



Calvert Marina at Solomon's Island, Calvert Co.

**Greetings!**

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*Pictured: Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Comptroller Peter Franchot, Secretary Mike Gill, Maryland Department of Commerce, Jamie Windon of Lyon Distillery, RMC Board Chair Josh Hastings, RMC First Vice-Chair Matthew Teffeau, and RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis*

First of all, the **deadline to [submit RMPIF/MAERDAF 1-page proposals](#) is due tomorrow, Friday, June 9, 2017 and we look forward to receiving your applications.**

On April 7, 2017, the RMC held a successful Spring Quarterly meeting at the Miller Senate Building in Annapolis, Maryland. Our featured guest speakers were Comptroller Peter Franchot, Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford, and Mr. Bernie Sadusky, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Colleges. There was much discussion regarding how important rural businesses and agriculture are to the State's economic strength. We would like to thank Secretary Bartenfelder and Secretary Gill for speaking at the meeting as well.

The meeting also focused on the highlights and successes of the Legislative session, and a look toward to the future for rural Maryland communities. We would like to extend a special thank you to [Lyon Distillery](#) and [Maryland Forests Association](#) for sponsoring the meeting. Lyon Distillery, a rural business in Talbot County, provided drink samples for all attendees. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held Friday, September 29th. Stay tuned for the meeting details!

Lastly, the RMC partnered with USDA Rural Development to present the [2017 Regional Rural Broadband Forum on Wednesday, May 24th at the Calvert House in Annapolis, MD](#). The forum offered the opportunity to connect with other regional stakeholders interested in broadband access and discussed ways to maximize available funding for rural broadband initiatives. Breakout sessions included focus on the latest broadband technologies, funding for broadband infrastructure projects, making your community attractive to providers, and using public-private partnerships for broadband development. Slideshow presentations from the event can be viewed [here](#).

Kind Regards,

Josh Hastings

## Events

[Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund \(MAERDAF\) Call for Proposals Open](#)  
5/1/2017 - 6/9/2017  
All Day

[Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund \(RMPHF\) Call for Proposals Open](#)  
5/1/2017 - 6/9/2017  
All Day

[2017 Rural Summit Planning Committee Conference Call - CANCELLED!!](#)  
6/12/2017  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

[Rural Maryland Foundation Meeting - CANCELLED!!](#)  
6/15/2017  
10 am - 12 pm

[Transfer of Wealth Study - Technical Advisory Committee Webinar #3](#)  
6/29/2017  
10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Maryland Municipal League Conference](#)  
6/25/2017 -  
6/28/2017  
All Day

## RMC In The News

[Comptroller and](#)

[Lieutenant Governor to headline in RMC Meeting - April 7, 2017](#)

## Message from the Executive Director

Save the date!! The RMC biennial rural summit "Bridging the Divide: Strengthening Rural and Urban Communities," will be held on **Friday December 1, 2017 at the Double Tree Hotel in Annapolis, MD**. We are currently looking for sponsors for this event.

We have a wide variety of sponsorship opportunities available on our webpage at <http://rural.maryland.gov/2017-rural-summit/>. All sponsorship levels include name and logo in the printed conference program, name and logo in print and online marketing, and the opportunity to include one promotional item in tote bags!

We are also excited to announce that the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) are now open for proposals! **Proposals for both grant programs are due Friday, June 9, 2017.**

Our application process is a little different this year. Phase One of the application process requests a proposal which includes organization information, applicant and project point of contact information, scope of work, and project goals.

Please visit [http://rural.maryland.gov/maerdaf\\_rmpif/](http://rural.maryland.gov/maerdaf_rmpif/) to access instructions, guidelines, and the Call for Proposals form. .

If the Council can be of any assistance, please contact me at [charlotte.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:charlotte.davis@maryland.gov), or 410.841.5774.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Davis  
Executive Director

## Committee Updates



### RMC Health Care Committee

The RMC Health Care

Committee has compiled its Executive Summary of its activities for 2015 - 2016. [Learn more...](#)

The Health Care



### RMC Legislative Committee

The Legislative

Committee had a great legislative session. We would like to extend a special thank you to Lindsay Thompson and Odette Ramos for serving as Committee Co-Chairs.



### RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee

The Committee finalized a [2017 -2020 RMC Strategic Plan](#) in the spring 2016.

