



November 19, 2025, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Annapolis
210 Holiday Court
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Meeting Minutes

Participants: Chair Susan O'Neill, Gregory Padgham, Janice Palmer, Sara Seitz, Jamie Cardillo, John Hartline, Scott Warner, Bill Valentine, Amber McGinnis, Mindie Burgoyne, Beth Hobson, Weston Young, Jennifer Walsh, Adam Miller, Ann Richards, John Richards, Delegate Steven Arentz, Bill Otto, Danny Tyler, Vera Tyler, LaToya Staten, Beth Hill, Connie Dean, Brigitte Peters, Katherine Carter, Leona Charles, Chanese Matthews, Karen Holt, Alicia Boyd, Katie Weber, Brandon Wright, Greg Miller, Kimi Doran Lyons, Jen Wilson, Kaitlin Lee, Patricia Eleazer, Brenda Scribner, Darshana Dave, Ajay Jani, Sushma Jani, Suni Jani, Shyam Bhayani, Elizabeth Chung, Becca Tucker, Melanie Chapman, James Horstkamp, Jinhee Kim, Jackie Gregory, Xavier Rahim, Jamico Moon, Bill Ryan, Jair Devereaux, Dr. James Bell, Melissa Kelly, Susanne Richards, Christian Benford, Carmella Watkins, Annette Williams, Grayson Middleton, Kelly Schulz, Justin Fair, Jenn Cooper, Cynthia Black, Jake Derby, Bob Zimmeroff, Joan Wagner, Tonya Wright, Daniel Ding, Jianning Zeng, Eric Luedtke, Bill Murphy, Dee (Marian) Cutler, Patty Shreves, Tamar Osterman, Kim Righi, Cassie Shirk, Ralph Patterson, Jane Sinclair, Elizabeth Hughes, Craig Sewell, Roseanna Vogt, Susan Hill, Kurt Fuchs, Samuel Shoge, John Hickman, Alice Settle-Raskin, Jay Bethune, Shalynn Cline, Melissa Clark, Childlene Brooks, Anne Shepard, Nicole Morris, Jordan Jones-Cordero, Leslie Bishop, Katie Stevens, Prem Bhandari, Steve McHenry, Andrew Rose, Molly Hilligoss, Tiffany Ahalt, Jeffrey Simcoe, Anne Hairston-Strang, Jamie Williams, Kim Durst, Cheryl DeBerry, Keith Cornish, Olivia Vidotto, Lauren Ansted, Lisa Ritter, Princess Sampol, Shelley Reading, Hilda Ndirangu, Vagner Benedito, Ayanna Zenzele-Rushing, Amy Keller, Dan Schneckemberger, Theresa Cullen, Tim Hayes

RMC Staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

The evening began with cocktail hour held from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dinner was served from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. During this time, Chair Susan O'Neill welcomed attendees and offered an overview of the evening's agenda.

As part of the dinner program, the Business Spotlight was delivered by Adam Miller, Farm Manager of Miller Farms in Clinton, Maryland. Mr. Miller shared insights into the farm's operations, community engagement efforts, and the challenges and opportunities facing local farmers.

Following the meal, the program transitioned into the Awards Ceremony, where the organization recognized outstanding contributions through the Rural Impact Awards. Awards were presented in five categories: Rural Community Volunteer, Rural Community Development, Rural Economic Development, Rural Champion, and Rural Legacy. Each award honored individuals or organizations that have made a meaningful impact on rural communities, and the ceremony underscored the breadth of dedication found across the state.

At 6:50 p.m., the Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate for the 2026 RMC Executive Board and Officers. Steve McHenry put forward a motion to close the slate of nominations; John Hartline seconded the motion, formally advancing the committee's recommendations for the coming year.

The formal Business Meeting then commenced, beginning with a review of the September 19, 2025 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jamie Williams, with a second provided by Dan Schneckemberger. With no corrections requested, the minutes were approved.

The meeting proceeded with Board and Committee Reports. The Financial Report presented by Executive Director Charlotte Davis, included an update on the FY2026 Budget. The presenters reviewed key budget considerations and discussed anticipated needs and constraints for the upcoming fiscal year. Greg Padgham motioned to accept the financial report; Dan Schneckemberger seconded the motion.

Next, Scott Warner, Chair of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF), provided a comprehensive report. He updated members on the FY2026 MAERDAF/RMPIF funding cycle, shared progress related to current grant implementation and discussed the FY2027 Budget Request. He also reviewed the FY2027 Budget Letter and postcard, which will serve as advocacy tools during outreach to lawmakers and stakeholders.

The Legislative Committee report was delivered by Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs, who outlined priorities and expectations for the 2026 Legislative Session. He also discussed the Rural Readiness Program, an initiative intended to enhance rural capacity, preparedness, and competitiveness in state-level programming and opportunities.

Following this, Dan Rider, President of the Rural Maryland Foundation, provided an update on the Foundation's activities, including preparations for Giving Tuesday, scheduled for December 2, 2025. He highlighted the Foundation's ongoing fundraising efforts and the importance of philanthropic support for advancing rural initiatives.

The final committee report was delivered by John Hartline, Chair of the Joint Planning and Development Committee, who presented the results of the Rural Maryland Resident Needs Survey. He discussed key findings and their implications for future programming, strategic planning, and resource allocation.

Under New Business, members considered two items: the FY2025 Annual Report – Draft, and the RMC Annual Calendar for the upcoming year. Discussion centered on ensuring that both documents accurately reflected the organization's accomplishments and priorities.

With no further business to come before the group, a motion to adjourn was made by Greg Padgham and seconded by Dan Rider. The meeting formally adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., to be held at the Miller–Senate Building in Annapolis, Maryland.