



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, June 24, 2022

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

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

Chair Mike Thielke welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Chair Thielke asked RMC staff to conduct a roll call and a quorum was not initially met until Don Mulrine joined the meeting shortly after it started. Chair Thielke stated that he will reach out to Reza Jafari and Lisa Purnell to learn if they would like to continue to serve on the Joint Planning and Development (JPD) Committee.

Chair Thielke reviewed the March 10, 2022 minutes with the Committee and asked that the Rural Maryland Foundation Strategic Plan be distributed to Committee members for review and discussion at the September meeting. Chair Thielke further inquired about the FY22 RMPIF and MAERDAF State required reporting and Charlotte Davis stated that they are due October 1, 2022 and staff will start working on these once grantees submit final reports in July. Charlotte Davis provided additional updates: the Executive Committee approved developing out 2023 legislation that focuses on 1) rural specific RMPIF legislation; 2) removing the sunset 3) adding workforce development. Ms. Davis stated that RMC will work with the next administration to establish the RMPIF non-lapsing fund as it exists but was never provided a line item in the budget and continue to work on the Underserved Communities Act to partner with the Community Development Network and find a source of special funds for RMPIF. Chair Thielke asked about the status of the Broadband Symposium and Ms. Davis reported that the Executive Committee approved it to take place in May 2023 and RMC staff will start the planning process. Chair Thielke asked about the status of the Youth Committee and Ms. Davis reported that it has not been formed yet and will be added to the agenda at the next meeting. Chair Thielke asked about the changes to the Bylaws. Ms. Davis reported that the Executive Committee accepted the recommendation to change the name and it will go the full Executive Board for the Bylaw change as well as changes to the Health Committee. Chair Thielke stated there was a typo in the minutes under Youth Engagement where a 'that' should be a 'the' in the middle of the paragraph. Chair Thielke asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Susan Harrison moved to approve the minutes, Scott Warned seconded. The March 10, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

The JPD Committee discussed the status of the Housing Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and the Health Committee. Ms. Davis reported that the Housing Committee description and name change to Rural Housing Committee was updated and passed around to some of the committee members for input. The JPD Committee discussed inviting Logan Hall with the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative to join the Housing Committee. Chair Thielke made the motion to advance the request to resurrect the Housing Committee and add 'Rural' to the title to the Executive Committee for acceptance. John Hartline made the motion and Susan Harrison seconded it. The motion to resurrect the Housing Committee and change the name to the Rural Housing Committee was unanimously approved.

The JPD Committee discussed the Agriculture Committee and Ms. Davis stated that she has a call scheduled with the Agriculture Committee Chair Matt Tefteau and she would like to discuss the opportunity to resurrect the State's meat inspection program. Ms. Davis further stated that MDA feels that one of the biggest challenges is getting Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and tissue sampling done and that RMC may be able to offer funding to a statewide entity to help bring back this type of inspection to reinvigorate small livestock processing. Ms. Davis sent the background draft to the Committee. The Committee discussed talking to Gregg Sewell at SMADC to learn more. Both Chair Thielke and Susan Harrison expressed interest in joining the Agriculture Committee.

The JPD Committee discussed the Health Committee. Ms. Davis reported that staff are currently working to re-doodle the meeting for July. Ms. Davis further reported on the development of the Health Transportation Roundtables that will take place this Fall across the State with a kickoff meeting at MACo. At the conclusion of the roundtables, there will be a final white paper produced on the findings.

The JPD Committee discussed the APG proposal to develop general RMC membership by focusing on select publications including a myriad of approaches to attract members. Approaches discussed included topic driven, merging with the Foundation's transfer of wealth work, a membership campaign, focusing on recipient of grants, and targeting specific groups (examples trade organizations, farm bureau). Committee members discussed the benefits of membership that included possible access to RMPHF, MAERDAF, and the legislative voice. The Committee asked Ms. Davis to request that the APG proposal be more targeted on who the Council is trying to reach and include a purpose on the promotion that can coincide with the Rural Summit in order to maximize the promotion dollars.

The Committee discussed the succession plan that includes new structure that includes the Executive Director, a Deputy Director, and three staff. The Committee reviewed and commented on the job description for the Deputy Director, and it was recommended that an advanced degree should be preferred but not required. The Committee further discussed the need for such a position and whether other options made more sense. The Committee asked Ms. Davis to get guidance from MDA if they have a suggestion and to discuss at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the Rural Maryland Foundation MOU and members felt the Foundation should charge/retain funds for the services provided to the Council. Chair Thielke stated he would re-draft the MOU, so the responsibilities are separate per organization. Suggestions and/or edits were asked to be sent to Chair Thielke and Charlotte Davis. The MOU will be placed on the agenda for September's meeting.

The Committee discussed the rural issues research memo from the RMF Strategic Plan in order to increase the Council's research capacity and function. Charlotte Davis reported that she has a call scheduled next week with UMES to create a Rural Sociology Fellow and that she is currently working on the budget. The Committee discussed a monetary range to conduct such a program and decided \$15,000 for planning and the amount needed for each step of the project. Chair Thielke suggested that a separate account be created to hold the money designated for the rural research project. No action was needed, and feedback was asked to be provided to Charlotte Davis.

The Committee discussed the Rural Issues survey and Charlotte Davis reported that she has been talking with Robin Cox with the UMD Institute for Governmental Service and Research in order to better formalize our survey process. Ms. Davis stated that Ms. Cox recommended that the Council use their

current survey and to develop a proposal to implement next year which would include 1) the survey design and 2) distribution plan. The Committee suggested that an in-depth survey could be beneficial every 5 to 10 years. The Committee was fine with using the current survey and an in depth one next year. Ms. Davis stated that the results will be provided at the next meeting along with the proposal for 2023. Results will be provided at the September meeting and presented to Executive Committee meeting in September.

The Committee discussed the increase in FY23 funding and how it can best be utilized. Ideas shared included the rural issues survey with the UMD Institute for Governmental Service and Research; Rural Research Fellow; Livestock Processing and (HACCP) plans. The Committee decided to continue the conversation at the next meeting.

Chair Thielke thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:32am.