



RMC Rural Housing Working Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, October 6, 2023

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Amanda Clevenger, Mary Cook, Dominic Butchko, Susie Hayward, Amy Moredock, Bill Valentine, Molly Hilligoss, Jerry McLaurin, Chris Kaselemis, Linda Kohler, Jamie Williams, Tammy Duff, Sara Seitz, Donna Hurley, Jacinta Bottoms-Spencer, Nan Mann, Yvonne Golczewski, Wendolyn McKenzie

Mr. Dominic Butchko, RMC Rural Housing Working Committee Chair welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 9:03 am. Mr. Butchko asked the committee to review the minutes from the August 30, 2023, meeting and asked if there were any corrections. Hearing no response from the committee the minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Butchko introduced guest speakers Amy Moredock, Planning Director, Queen Anne’s County and Mary Beth Cook, Planning Director, Calvert County.

Mr. Dominic Butchko shared an update on the MACo Housing Package. He stated that MACo is moving forward with the housing package and that the final four initiatives have not been finalized yet. MACo is working with all 24 jurisdictions as well as a few outside stakeholders and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to finalize the package. The four major categories for the package are Blight, Data, Financing/Development, and Permitting. MACo is also looking at fixing permitting delays for land use and third-party reviews. The report will be available for public review in mid-November.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided an update on the Rural Housing Survey for Local Government. She stated that the importance of affordable housing was added in the survey description. The committee discussed converting the survey into a professional survey format and distributing it to the committee for input. RMC staff will reach out to Salisbury University for suggestions on using survey software. Mr. Dominic Butchko, RMC Rural Housing Committee Chair suggested sending the final survey out to local housing administrators and local planning departments. The committee discussed the following changes to the survey:

- Include housing costs in the section under “From the Maryland Housing Needs Assessment & 10-Year Strategic Plan released in 2020”
- Combining questions 11 and 13 to read: Do you need resources or technical assistance in rural housing?
- Change question 14: Do you have a housing needs assessment regarding infrastructure capacity?
- Change question 12: Does your county already have fair housing legislation or are there plans to enact any similar legislation?
- Eliminate Question 1 or 8
- Add a question: Is your jurisdiction considering using surplus property?
- Eliminate questions 17, 18 and 3
- Change Question 4 to read: How many people are on your waiting list for home preservation programs?
- Change question 5 to read: What private investment has occurred to encourage affordable housing in your community?

- Change question 10 to read: How often do you review and update your housing strategy that is presented to the public?

The following statement and links were shared among the committee regarding private investments:

Homeownership and affordable housing: Recognizing the importance of home ownership to individuals and communities, M&T plans to provide \$8.8 billion in home purchase lending for LMI households and communities, minority households and majority-minority communities and will expand its mortgage product offerings. M&T also plans to invest \$7 billion in the development of multi-family, affordable and workforce housing across its expanded footprint.

<https://ncrc.org/ncrc-and-mt-bank-announce-43-billion-community-growth-plan-to-support-underserved-and-communities-of-color-small-businesses>

<https://ncrc.org/bbt-suntrust-and-ncrc-announce-60-billion-community-investment-commitment-for-new-truist-bank/>

Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that RMC staff would update the survey in Typeform and send it to the committee for review before sending it out.

Ms. Charlotte Davis asked the committee to review the 2023 Rural Summit Proposed panel discussions included in the meeting materials. The committee discussed the following changes to the panels:

- Preserving Legacy Homeowner Housing Panel- Add Molli Hilligoss from the Habitat for Humanity of Wicomico County to speak on the panel.
- State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Funding Provides Pathways for Small Businesses to Succeed Panel- Invite a USDA representative to speak on the panel.

Ms. Davis shared information on Community Development Week. She stated that it would be held on October 16-20, 2023, and that RMC would be a sponsor. Special events include the Community Development Network's annual meeting, a visit to Hagerstown on October 20th to the Manufactured Housing company and visit to Head Start in Greensboro on October 19th.

The Committee discussed the next meeting date, it was decided that the next committee meeting will be held on Friday, November 17, 2023, 9 am – 10:30 am via zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.