



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date Thursday, March 9, 2023

Time 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chair Mike Thielke, Susan O’Neill, Susan Harrison, John Hartline, Scott Warner, Don Mulrine, Amanda Clevenger, Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy. Carol D’Agostino, Tyler Edwards, Kyle Wyerick, and Kate Van Huss were in attendance for the APG presentation portion of the meeting only.

Chair Mike Thielke welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:03am. Chair Thielke reviewed the November 15, 2022, meeting minutes with items that were to be completed and were the following:

- Chair Thielke stated that he will submit an introductory paragraph for the upcoming survey that can be included in the next RMC newsletter.
- Chair Thielke stated that staff were going to reach out to the YMCA to engage them on the Council’s Youth Committee. Charlotte Davis stated that staff have not reached out to the YMCA but will reach out to them before the next meeting.
- Chair Thielke asked for the status of the Agriculture Committee and Charlotte Davis stated that they plan to reconvene after session and that the Maryland Department of Agriculture has dropped the State Meat Processing Inspection Program.
- Chair Thielke clarified Goal 2 of the Foundation’s Strategic Plan. He stated that Goal 2 is about developing an innovation fund that will support research projects, or other projects to enhance life in rural Maryland. Based on the survey results, the Foundation will select one to two priorities and shape a case statement and summary project narrative to be used in assessing and targeting funding opportunities. Chair Thielke recommended removing ‘loan’ from the second bullet point, so it reads ‘create a plan for a capitalizing ~~loan~~ fund’. It was also suggested to establish a list of private and family foundations that may be able to help support this work.
- Chair Thielke asked for an update on the MOU between the Foundation and the Council. Ms. Davis stated that the MOU has been signed by both the RMF President Dan Rider and RMC Board Chair Susan O’Neill.
- Chair Thielke asked for an update on the EV Symposium that was held February 13, 2023 at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. Charlotte Davis stated it was a successful event with 55 attendees. Paul Pinsky, Director for the Maryland Energy Administration gave the opening remarks and Diane Turchetta, Senior Advisor, Joint Office of Energy & Transportation, for the U.S. Department of Transportation was the keynote speaker. Ms. Davis stated that staff are currently working on a Broadband Symposium that is targeted to take place on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at the Crown Plaza in Annapolis.

Susan O’Neill made the motion to accept the November 15, 2022, minutes, Mr. John Hartline seconded the motion to accept the minutes. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Tyler Edwards, Kyle Wyerick, and Kate Van Huss with APG Chesapeake provided a presentation on the RMC Membership campaign. Mr. Edwards stated that it was a three-month campaign to drive membership and reviewed the campaign elements with Committee members. There was a total of 35 new members as a result of the campaign and the total cost of the project was \$15,090. Committee Members thought the acquisition cost per member was high, but they learned a lot and decided overall it was a good investment.

Charlotte Davis provided an update on the Rural Issues Survey. Ms. Davis stated that the scope of

work was executed and there is a kickoff meeting next week with the Institute of Government Service and Research. Ms. Davis further stated that Committees have been asked to provide questions and that the goal is to collect 1200 responses between June and August 2023. Susan Harrison asked to provide input on the questions related to the Agriculture Committee and staff stated they would connect her with the Chair of the Agriculture Committee. The Committee decided to meet on Monday, April 17, 2023, so that they can review and provide input on the draft survey questions.

The Committee discussed the need for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement for RMC and the Foundation. Susan Harrison and Charlotte Davis agreed to meet to develop a draft statement to share at the next meeting.

Chair Mike Thielke thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting ended at 11:24am.