To learn more about the

[Task force to remedy the digital divide holds forum](#) -  
May 23, 2017

[Governor Signs Connecting Rural Maryland Act of 2017](#)  
May 25, 2017

[Regional Rural Broadband forum a great success](#)  
May 24, 2017

[Forum tackles Rural Broadband Expansion in Maryland](#)  
June 2, 2017

## Rural Maryland Foundation



Rural Maryland Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF) co-hosted a successful Transfer of Wealth (TOW) Technical Advisory Committee Webinar on March 28th.

The RMF also was involved in procuring requests for proposals for Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) One Stop Operators for the Lower Eastern Shore and Western Maryland. Learn more on the RMF's website [here](#).

The third TOW Technical Advisory Committee Webinar

The Health Care Committee will resume activities in spring 2017. The Committee has two new Co-Chairs: Lara Wilson, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Health Association, and Rodney Glotfelty, Garrett County Health Department.

as Committee Co-Chair. To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).

RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact Chairman [Mike Thielke](#).

Committee Workshop meeting, co-hosted with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, is scheduled for Thursday, June 29th, 10am -11am. [Learn more here.](#)

The Rural Maryland Foundation will next meet on Thursday, June 15, 10am -12pm, via conference call. Learn more about the meeting [here](#).

## Community Links

Check out what's happening in rural Maryland...

### Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Maryland Municipal League Conference](#) - Roland Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, Maryland -June 25, 2017- June 28, 2017
- [Maryland Rural Health Association Conference](#) - WISP Resort, McHenry, Maryland - October 5, 2017 - October 6, 2017

### Awards & Grants

- [Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Fy18 Operating Assistance Grants](#) - Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development - Due June 14, 2017
- [Rural Community Development Initiative Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Due July 25, 2017
- [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#) - U. S. Small Business Administration
- [Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Due July 17, 2017
- [Call for Nominations : Maryland Rural Health Awards](#) - Maryland Rural Health Association - Due July 1, 2017

### Programs & More

- [Historic Preservation Loan Program](#) - Maryland Historical Trust
- [Maryland Health Care Commission](#) seeks public comments on proposed amendments.
- [Empatico](#) creates virtually connected classrooms to connect students across different cultures.
- [Americorps Programs](#) National & Community Service Corporation

## Got a link to share? Send it to us!

Email: [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) to share links to your events and programs.

## MAERDAF Spotlight

### \$12,794 Grant Funds Awarded to the Civil War Geocaching Trail

The [Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area](#) received a FY17 Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant to implement a geocaching trail in Western Maryland. The geocaching trail was created with dual purposes: to boost attendance at existing historical sites and to create an economic development impact in the region where they are located. The trail officially opened on October 1, 2016.

"This project impacts five Main Street communities in three counties," says Charlotte Davis, executive director of the Rural Maryland Council. "It's continued economic development effects through visitor spending in Westminster, Taneytown, Mt. Airy, Frederick and Middletown is an important side benefit of a clever history education project. It has been great to see organizations like the Maryland Geocaching Society as well as the multiple historic sites and county tourism offices come together to develop this project."



*More than 100 "catchers" attended the official launch of the Heart of the Civil War GeoTrail at the Frederick Visitor Center on October 1, 2016. Photo courtesy of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area.*

The Maryland Historical Trust recently awarded the Maryland Preservation Award for Excellence in Public Programming to the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area for the GeoTrail. Learn more about the award [here](#). [Learn more about the Heart of the Civil War GeoTrail.](#)

To learn more about the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), please visit: [http://rural.maryland.gov/maerdaf\\_rmpif/](http://rural.maryland.gov/maerdaf_rmpif/)

## Special Feature - MAERDAF/RMPIF Grants

The Rural Maryland Council is proud to announce for Fiscal Year 2018 the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Call for Proposals are now open! **Deadline to submit proposals for both grant programs is Friday, June 9, 2017, 11:59pm.**

Our application process is a little different this year. Phase One of the application process requests a proposal which includes organization information, applicant and project point of contact information, scope of work, and project goals.

Please visit [http://rural.maryland.gov/maerdaf\\_rmpif/](http://rural.maryland.gov/maerdaf_rmpif/) to access instructions, guidelines, and the Call for Proposals forms.

The Rural Maryland Council held an information webinar on two grant programs, the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). The webinar included information about past recipients, requirements, eligibility and application process.

If you were unable to attend the webinar, [view the recording here](#). Access the slides from the [FY2018 MAERDAF RMPIF Grant Info Session Webinar](#).

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Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency and Maryland's federally designated State Rural Development Council under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Rural Development Partnership. Our mission is to bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to develop and implement policy solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and non-discriminatory manner.

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