



RMC Rural Housing Working Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Time: 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Duane Yoder, Dona Sorce, Holly DeKarske, Cindy Stone, Ron Hantz, Kat Stork, Dominic Butchko, Linda Kohler, Jerry McLaurin, Mike Arntz, Luke Patton, Alice Settle-Raskin, Tammy Duff, Jacinta Bottoms-Spencer, John Hartline, Donna Hurley, Charlotte Davis, Molli Cole, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy.

Charlotte Davis welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 11:01am. Ms. Davis stated that the Committee needs a Chair and participants should contact her directly if they are interested in volunteering or have any recommendations. Ms. Davis stated that RMC staff are able to provide support.

The participants reviewed the minutes from the February 23, 2023 meeting. Ms. Davis asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Linda Kohler stated that a correction was needed as a participant's name was listed twice. Ms. Kohler made the motion to accept the minutes with the correction, Dominic Butchko seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes with the correction was unanimously approved.

Ms. Charlotte Davis shared the purpose of the Rural Housing Committee which is to convene stakeholders and interested individuals and organizations to identify solutions, develop legislative policy, and programming that would incentivize the expansion of housing availability.

Ms. Davis informed the Committee that RMC was approached by Claudia Randall Wilson from the Community Development Network about partnering on convening a series of roundtables related to housing. The Committee discussed the purpose for these roundtables. Duane Yoder stated that the Greater Cumberland Committee is sponsoring a housing forum on May 24 and they are looking at middle housing and focusing on the scope of the problem and then solutions that are being promoted in the region. The Committee discussed piggy backing on such events.

Roundtables goals discussed included the following:

- Identify solutions that can be taken to the Legislature. Ms. Davis stated that she recently attended a roundtable hosted by Senator Cardin on housing and felt that a proposed federal initiative that could be replicated statewide is an employer tax credit for employers that provide housing for their workers.
- Better define terminology and message for housing (affordable, workforce, middle);
- Create incentives to encourage more unit creation and preservation in rural and doing it through a roundtable setting;
- Develop tools to disseminate information and engage counties about the need; and,
- Host a roundtable specifically for Planning Directors and Policy Makers from rural jurisdictions.

Links shared with Committee Members:

[Development Finance Initiative \(unc.edu\)](#)

[Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability \(PALS\) | School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation \(umd.edu\)](#)

[Research and Information - Housing Assistance Council \(ruralhome.org\)](#)

[Report.pdf \(maryland.gov\)](#)

The meeting ended at 11:58am.