



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 24, 2025
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Zoom

Participants: Bob Zimmeroff, Bill Valentine, Susan O'Neill, Susanne Richards, Alice Settle-Raskin, Matt Tefteau, Josh Bollinger, Joe Hinson, Chudi Obi, Rachel Jones, Scott Warner, Stacy Kubofcik, Grayson Middleton, Steve McHenry, Janice Palmer, Melani Pursel, John Hartline, Charlene Sharpe, Josh Hastings, Nancy Nunn, Daniel Rider, Bill Christopher, Susan Banks
RMC staff: Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

Megan D'Arcy, Program Administrator, welcomed the committee and initiated the meeting at 2:03 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the February 10, 2025, meeting. No corrections were recommended, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Ms. D'Arcy requested that the committee discuss FY2026 budget strategies to restore RMC to full funding at \$9 Million to remain whole. This included review of the budget cut one-pager and advocacy templates provided by RMC staff.

The committee reviewed legislation, and the following bills were discussed:

- SB980/HB1327 Natural Resources - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority – Funding and Grants
Committee Recommendation: Support [John Hartline motioned to support the bill; Bill Valentine seconded the motion. The motion to support was unanimously approved.]
- HB1199 Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians
Committee Recommendation: Support [William Reid motioned to support the bill; Janice Palmer seconded the motion. The motion to support was unanimously approved.]
- HB716 - Housing and Community Development - Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program Eligibility – Alterations (Bill Revisit)
Committee Recommendation: Support [Matt Tefteau motioned to support the bill; John Hartline seconded the motion. The motion to support was unanimously approved.]

- SB931/HB1036 Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)
Committee Recommendation: Support with Amendment [Steve McHenry motioned to support the bill with amendments, Josh Hastings seconded the motion. The motion to support with amendments was unanimously approved.]
 - RMC recommends amending the bill to prohibit construction on prime agricultural soil and requiring that mitigation fees be directed to a fund dedicated to restoring lands to their pre-solar development condition.
- HB631 Eminent Domain - Agricultural and Conservation Easements - Prohibited Taking (Del. Guyton)
Committee Recommendation: Monitor [John Hartline motioned to monitor the bill; Bill Valentine seconded the motion. The motion to monitor was unanimously approved.]
- HB640 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Overhead Transmission Lines – Conservation Easements (Del. Guyton)
Committee Recommendation: Support [John Hartline motioned to support the bill; Bill Valentine seconded the motion. The motion to support was unanimously approved.]
- HB368 General Provisions - Commemorative Month - Maryland Native Plant Month (Del. Guyton)
Committee Recommendation: Support [John Hartline motioned to support the bill; Bob Zimmeroff seconded the motion. The motion to support was unanimously approved.]
- HB84 Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025) (Del. Edelson - waiting for information)
Committee Recommendation: Monitor [previously discussed in prior meeting]

The committee reviewed upcoming events, including:

- a. Legislative Luncheon, February 26, 2025 – Rams Head on Stage, Annapolis
- b. Maryland Day, March 25, 2025 – Lawyers Mall, Annapolis

The committee then reviewed upcoming meetings, including a special meeting on Monday, March 3, 2025, to discuss Energy, Transmission, and Data Center Bills (SB478, SB485, SB640, SB643, SB716, SB903, HB631, HB739, HB742, HB904, SB931/HB1036). The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2025.

Ms. D’Arcy encouraged committee members to participate in Forestry Day in Annapolis on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. The event is hosted by the Maryland Forests Association. In

addition, a 'Call for Action' was included in the meeting materials for the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) to protect vital funding.

Josh Hastings motioned to adjourn the meeting; Alice Settle-Raskin seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:58 pm.