



RMC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 1, 2024
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chair Susan O'Neill, John Hartline, Scott Warner, Dan Rider, Matthew Teffeau
RMC Staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

Chair Susan O'Neill welcomed the committee and began the meeting at 12:11 pm.

The committee reviewed minutes from the RMC Executive Committee Meeting, September 13, 2024. John Hartline motioned to approve the minutes; Dan Rider seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved. The committee also reviewed minutes from the RMC Executive Board Meeting, September 27, 2024. Matthew Teffeau motioned to approve the minutes; Scott Warner approved the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. O'Neill briefed on the Nominating Committee, and suggested Jamie Williams as Committee Chair. The committee discussed the best plan of action to ensure that vacancies are filled regarding the 2025 Board & Officers. Participants will meet separately in a tentative follow up meeting.

The committee will meet on Monday, November 4, 2024, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, to discuss the selection of 2024 Rural Impact Awards Nominees. The categories are: Rural Community Volunteer, Rural Community Development, Rural Economic Development, Rural Champion, and Legacy Award.

Charlotte Davis reviewed the FY2025 Budget with the committee. Under the operating cost, RMC has expended \$169,456. Currently, there have been two disbursements to regional councils, and the remaining are in the works. Funding and availability of funds appear to be in good standing, as the Council continues to work towards getting grant funds to grantees – this is expected to be completed by the end of the 2024 calendar year. Upon review, John Hartline motioned to accept the financial report provided by Ms. Davis; Scott Warner seconded the motion. The financial report was unanimously approved.

Chair Scott Warner discussed the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) with the committee. On October 11, 2024, the committee and its officers met with the Secretaries of Maryland Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). During the meeting, participants were able to discuss the purpose of the Council with the Secretaries, along with the importance of the RMPIF and its funding. Charlotte

Davis reported that FY2024 MAERDAF and RMPIF reports were submitted to Legislative Services.

Charlotte Davis provided upcoming meeting dates for related committees. The Legislative Committee will meet on November 15, 2024. There are two new Co-Chairs: Kurt Fuchs and Patty Shreeves. The Health Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Members previously met in July 2024. The Rural Housing Working Committee will meet Thursday, November 21, 2024. The Agriculture Committee plans to meet soon – date TBD. The Joint Planning and Development Committee is set to meet on Thursday, November 14, 2024 – however, the meeting needs to be rescheduled due to time constraints among committee members.

The committee reviewed the 2024 Rural Issues Survey Draft. Affordable housing was mentioned more than any other topic, remaining a major concern for rural jurisdictions. Ms. Davis informed the committee that the strategic plan workgroups will be meeting next week and encouraged participants to sign up. This is helpful for the Council to identify goals and have the framework completed by the close of 2024.

Dan Rider provided an update for the Rural Maryland Foundation. Ms. Davis has been working on a grant proposal that will be finalized in the coming weeks. Ms. Davis also attended a Transfer of Wealth webinar through the Maryland Philanthropy Network. The Foundation is scheduled to meet Thursday, December 19, 2024 – but is expected to change this meeting date due to time constraints.

Ms. Davis requested the committee review staff activity reports that were provided: Executive Director, Program Administrator, Program Coordinator, and Administrator Assistant. Moreover, the Council will be submitting its Rural Broadband Assistance Fund Report. The necessary documentation was also provided to the auditor, and an update will be announced when received.

Charlotte Davis discussed new business concepts with the committee. RMC and MARBIDCO are in process of planning a Secretaries Tour in late December. Attendees will travel by bus to sites that are in partnership with RMC and MARBIDCO - to educate policymakers on the importance of rural innovation and agribusiness. Ms. Davis also asked committee members to review materials in preparation for the Executive Board Annual Meeting on December 4, 2024. Materials include: Annual Calendar, Annual Meeting Agenda, and the FY2024 Annual Report – Draft.

John Hartline motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dan Rider seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, January 10, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Location: Maryland Inn (Tentative)