



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022
Time: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: John Hartline, Chris Benzing, Matthew Tefteau, Scott Warner, Dan Rider, Greg Padgham, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy.

Chair John Hartline welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:14pm. **Chair Hartline asked for a motion to continue the conversation on the RMPIF legislative discussion. Mr. Chris Benzing made the motion to un-pause the conversation, Mr. Matt Tefteau seconded it. The motion to un-pause the conversation to discuss the RMPIF legislative discussion was unanimously accepted.** Ms. Charlotte Davis reviewed the changes to the legislation that was discussed at the October 7, 2022 meeting.

The Committee discussed the changes to the RMPIF legislation. The Committee voted on the changes with one additional change to 5(g)(h) to state with concurrence of the Rural Maryland Council 'Executive Committee' instead of 'Executive Board'. **Chair Hartline asked for the motion to approve the legislation. Mr. Chris Benzing made the motion to accept the legislation with the changes discussed, Mr. Matt Tefteau seconded it. Mr. Dan Rider asked for an amendment to the motion to change text on page 4 (ii)(2)(aa) to include text that includes resource based industries for agribusiness development and remove 'for farmers or prospective farmers' so that the industry is covered in a broader way. The legislation with the said changes was unanimously accepted.**

The Committee reviewed the October 7, 2022 ad hoc meeting minutes. **Chair Hartline asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Chris Benzing made the motion to approve the 10/7/2022 minutes, Mr. Dan Rider seconded the motion. Mr. Matt Tefteau asked that his name be added to the minutes as he was present but not included as a participant. The motion to approve the 10/7/2022 minutes with the addition of Mr. Matt Tefteau as a participant was unanimously approved.**

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided a budget update and reported that all but one of the Regional Councils grant agreements have been executed, the RMPIF grant agreements have been sent out, and staff continue to process the MAERDAF grant agreements. Ms. Davis gave an update on the marketing campaign. **Mr. Scott Warner made the motion to approve the financial report, Chris Benzing seconded it. The financial report as presented at the 11/9/2022 was unanimously approved.**

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported on the RMPIF committee stating that the final grant agreements will be out by November 18, 2022 and the grant funds will be out by the end of the year. Ms. Davis further stated that the letter to the Governor requesting level funding for FY2024 was submitted and that RMC will follow up with the incoming administration on that number.

The Legislative Committee Co-Chair Chris Benzing stated that the proposed legislation was already discussed and stated that that the Committee will meet on Monday, November 21 at noon.

Rural Maryland Foundation President Dan Rider reported that the Foundation as two new Board members – Mel Liter and Jennifer Walsh. The Committee discussed the funding for the Think Tank as it will be presented to the Executive Committee for a request for funding in January. President Rider provided background information on the Think Tank that would provide grant support for practical research on topic areas that are of interest to Rural Maryland. The Committee discussed the transfer of funds from the RMC to the RMF and two options discussed were a 1) 50/50 plan that would include 50% of funds provided at first and then

%50 once the project was completed and 2) seed money from the Council is used as a match for a grant that the RMC applies for, such as an EDA Grant. The Committee discussed plans for getting the MOU signed between RMF and RMC. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that the next Transfer of Wealth meeting will be on December 9, 2022 from 11:00am to 1:00pm and that it will focus on strategies and actions that were not discussed at the last meeting. Ms. Davis stated that we will ask for a donation for Giving Tuesday.

Chair John Hartline provided an update on the Health Committee that included an overview on the health transportation roundtables. Chair Hartline stated that TAM was interested in adding this to their legislative agenda. Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that they have had great success with engagement from the the managed care organizations, Johns Hopkins, local transit systems, and local health care providers.

Agriculture Committee Chair Matt Tefteau reported that the Grow and Fortify conference and Farm Bureau conference are coming up in December. Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that the task force on state inspecting meat processing is most likely not moving forward.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported on the Joint Planning and Development Committee and shared the Rural Issues Survey that will be presented to the Executive Board in December. Ms. Davis asked for any changes, corrections, typos to be sent to RMC staff. Ms. Davis reported on the membership campaign and stated that the Council has received a handful of good quality memberships and there are targeted emails and a Facebook campaign starting soon.

Nominating and Membership Committee Chair Chris Benzing reported that the final meeting was held on Monday and provided an update on the board slate and asked for approval to present it at the December 1, 2022 meeting. **Mr. Dan Rider made the motion to accept the nomination report as presented, Mr. Scott Warner seconded it. The Committee unanimously approved the 2022-2023 Board Slate.**

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided the Executive Director's report that included the staff activity reports, the draft 2023 calendar, the draft annual report, and a summary on the recently attended Partners for Rural America conference that ran in conjunction with the National Rural Economic Developers Association in Albuquerque, NM. Ms. Davis reported that RMC received 10 tickets for sponsoring the upcoming Grow and Fortify Value-Added Agriculture summit conference and asked Executive Committee members if they would like to attend. Ms. Davis asked that any edits to the provided documents be sent to her directly.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reviewed the Executive Board agenda for the annual meeting and the Rural Impact Awards nominees. Ms. Davis reported that there were a total of 12 nominations. The Committee discussed the nominations and decided that members will vote via an online survey and then discuss it over a short meeting to make the final decisions. The Committee discussed recognition of the Governor, and it was decided to give him an award. Chair Hartline stated that he plans on giving photographs to the awardees. The Committee plans to reconvene after completing their voting through the survey.

Chair John Hartline asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Chris Benzing made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Dan Rider seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.