



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: March 25, 2022
Location: James Senate Office Building
Neall Conference Room, 3rd floor

Participants: Lindsay Thompson, Dan Rider, John Hartline, Scott Warner, Susan O’Neill, Mike Thielke, Greg Padgham, Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Dakota Matthews, Amanda Clevenger.

Chair John Hartline welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:28pm. Chair Hartline asked for a motion to accept the January 14, 2022, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Ms. Lindsay Thompson moved the motion to accept the minutes, Ms. Susan O’Neill seconded the motion. The 1/14/2022 Executive Committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Chair Hartline asked for a motion to approve the January 28, 2022, Executive Board meeting minutes. Ms. Lindsay Thompson moved the motion to approve, Ms. Susan O’Neil seconded it the motion. The 1/28/2022 Executive Board meeting 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. The Committee discussed the sponsorships that include \$25,000 for the MPT Farm & Harvest programming. Mr. Greg Padgham made the motion to support the MPT programming at \$25,000, Ms. Susan O’Neill seconded it. The Committee approved the support of \$25,000 to MPT with one abstention from Ms. Lindsay Thompson. The Committee discussed using \$15,000 for the Rural Maryland Foundation for the Think Tank. Chair Hartline asked for a motion to accept the FY2022 Financial Report. Mr. Scott Warner moved the motion to support the FY2022 financial report, Ms. Lindsay Thompson seconded the motion. The FY2022 financial report was unanimously approved.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported on the FY2023 budget and stated that the RMC budget has been increased 50% from \$6 million to \$9 million. Ms. Davis reviewed the FY2023 budget with Committee members and discussed the changes in categories due to the increase in funding. Items discussed included the addition of a contractual employee, funding for the health committee, office location and rent to MDA. Chair John Hartline asked for a motion upon approval of the State’s operating budget to give a preliminary approval of FY2023 RMC budget and recommendation to present it to the Executive Board. Mr. Scott Warner moved the motion to accept the FY2023 RMC budget based upon approval of the State’s operating budget and present it to the Board in April, Ms. Susan O’Neil seconded the motion. The FY2023 preliminary budget was unanimously accepted.

The Committee reviewed the standard funding template for FY2023 that showed the increased funding. Ms. Susan O’Neil made the motion to approve the distribution of the standard funding template, Ms. Lindsay Thompson seconded the motion. The FY2023 funds as represented in the standard funding template were unanimously approved.

Ms. Susan O’Neill reported that the RMPIF Committee met on March 22, 2022 and reported changes to the RMPIF and MAERDAF guidelines and criteria. Ms. Charlotte Davis reviewed the upcoming dates for the FY2023 grant program along with the in-person and Zoom grant information sessions. Ms. Susan O’Neill moved the motion to approve the FY2023 guidelines and criteria for the RMPIF and MAERDAF grant programs, Ms. Lindsay Thompson seconded the motion. The FY2023 RMPIF and MAERDAF guidelines and criteria were unanimously approved.

Ms. Lindsay Thompson, co-chair of the Legislative Committee reported that the committee was meeting weekly this year which was a product of necessity because of the timing of hearings. She reported that there has been good participation and conversation. The Committee discussed creating a one-pager from the Council's Legislative Policy and reviewing it at the beginning of next session. The Executive Committee discussed the legislative related events that include normally include a breakfast (placed on hold due to COVID), Rural Maryland Day, and Maryland Day and decided to discuss planning these events in November after the election. The Executive Committee discussed updating RMPIF to identify a funding source, add workforce development, and remove the sunset date.

Mr. Dan Rider, President of the Rural Maryland Foundation provided an update on Foundation and reported that the Foundation recently completed a Strategic Plan that includes restarting the Transfer of Wealth (TOW) efforts and the creation of a Think Tank to focus on rural issues. Mr. Rider reported that the next TOW meeting will take place on March 29, 2022, at 10:00 am.

Mr. Mike Thielke, Chair of the Joint Planning and Development Committee reported on the recommendations for the Executive Committee's consideration and action. These are as follows:

- 1) The Council needs to identify and pursue a permanent funding source: Mr. Scott Warner made the motion to accept the recommendation for the Council to identify and pursue a permanent funding source, Ms. Lindsay Thompson seconded it. The motion to accept the recommendation for the Council to identify and pursue a permanent funding source was unanimously approved.
- 2) Request to host a broadband Summit in May 2023: Mr. Scott Warner moved the motion to accept RMC to host a Rural Broadband Symposium in May 2023, Ms. Susan O'Neill seconded it. The motion to host a Rural Broadband Symposium in May 2023 was unanimously approved.
- 3) ByLaw Change - Renaming the Nominating Committee to 'Nominating and Membership Committee'
- 4) By Law Change - Change the Healthcare Committee to 'Health Committee' and; having this Committee Health focus on developing a series of Non-Emergency Transportation Roundtables for \$30,000 that will include three round tables; a survey and a white paper with analysis and recommendation on health transportation: Scott Warner made the motion to accept the recommendations to amend the two ByLaws changes that include renaming the Nominating Committee to 'Nominating and Membership Committee' and changing the Healthcare Committee to 'Health Committee', Ms. Lindsay Thompson seconded it. The motion to accept the name changes to the Nominating and Healthcare Committee were unanimously accepted. Ms. Lindsay Thompson made a motion for the newly resurrected Health Committee to address the proposed project on Health Transportation, for their first order of business with a report due no later than December 2023, Mr. Scott Warner seconded it. The motion for the Health Committee to address the proposed project was unanimously approved.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided the Executive Director's report that included staff hybrid schedules; updated RESI report and presentation; updated 2023 workplan; a request from the Tom Barkin with the Federal Reserve of Richmond to speak RMC virtually on June 1, 2022; and the membership campaign. The Committee reviewed the Executive Board agenda and committee members discussed a speaker for the upcoming Executive Board meeting. The Committee decided to hold the Executive Board meeting by Zoom. The Committee discussed developing a more robust rural issues survey by working with the Institute for Governmental Service and Research to redesign and develop the survey. The Committee discussed the need for a MAERDAF Grant Review board member as there are currently five members and there should be six. It was suggested to contact Dr. Heidi Anderson for recommendations.

Chair John Hartline thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr. Scott Warner made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:12pm, Ms. Susan O'Neill seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the March 25, 2022, RMC Executive Committee meeting was unanimously accepted.