



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: September 9, 2022 – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: John Hartline, Chris Benzing, Susan O’Neill, Mike Thielke, Matt Tefteau, Dan Rider, Scott Warner, Greg Padghm, Dr. Heidi Anderson, Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Amanda Clevenger.

Executive Committee Chair John Hartline welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. Chair John Hartline asked committee members to review the minutes from the March 25, 2022 meeting. A committee member stated there was a typo with an extra ‘2’ in 2022 on the second paragraph of the first page. The correction was noted. Chair John Hartline asked the Committee for a motion to approve the 3/25/2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Susan O’Neill made the motion to accept the minutes, Dr. Heidi Anderson seconded the motion. The 3/25/2022 Executive Committee meeting minutes were unanimously accepted with the correction of the typo.

Chair John Hartline asked for a motion for the acceptance of the April 8, 2022 Executive Board meeting minutes. Dr. Heidi Anderson stated a correction had to be made as she attended the virtual 4/8/2022 meeting and her name should be reflected as a participant. Dr. Heidi Anderson moved the motion to accept the minutes with the correction, Ms. Susan O’Neill seconded the motion. The 4/8/2022 Executive Board meeting minutes were unanimously accepted with the correction to add Dr. Heidi Anderson to the participant list of the minutes.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that the FY2022 budget was closed out except for certain funds to be encumbered for ESRGC to update Rural Outlook and expand mapping capabilities. Ms. Davis reported that the \$9M was received from the State Operating Budget and reported on the current FY2023 budget. The Committee discussed two outstanding FY2023 grant requests that include the MPT Foundation, Inc. and Mace’s Lane. Dr. Heidi Anderson made the motion that the Committee move forward with funding MPT at \$30,000 and that we ask Mace’s Lane to submit a full application and reserve funds up to \$45,000 to cover their request if approved. Mr. Matt Tefteau seconded the motion. After Committee discussion, Dr. Anderson amended the motion pertaining to MPT to a pending motion. The pending motion is based on information gathered from MPT and the amount to be given to them based on the minimal level that will allow RMC to have recognition and influence. Mr. Matt Tefteau seconded the motion. The motion to ask Mace’s Lane to submit a full application for review and reserve up to \$45,000 to fund their project based on Committee approval was unanimously approved. The pending motion to gather information from MPT to decide on the proper amount to give them that will allow RMC to have recognition and influence was unanimously approved. Ms. Charlotte Davis will follow-up with MPT and then request a vote by email.

The Committee discussed the FY2024 budget and reviewed the letter to the Governor requesting level funding and a PIN. The letter to the Governor contained the Chair’s signature only and it was decided to include the Executive Director’s signature as well. Mr. Matt Tefteau made the motion to send the letter to the Governor that requests level funding and a PIN, Dr. Heidi Anderson seconded the motion. The motion to send the letter to the Governor that requests level funding and a PIN was unanimously accepted.

RMPIF Committee Chair Susan O’Neill reported on the last meeting that was held during MACo on August 18, 2022. The Committee discussed the caliber of FY2023 applications; the analysis of organizations and their impact; concerns with sustainability; and messaging the grant program to focus on seeding new programs, not sustaining them.

Legislative Committee Co-Chair Mr. Chris Benzing reported that the Legislative Committee approved the 2022 Legislative Review. The Committee discussed the Rural Communities Improvement Act and decided to meet again on October 7, 2022 at 12:00pm to further discuss the proposed legislation in order to prepare it for prefile by November 20, 2022. Executive Committee members were asked to think about a plan for co-sponsors and a dedicated fund. The Committee reviewed the candidate handout. Dr. Heidi Anderson made a motion to accept the candidate handout, Legislative Committee Co-Chair Chris Benzing seconded the motion. The motion to accept the candidate flyer was unanimously approved.

President of the Rural Maryland Foundation Dan Rider provided an update on the Foundation that included the development of a rural research think tank in order to expand the Foundation's capacity for research. The Committee reviewed the updated MOU between the RMC and RMF with the main changes to codify the Foundation to charge a 10% fee for hosting RMC revenues and permitting the Foundation to seek outside revenue or grant activities. Chair John Hartline asked for a motion to recommend that the MOU be passed to the Executive Board for a vote. Mr. Scott Warner moved the motion that the MOU be passed to the Executive Board for a vote, Mr. Mike Thielke seconded the motion. The motion to recommend that the MOU be passed to the Executive Board for a vote was unanimously approved. The Committee discussed the rural research think tank and an RFP that would seek proposals from Universities in the State of Maryland targeting rural research. The Committee was asked to review and be prepared to approve the RFP at the meeting in November. Ms. Charlotte Davis shared that the Foundation held a Transfer of Wealth meeting on June 28, 2022 and Maggie Osborn, CEO of the Maryland Philanthropy network, was the guest speaker.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported on the Health Committee and discussed the upcoming non-emergency transportation hybrid roundtables that will be held this coming fall and reviewed the dates and locations.

Agriculture Committee Chair Matt Tefteau reported that the Committee is working on two issues that include the 1) livestock processing proposal and 2) agriculture use assessment and interpretation challenges between the local jurisdiction and the State Department of Taxation.

Joint Planning and Development Committee Chair Mike Thielke reported that the Committee has been meeting quarterly and they recently reviewed the raw data from the 2022 rural issues survey. Improvements to the survey were discussed and included asking RMC Committees to submit questions related to their focus to help guide priorities. Committee members also talked about aligning the topics of the Think Tank with the comments from the survey to demonstrate responsiveness to the RMC constituency. Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that staff will summarize and categorize the 2022 survey results and turn it into a one pager. Committee Chair Mike Thielke reported on the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and it was suggested to add John Hartline and Mike Thielke to the COOP related to fiscal responsibilities if Ms. Charlotte Davis is not available. Chair Thielke reported on the membership campaign that will cost \$15,000. Chair Thielke made the motion to approve the expense of \$15,000 on the membership campaign, Mr. Chris Benzing seconded it. The motion to approve the expense of \$15,000 for the membership campaign was unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee Chair Chris Benzing reported that the Committee met at MACo and reviewed the upcoming Board slate that moves Mr. John Hartline to the immediate past president slot, Mr. Scott Warner to RMPIF Chair, and Ms. Susan O'Neill will be the nominee for the new Chair of RMC.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided her Executive Director's report and stated that Mr. Cody Matthews left the organization and that RMC is hiring a Program Coordinator to replace Mr. Matthews. Ms. Davis further stated that RMC hosted an intern over the summer, Ezkiel Nosiri, who helped with a grantee scanning project and text for the annual report. Ms. Davis provided an update on the upcoming Tawes Crab & Clam Bake stating the RMC was oversubscribed for tickets. The Committee reviewed the Bylaws that were approved and will be voted on at the next Board meeting. Committee members discussed the placement of the Health Committee as a standing committee instead of an ad hoc committee. Members felt that standing committees should be those that impact organization structure and not issues. Mr. Mike Thielke made the motion to move the Health Committee from the standing committee category to the ad hoc category, Ms. Susan O'Neill seconded it. The motion to move the Health Committee from the standing committee category to the ad hoc committee category.

The Committee reviewed the September 23, 2022, Executive Board agenda, discussed guest speakers, and the location. The Committee reviewed the 2022 Maryland Rural Impact Awards template.

Chair John Hartline asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Susan O'Neill made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Mike Thielke seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.