



Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Friday, November 3, 2023, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Susan O'Neill, Gregory Padgham, Chris Benzing, Daniel Rider, Sara Seitz, Scott Warner, John Hartline, Matthew Tefteau, Lindsay Thompson, Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Amanda Clevenger,

RMC Executive Committee Chair Susan O'Neill welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 12:04 pm. Chair O'Neill asked the committee to review the Monday, August 28, 2023, meeting minutes for any corrections. Chair O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the August 28, 2023, meeting minutes. Lindsay Thompson moved to approve the minutes; Matthew Tefteau seconded the motion. The August 28, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Charlotte Davis provided the updated financial report for FY2024. She stated that \$1.8 million in funding has been extended for the regional councils. MAERDAF and RMPIF applicants have their grant agreements, and the funds should be disbursed within the next couple of weeks. Overall, \$206,302 has been spent mostly on staff salaries, prepay for summit and the late APG Media Expenses. John Hartline made a motion to approve the current FY2024 budget, Scott Warner seconded the motion. The motion to accept the current FY2024 budget was unanimously approved. The Committee discussed the FY2025 budget. Ms. Davis stated that the FY2025 budget letter request to the governor including 9.4 million dollars was submitted and that RMC staff are waiting to hear back about the request. She also mentioned that a request has been sent to meet with the Secretary of Budget and Management to discuss the FY2025 budget.

Scott Warner, RMPIF Committee Chair stated that there was not much to report, and that RMC staff did an excellent job on getting out FY2024 grant agreements. Charlotte Davis stated that the budget that the Maryland Department of Agriculture submitted is level funded for FY2025 and to thank the Governor for his support.

Lindsay Thompson, RMC Legislative Committee Co-Chair reported that the RMC 2024 Legislative Priorities have been updated with the comments that were highlighted in yellow. The committee discussed sending out a Doodle Poll to the legislative committee to set a date in December for the committee to meet and finalize the document. The final document will be shared at the next Executive Committee meeting. Charlotte Davis mentioned that the following dates are set for the RMC Legislative Session events:

- Welcome Breakfast - January 12, 2023
- RMC Legislative Lunch- January 26, 2023
- Rural Maryland Day- February 8, 2023
- Maryland Day - March 25, 2023 – Evening Timeframe Suggested

Charlotte Davis asked the committee to review the draft letter request to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation for comments or edits. Hearing no comments or edits, John Hartline made a motion to approve the letter request. Sara Seitz seconded the motion. The motion to approve the letter request was unanimously approved.

Rural Maryland Foundation President, Daniel Rider reported that the treasurer of the foundation Mike Thielke has resigned. He mentioned that Mike did an excellent job serving as treasurer and that a vacancy is now open for the Treasurer. He asked for recommendations on someone to fill the spot. He also mentioned that the foundation will meet at the Rural Summit to discuss more on Transfer of Wealth and that the RMC Executive Committee is encouraged to attend.

Sara Seitz, RMC Health Committee Chair reported that the committee is doing well. She stated that the committee finalized its goals and mission at the last committee meeting that was held in September. Charlotte Davis mentioned that the Letter to the Editor for National Rural Health Day is included in the meeting materials to review and that pharmacy challenges were included. Sara Seitz mentioned that the committee will meet at the end of November to discuss the health components that were included in the RMC 2024 Legislative Priorities.

Charlotte Davis reported that the RMC Rural Housing Working Committee met in the beginning of October and had a special presentation of local planners to discuss the challenges of local rural housing to the committee. She stated the committee is working on a rural housing survey for local governments. MACo is focusing on housing permitting redevelopment projects and more will be discussed on the topic in the future.

RMC Agriculture Committee Chair, Matthew Teffeau reported that the committee met in October and Mike Thielke gave a good presentation at the meeting F3 Tech and the Ag Innovation Center. He asked for the committee to review the letter to the governor to reissue GICA as well as seating members on the Maryland Agriculture Commission. Hearing no comments or edits, Lindsay Thompson made a motion to approve the letter request. Chris Benzing seconded the motion. The motion to approve the letter request was unanimously approved.

Charlotte Davis reported that the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee is in the process of developing a strategic plan for 2025. The committee reviewed the proposal from LaCharla Figgs to begin the planning process for the FY2025 strategic plan and discussed meeting one day or two half intense days with LaCharla Figgs. Gregory Padgham made a motion to approve the Strategic Planning proposal from LaCharla Figgs, Sara Seitz seconded the motion. The motion to approve the proposal was unanimously approved.

Chris Benzing, RMC Nominating Committee Chair reported that the committee recently met to discuss the RMC board slate. The slate was updated to include Dr. Anderson as 2nd Vice Chair, adding Machel Dwyer, Dan Schneckenberger, D'Shawn Doughty, Chris Abell and Grayson Middleton to fill vacant spots on the board list. Letters are to be sent to fill DNR and Maryland General Assembly vacant spots. Mike Thielke was removed from the list. Lindsay Thompson made the motion to approve the RMC Board Slate, Scott Warner seconded the motion. The motion to approve the RMC Board Slate was unanimously approved. Charlotte Davis mentioned that John Hartline has accepted to be chair of the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee.

Charlotte Davis provided the Executive Director's Report. She stated that RMC staff have mostly been working on Rural Summit planning and that staff are working on confirming speakers and moderators. She mentioned that the Tawes's Crab and Clam Bake event went well and that it will be held on September 25, 2024.

Ms. Davis reported on new business. She mentioned the 2023 Rural Impact Award winners to the committee and that citations will be given to the awardees from the Governor. Charlotte asked the committee to review the 2024 RMC Calendar and to send any changes to RMC staff.

Chair Susan O'Neill asked the committee for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chris Benzing made the motion to adjourn, John Hartline seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.