



Rural Maryland Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 12, 2024, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants Attended: Susan O'Neill, Scott Warner, Dan Rider, Matt Tefteau, Chris Benzing, Lindsay Thompsen, Gregory Padgham, John Hartline

RMC Staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Leslie Dowtin

Chair Susan O'Neill welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

Charlotte Davis provided an overview of the proposed budget cut to the RMC competitive grants program and what the process from here would be regarding whether it moved forward. Open Discussion from Executive Committee members regarding their thoughts on how rural and already underserved communities will be affected by this very large cut to the RMC competitive grants funds.

The Committee reviewed the letter to the Governor. Lindsay Thompson made the motion to have RMC Staff send a letter (as approved by the executive committee) intended for the administration regarding the impact of a potential budget cut to all the RMC grantees, partners, and board at the request of the executive committee for signature. The letter would include signatories from stakeholders. Chris Benzing seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the letter to the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Department of Budget and Management Secretaries. Scott Warner made the motion to send the letter to the Secretaries as presented (pending edits and Chair approval) after the July 17, 2024, Board of Public Works Meeting if proposed budget cuts to RMC are taken, if cuts are reduced letter will be edited and approved by Chair before sending. Chris Benzing seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed the upcoming Board of Public Works (BPW) meeting on July 17, 2024. Chris Benzing made the motion to have the RMC executive committee have the RMC Executive Director attend the Board of Public Works Meeting on July 17, 2024, to testify on behalf of the RMC executive committee and their recommendations. John Hartline seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the draft Budget Cut one-pager. Greg Padgham stated he would send additional information to be included by email following the meeting. RMC staff are to send the final version to the Committee by email for approval.

The Committee planned a tentative meeting for July 19, 2024, if the budget cut is approved at the BPW meeting.

Chris Benzing made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 pm. John Hartline seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, July 19, 2024, 11:00 am (tentative)