



Maryland State House

Greetings!,

The Rural Maryland Council held a successful Legislative Luncheon on Friday, January 27th. We wish to thank Les Knapp from the Maryland Association of Counties, Senators Middleton and Eckardt for taking the time to speak and engage our board and members with discussions about potential impacts affecting health care, open space, and employment in our rural communities. Read more about our meeting in a [recent article published in The Bay Times](#). Also, read this great [article](#) about health care and energy being top priorities for the Rural Maryland Council.

[Rural Maryland Day](#) was held on February 9th, 2017 in Annapolis, Maryland. Members of the RMC met with key legislators to discuss the challenges facing rural Maryland communities. The RMC was also presented with the Rural

Maryland Day proclamation by

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RMC Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, and Board Chair, Josh Hastings, were presented the Rural Maryland Day Proclamation by Governor Larry Hogan.

Chair

proclamation by Governor Hogan. The Council would like to thank Governor Hogan for his support of rural Maryland communities.

On April 7, 2017, we will be holding our Spring Quarterly meeting at the Miller Senate Building in Annapolis, Maryland. Comptroller Franchot will be a featured guest speaker among others. It will be held from 12 pm - 2 pm. [Please register to join us here](#). If you have any questions about the meeting contact the RMC at 410.841.5772.

Kind Regards,

Josh Hastings

Events

[RMC Executive Committee Meeting-](#)

3/21/2017
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

3/27/2017
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[Transfer of Wealth Study - Technical Advisory Committee Webinar Meeting #1](#)

3/28/2017
10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center Summit](#)

4/2/2017-4/4/2017-
All Day

[RMC Spring Quarterly and Executive Board Meeting](#)

4/7/2017
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Maryland Economic Development Association Conference](#)

4/30/2017- 5/2/2017
All Day

[National Rural Health Association Conference](#)

5/9/2017-5/12/2017

[Transfer of Wealth Study - Technical Advisory Committee Webinar #2](#)

5/10/2017
10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Rural Summit Planning Committee Meeting -](#)
5/15/2017

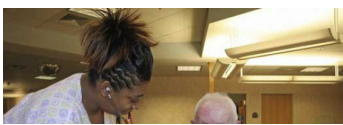
Message from the Executive Director

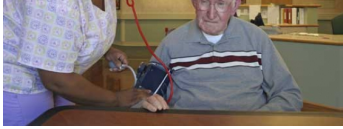
Save the date!! The RMC has announced its biennial rural summit will be held on **Friday December 1, 2017 at the Double Tree Hotel in Annapolis, MD.** We are currently looking for sponsors and speaker proposals for this event. For more information regarding speaker proposal requirements, please access the form here: [Call for Speaker Proposal Application Form](#). To submit a proposal, please access the application [here](#). More information about the 2017 Rural Summit, including sponsorship and exhibit opportunities, will be available soon on our webpage at <http://rural.maryland.gov/2017-rural-summit/>. We need to hear from you! Let us know how we can help you. If the Council can be of any assistance, please contact me at 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 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.



RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee has finalized its [2017 Legislative Priorities](#). The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 3pm-4pm. [Learn more...](#)

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.



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

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

[Rural Maryland Foundation Meeting](#)

6/15/2017

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Maryland Municipal League Conference](#)

6/25/2017 -

6/28/2017

RMC In The News

[Legislative Luncheon](#)

Jan 27, 2017

[Rural Council Lunch Health Care Topic](#)

Jan 27th, 2017

Rural Maryland Foundation



Rural Maryland Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation conducted a conference call for its Transfer of Wealth Study Group on December 16th. The group reviewed and discussed two proposals for the Transfer of Wealth (TOW) Study. The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship was awarded the study contract.

A TOW Technical Advisory Committee Webinar meeting, co-hosted with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28th, 10am -

Community Links

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

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [2017 Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center \(MATRC\) - Early Bird Registration Open November 7th](#) - April 2nd - 4th, Leesburg, VA
- [Annie's Project courses for 2017](#)- Delaware and Maryland
- [Call for Poster Session Abstracts](#)- April 2-4, 2017
- [MEDA Annual Conference](#) - April 30th - May 2nd, 2017 Cambridge, MD
- [Women and Land Future of your Farm: Planning a Legacy](#)- March 30,2017
- [Unsinkable Eastern Shore II Conference](#) - April 1, 2017

Awards & Grants

- [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) -Due April 21, 2017
- [Growing Rural Communities Fund](#)- Due April 1, 2017

Programs & More

- [Mid -Shore Discussion Group Study](#) - Kent County Public Library

- [Mid- Shore Discussion Group Study](#) - Talbot County Public Library
- [Historic Preservation Loan Program](#) - Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Preservation Loan Program for Capital Projects

11am. [Learn more here.](#)

Got a link to share? Send it to us!

Email: rnc.mda@maryland.gov to share links to your events and programs.

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

MAERDAF Spotlight

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

The [Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts \(MASCD\)](#) serves as the voice for Maryland's 24 soil and water conservation districts on state legislative issues. It also provides a forum for training, policy-making and the exchange of information at their annual and quarterly gatherings.

MASCD mission is to promote practical and effective soil, water, and related natural resources programs to all citizens through individual conservation districts on a voluntary basis through leadership, education, cooperation and local direction.

The Maryland Envirothon is a series of environmental competitions that allows teams of students to move beyond the classroom in order to solve real-life environmental problems in a natural setting. For FY 2016, MASCD utilized MAERDAF grant funding for the execution of county and State Envirothon competitions, including funding for administrative staff support and facility rental. In 2016, 20 of 23 counties held an Envirothon event, and over 1,100 students participated statewide in the Envirothon.



Photo courtesy of Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, 2016 Maryland Envirothon

Special Feature - Health Insurance in Agriculture

Farmer/Rancher Survey

Help influence rural health policy by participating in an upcoming USDA funded survey. Your responses will help researchers understand how health-insurance policy affects farmers' and

ranchers' decisions to invest, expand, and grow their enterprises. This survey is a chance for farmers and ranchers to make their voices heard about their experiences with health insurance and how that affects both their economic development and family's quality of life. The survey questions are based on interviews



survey questions are based on interviews conducted in 2016 with smaller groups of farmers and ranchers in the 10 states being researched. This study is a four-year national project exploring how health insurance options impact the farm and ranch population in the U.S. Survey closes March 31.



Photo Courtesy of Arla Foods

Access the survey [here](#).

For more information, visit the HIREDnAG website: <http://www.hirednag.net/>

Or contact Katlyn Morris, HIREDnAG Project Coordinator at katlyn.morris@uvm.edu or by phone at 802-656-0257.

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.

Rural Maryland Council | 410-841-5772 | rmc.mda@maryland.gov | <http://www.rural.maryland.gov/>
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

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