



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 1, 2022

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Type: Teleconference

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

Chair Mike Thielke welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:03am. Chair Thielke reviewed the September 1, 2022 minutes with the Committee and asked if there were any corrections. Mr. John Hartline stated that Craig Sewell's name was spelled incorrectly on page three of the minutes and provided the correct spelling. **Mr. Dan Rider made the motion to accept the September 1, 2022 minutes with the correction to the minutes noted, Mr. John Hartline seconded it. The minutes were unanimously approved.**

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported on the 2022 Rural Issues Survey and the Committee reviewed the raw data that was included in the meeting materials. Ms. Davis stated that a total of 314 responses were received and reported on the top issues that related to affordable and accessible housing, the environment, and competition of solar and agricultural land. RMC staff will go through the responses to collate the themes, priorities, and comments in order to produce a one-page handout. The draft document will be presented at the next Committee meeting. The Committee discussed sharing the survey with the RMC Committees so that it can help them develop actionable priorities that are responsive to the Council's constituency. The Committee discussed including a short blurb to be included in the next RMC newsletter on the Survey and what the Council plans to do with the information. Chair Mike Thielke stated that he would prepare introductory text to be included in the article. The Committee discussed the 2023 Rural Issues Survey and Ms. Davis reported that she has been in contact with Robin Cox, Director of the Institute for Governmental Service and Research at the University of Maryland, and they will help RMC develop a more robust survey for 2023. Chair Thielke stated that he would like to make sure that each Committee is represented in the 2023 survey.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that the Council is ramping up the membership campaign and it includes targeted video content using the rural aspirations page and persuasive language on why one should become a member. Additionally, Ms. Davis stated that advertisements were placed in shore publications. The Committee discussed the goals and cost of the campaign as presented in the APG Chesapeake Media Marketing (APG) invoice included in the meeting materials. **Chair Mike Thielke asked the Committee to make a motion to recommend to the RMC Executive Committee approval of \$15,090 for APG. Ms. Susan Harrison moved the motion, Mr. John Hartline seconded it. The motion to recommend approval of the APG invoice for \$15,090 to the RMC Executive Committee was unanimously approved.**

The Committee discussed the following RMC Committees:

- Youth Engagement Committee – RMC staff to work with the Regional Councils to reach out to respective YMCAs, youth sports, youth athletic associations, and Boys and Girls clubs in the region to invite them to join the Committee. Ms. Charlotte Davis will reach out to the Regional Councils.

- Rural Housing Committee – A chair needs to be identified for the Committee and it was recommended to contact Darius Johnson to see if he would be interested in the position. RMC staff will plan a meeting for this Committee in the fall.
- Agriculture Committee - Ms. Davis reported that a consultant will be hired to handle the requests pertaining to the livestock assistance program.
- Health Committee – Ms. Davis reported that the Committee met over the summer, and they have three health transportation roundtables planned for the fall. Ms. Davis will work with the Committee Chair to update the member list.

President Dan Rider for the Rural Maryland Foundation reported on the Foundation and the Committee reviewed and discussed following for the RMF Organizational Action Plan goals:

- Goal 1 –The Committee discussed the uniqueness of the Think Tank and its forward-thinking approach, as well as it’s significance and the importance of investing in it and marketing it strategically. The Committee discussed the correlation between the survey results and how they should influence the direction of the Think Tank so that a pipeline of input from constituents is evident. Ms. Susan Harrison suggested including an objective to expand civil discourse in rural communities and have rural representation in broader statewide public issue discussions. The Committee decided to include a civil discourse phrasing under Goal 1 that will read “the potential for innovating problem-solving and improving civil discourse” in the last paragraph on page 6.
- Goal 2- The Committee discussed that Goal 2 was not very clear and Chair Mike Thielke stated that he will clarify the statement so the purpose of the fund is to create a sustainable program to support the Think Tank.
- Goal 3 – The Committee reviewed the updated MOU between RMF and RMC. **RMF President Dan Rider made the motion to present the amended MOU to the RMF Executive Committee and Foundation for signing, Mr. John Hartline seconded sit. The motion to present the amended MOU to the RMF and RMC Executive Committee was unanimously accepted.** The Committee reviewed the amendments to the RMC Continuation of Operations Plan (COOP). **Mr. John Hartline made the motion to accept the COOP with amendments, Ms. Susan Harrison seconded it. The COOP was unanimously accepted.** Additionally, it was suggested that RMC staff create an inventory of RMC owned equipment.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reviewed the draft request for proposals for rural research and the Committee discussed the amount for each grant, eligibility, the size of the letter of intent and that the survey results should align with the RFP topics. Ms. Davis reviewed the draft request for proposals for the grant writing services and it was decided to take it to the Foundation. **Mr. John Hartline made the motion to advance the RFP for grant services to the Foundation Board for review and approval, Ms. Susan Harrison seconded it. The motion to advance the RFP for grant writing services to the RMF for review and approval was unanimously approved.**

The Committee discussed new Committee membership and stated that they will target this the first of the year. Committee members discussed the need for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan for the RMC.

Chair Mike Thielke adjourned the meeting at 12:12pm. **Ms. Susan Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. John Hartline seconded it. The motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously accepted.**