



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2025

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Zoom

Participants: Bill Valentine, William Reid, John Hartline, Susan O'Neill, Melanie Pursel, Chudi Obi, Susan Harrison, Rachel Jones, Gregory Padgham, Kim Kratovil, Joe Hinson, Josh Bollinger, Stacy Kubofcik, Janice Palmer, Alyssa Hastings, Cassandra Vanhooser, Susanne Richards, Matt Teffeau, Susan Banks, Steve McHenry, Grayson Middleton, Scott Warner
RMC Staff: Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

Megan D'Arcy welcomed the committee and began the meeting at 2:01 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 10, 2025, meeting. Bill Valentine motioned to approve the minutes; John Hartline seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. D'Arcy provided a FY2026 budget update. The Appropriations Committee in the House has moved the budget to the floor of the House of Delegates, and is scheduled to be taken up tomorrow, March 25, 2025. Program Open Space is expected to take a \$25 million cut over the next 4 years, and there are major concerns regarding MALPF, who is currently in the budget at \$6.6 million, whereas Rural Legacies is listed at \$4.4 million. The Appropriations Committee has rejected the \$250,000 cut to SMADC. RMC remains at \$6 million within the budget, while continuing to ask for level funding of \$9 million; however, the Council was granted a contractual conversion to a full-time pinned position.

Molli Cole provided a legislative update to the committee. This included reviewing the provided bill tracker, and the statuses of supported bills, including those that have crossed over and are awaiting hearing dates.

Ms. Darcy provided logistics for Maryland Day, March 25, 2025. The event will take place from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis. Set up will begin at 10:00 am and will allow vendors the opportunity to distribute local food and merchandise to attendees.

The committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, April 21, 2025, to conduct a session review.

Bill Valentine motioned to adjourn the meeting; William Reid seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:17 pm.