



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, March 21, 2025 – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Zoom Teleconference  
Minutes

Participants: Chair Susan O'Neill, Gregory Padgham, Scot Warner, John Hartline, Matt Tefteau, Jamie Williams, Dan Rider  
RMC Staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

Chair Susan O'Neill welcomed the committee and initiated the meeting at 12:07 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the RMC Ad Hoc Executive Committee Meeting on January 31, 2025. John Hartline motioned to approve the minutes; Gregory Padgham seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The committee also reviewed the minutes from the RMC Executive Board Meeting on February 26, 2025. Scott Warner motioned to approve the minutes; John Hartline seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Director Charlotte Davis reported on the FY2025 budget. Scott Warner motioned to approve the presented budget; John Hartline seconded the motion. The FY2025 budget was unanimously approved. Committee members discussed a recent loss of funds by MDA, discussed the best approach to get funds returned and/ or avoid this issue in the future. Members will speak to Sec. Kevin Atticks in person and decide from there on the next action item. Matt Tefteau recommended that RMC contact Shaina Hernandez on the Governor's staff.

Scott Warner, Chair of Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF), spoke to the Committee regarding the FY2026 budget, and how funds are expected to be distributed. Mr. Warner presented a FY2026 Breakdown of Funds document. As presented, the RMPIF Committee previously recommended following Model 3 of the document. John Hartline made the motion following the RMPIF Committee's recommendation; Gregory Padgham seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the FY2026 Guidelines and Criteria. Jamie Williams motioned to approve the guidelines and criteria as presented; John Hartline seconded the motion. The FY2026 Guidelines and Criteria were unanimously approved.

Ms. Davis informed members that the RMC Legislative Committee is currently looking for a new Co-Chair to assist Kurt Fuchs. Members were asked to review the presented 2025 bill tracker, along

with testimonies from the current legislative session. With the session ending, RMC will host a celebration of Maryland Day on March 25, 2025, at Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis. The event currently has over 100 registrants. The Legislative Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, March 24, 2025.

Ms. Davis reported on the Rural Maryland Foundation. Foundation members recently met on Thursday, March 6, 2025, and decided to schedule a Transfer of Wealth Meeting on Friday, April 25, 2025. During this meeting, Members will review and discuss the Rural Maryland Preservation and Advancement Trust Draft.

The RMC Health Committee met on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. Members are next scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, via Zoom teleconference.

The RMC Rural Housing Working Committee met on Thursday, February 27, 2025. Members are next scheduled to meet on Thursday, May 29, 2025, via Zoom teleconference.

The RMC Agricultural Committee intends to reconvene in the coming months. A Doodle will be sent out to members to decide on the best date(s) for schedules. Ms. Davis informed attendees that they are currently in search of a new GICA member. Interested parties are encouraged to reach out for more information

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee met on Thursday, March 13, 2025. The Committee focused on reviewing the University of Baltimore-Schaefer Center for Public Policy Proposal. Dr. Heidi Anderson motioned to move forward with Option 3 presented; Jamie Williams seconded the motion. Members unanimously agreed to move forward with Option 3. The next JPD meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2025.

Ms. Davis reviewed the Executive Director Report to members. This included Staff Activity Reports, the FY2026 Workplan, Rural Summit Planning, and the scheduled Secretaries' Tour.

Ms. Davis reviewed new business, including the Draft Agenda for the Spring Executive Board Meeting April 4, 2025. Members were encouraged to brainstorm local businesses to spotlight during the meeting.

Scott Warner motioned to adjourn the meeting; John Hartline seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:48 pm.