raskin, Cheryl DeBerry, Chris Kaselemis, Cindy Stone, Erica Joseph, Gretchen Hardman, Grayson Middleton, Holly Porter, Jinhee Kim, John Hickman, Jonathan Dayton, Julie Woepke, Kathy Gugulis, Kurt Fuchs, Laura Wilson, Lucille Walker, Matt Tefteau, Melissa Kelly, Melissa Bolyard, Mindy Burgoyne, Sara Seitz, Scott Warner, Shawn Perry, Shelby Watson Hampton, Steve Bolen, Tony Thakur, Vanessa Hoffman, Genevieve Croker, Ruthy Davis, Weida Stoecker, Erica Joseph, Steve McHenry, Susan O’Neill, A.C. Alrey, Dan Rider, Roseanna Vogt, Yolanda Hipski, Lindsay Thompson, Carmella Watkins, Darlene Taylor, Jianning Zeng, Jane Thery, Dr. Heidi Anderson, Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Amanda Clevenger, and Dakota Matthews

Chair John Hartline welcomed everyone to the Executive Board meeting at 12:02pm. Chair Hartline introduced the guest speakers which included the following: Sean Dennis, President/CEO of the United States Bomb Technician Association; David Jones, Vice President of Advancement and Community Relations and Executive Director of the ACM Foundation of Allegany College of Maryland; Nick Redding, Executive Director of Preservation Maryland; and Daraius Irani, Chief Economist and Allie Gruber, Research Associate with the Regional Economic Studies Institute of Towson University

Chair John Hartline asked for a motion to approve the January 28, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Leslie Hart made the motion to approve the 1/28/2022 meeting minutes, Mr. Chris Kaselemis seconded the motion. The 1/28/2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided the FY2022 financial report stating that all the grants have been expended and provided the remaining FY2022 funds available that will be used towards employee expenditures and sponsorships. Ms. Susan O’Neill made the motion to approve the FY2022 budget, Ms. Leslie Hart seconded the motion. The FY2022 budget was unanimously approved. Ms. Charlotte Davis reported on the FY2023 budget and thanked Governor Hogan for increasing the RMC budget by 50% from \$6 million to \$9 million. Ms. Weida Stoecker made the motion to accept the FY2023 budget, Ms. Susan O’Neill seconded the motion. The FY2023 budget was unanimously approved.

RMPIF Committee Chair Susan O’Neill reported on the \$9 million and reviewed the breakdown of funds with the Board. Ms. O’Neill reviewed the guidelines and criteria and reported on the changes that included a new cap for the MAERDAF grant program from \$40,000 to \$45,000. Ms. O’Neill reviewed the upcoming FY2023 grant timeline and dates for the grant information sessions. Mr. Steve McHenry made the motion to approve the FY2023 grant guidelines and criteria, Ms. Weida Stoecker seconded it. The FY2023 grant guidelines and criteria were unanimously approved.

Legislative Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson reported that the legislative session was wrapping up with Sine Die taking place on April 11, 2022. Ms. Thompson further reported that the Committee submitted 80 position statements during session and highlighted the committee related events which included a successful virtual Rural Maryland Day and in-person Maryland Day lunch at Lawyers Mall in downtown Annapolis. Ms. Thompson ended her report by stating a committee wrap up meeting will take place on Monday, April 18, 2022.

Agriculture Committee Chair Matt Teffeu thanked everyone for attending the Maryland Agriculture dinner that took place on March 3, 2022, at the Maryland Live Casino. Mr. Teffeu stated that a committee meeting will be held virtual on May 6, 2022.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported for Joint Planning and Development Committee and stated that the committee met on March 10, 2022 and they had four considerations per the Strategic Plan to present to the Board during this meeting but will not be voted on until September's meeting. They are as follows: 1) RMC would like to identify and pursue a permanent funding source and would like to draft legislation towards this need for the FY23 legislative session. 2) Request to host a Broadband Symposium in May 2023 3) ByLaw request to change the name of the Healthcare Committee to 'Health Committee' and have this committee host a series of Non-Emergency Health Transportation roundtables in the fall; and 4) ByLaw request to rename the Nominating Committee to Nominating and Membership Committee.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that the Rural Maryland Foundation recently adopted a strategic plan of its own mainly looking at the idea of creating a think tank to generate ideas that will require more research and potentially funding small mini grants to complete the research. Ms. Davis further stated that they are focusing on the transfer of wealth efforts that will at how to build and retain wealth in rural areas.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided the Executive Director's report that included the staff activity reports, RMC recent events, the FY2023 workplan, and the upcoming FY2023 grant information sessions that included expanded outreach utilizing media pieces and enhanced social media. Ms. Davis reviewed the upcoming events as stated under the announcements section of the agenda and asked members to mark their calendars. Lastly, Ms. Davis informed the Board that RMC will convene a rural housing committee and asked members to contact RMC if they would like to join this committee as well as other committees.

Ms. Charlotte Davis shared that RMC plans to host a virtual roundtable with Tom Barkin, CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank on June 1, 2022, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm and the Council will be hosting a virtual follow-up meeting to learn more about the RESI RMC economic analysis on May 16, 2022 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

Chair John Hartline thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Ms. Weida Stoecker made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:42pm, Mr. Kurt Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the April 8, 2022, RMC Executive Board meeting was unanimously accepted.