

MRC Governance Committee Meeting
December 5, 2025 11am – Zoom

Members and Staff present:

Pat Kimball, MRC chair
Tess Parks, MRC vice chair
Betsy Fitzgerald, MRC secretary
Joe Everett
Paul Vinsel, governance committee chair
Grayson Havens, AG's office
Brendan O'Neil, Assistant AG
Chasity Tuell, MRC executive director
Elizabeth Fortier, MRC coordinator
Maggie McLaughlin
Jamar Williams

Presentation of Officer Nominations to MRC

Nominations include:

Chair – Pat Kimball
Vice Chair – Tess Parks
Secretary – Betsy Fitzgerald
Treasurer – Deb Poulin, Darryl Stewart

There was discussion of having co-treasurers
Brendan feels this is not precluded in MRC bylaws
There was concern of how a conflict between co-treasurers would be handled. It was noted that bylaws state the Treasurer must be the chair of the finance committee.
Joe and Pat felt the MRC would want the governance committee to recommend whether or not to have co-treasurers
By consensus the governance committee recommends the MRC select one treasurer.

MRC terms for 2 of these nominees ends in November 2026. If the term of the MRC chair ends the co-chair would assume responsibilities of the chair until next MRC elections. If the term of the secretary ends the MRC would likely need to select an interim secretary until the next elections.

Public Meetings

We discussed the Public Meeting held in November, 2025. While there was useful information discussed the meeting was not as well attended as previous public meetings. There are several reasons this could be. The public not has the ability to give comment at each MRC meeting. The maturation of the MRC may affect this.

Pat feels the MRC needs to switch this up – possibly in different locations, showcase programs supported by MRC grants, possibly feeding questions to the public that the MRC is interested in hearing about.

Joe would like to hear from the public, including grantees, of what is not working well.

Tess would like the MRC to listen to communities

Maggie feels MRC should make adjustments based on public comments

Chasity pointed out a state that has quarterly “coffee with the council” on zoom. The public can ask questions and members of the MRC can respond – creating a dialogue.

Joe and Pat agree the MRC has heard from the public that the MRC has no procedure to respond to emergency situations and to award grants in a timely fashion.

Consensus of committee feels current political situation will present challenges that the MRC will need to address. Some programs in Maine may lose government funding.

Next MRC governance committee meeting

The governance committee usually meets the 4th Friday of the month. This is a challenge around the holidays. The fourth Friday of December is 12/26. It was agreed this is not a good day for a meeting. The next meeting of the governance committee will be January 23 at 11am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41am.