



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chris Benzing, Lindsay Thompson, Bill Valentine, Amy Keller, Edward Holland, Don Mulrine, John Hartline, Matthew Teffeau, Bill Christopher, Jacinta Bottoms Spencer, Scott Warner, Janice Palmer, Gregory Padgham, Alice Settle-Raskin, Susanne Richards, Dian Hsu, Nancy Nunn, Jamar Day, Tyler Majchrzak, Rachele Franceschi, Charlotte Davis, Molli Cole, Amanda Clevenger

Legislative Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 10:03 am. Ms. Thompson asked the Committee to review the April 17, 2023, meeting minutes. Don Mulrine made the motion to approve the April 17, 2023, meeting minutes, Jacinta Bottoms - Spencer seconded the motion. The April 17, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Charlotte Davis asked the committee to review the 2024 Legislative Priorities. She asked the committee to review the highlighted sections of the document and to provide any feedback. She stated that the document is the same format as previous years. Ms. Davis mentioned updating the MARBIDCO funding piece from the infographic and that the energy section of the document should have its own subheading. The committee discussed, including a piece on the cost of urgent care staffing, it was decided that RMC Staff would reach out to the Health Committee on description suggestions. Ms. Davis stated that feedback for the 2024 legislative priorities should be sent to her by October 18, 2023, and that a doodle poll will be sent out to schedule the next committee meeting for the week of December 11th. The next meeting will focus on reviewing profiles and finalizing the 2024 Legislative Priorities document.

Ms. Davis provided the Health and Human Services Bill Update. She stated that the RMC is going to send a letter to the secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation to inquire about reconvening the Health and Human Services Coordinated Committee. She also mentioned that the Rural Health Transportation pilot program piece did not pass in the Health and Human Services bill. The committee discussed talking to sponsors from last year and the Eastern Shore Delegation to discuss their input on launching the program.

Legislative Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson asked the Committee if there was any other business to be discussed. Mr. Edward Holland mentioned that a military coalition legislative listening session will be held on October 5, 2023, at the Annapolis Library. Ms. Thompson mentioned that the Maryland Garin Producers have been collaborating with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on solutions for deer damage in agriculture.

Legislative Committee Co-chair Lindsay Thompson discussed upcoming events for the 2024 Legislative Session. The events include the RMC Welcome Breakfast for Legislators on January 12, 2023; the RMC Legislative Luncheon on January 26, 2023; Rural Maryland Day on February 8, 2024; and, Maryland Day on March 25, 2024. Ms. Davis mentioned hosting the 2024 Rural Maryland day as a hybrid event.

Mr. Don Mulrine made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Janice Palmer seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.