



Farm in Harford County, Maryland.

**Greetings!**

RMC hosted its biennial **summit " Bridging the Divide: Strengthening Rural and Urban communities" on Friday, December 1, 2017** at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The biennial Summit brought together professionals and rural residents throughout Rural Maryland. The event was sold out with nearly 300 attendees. The highlight of the summit this year was our new AgPitch session sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit. THANK YOU to all our attendees, sponsors and speakers!!



**On Friday, January 26th we will be hosting our Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly meeting at the President's Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building in Annapolis.** Join us as we present our 2018 Legislative Priorities and overview of events for the new year. Please register to attend the [Quarterly Meeting and Legislative Luncheon here](#).

**Save the Date!!!** [Rural Maryland Day](#) will be held on Thursday February 8, 2018 at the Miller Senate Building in Annapolis, Maryland. The RMC and rural advocates will meet with key legislators to discuss the challenges facing our rural communities.

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**Events**

For questions about Rural Maryland Day, or if you would like to participate, please contact the RMC at 410.841.5772 or [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year!

Kind Regards,



Josh Hastings  
Chair

## Message from the Executive Director

The [Taskforce for Rural Broadband](#) held a successful meeting on **December 1, 2017 at the 2017 Rural Summit held at the Double Tree in Annapolis, Maryland.** Discussion was made over the next steps to continue work on the Task force report. Some suggestions included restricting state-owned fiber networks, network segmentation of some departments, use of State Highway Administration rights-of-way, and access to DoIT wireless towers. Our next meeting will be held sometime in March 2018.

**RMC and [Volunteer Maryland](#) will offer information sessions throughout the State of Maryland for attendees to learn more about both organizations and the resources available to rural-serving organizations.** Come learn more about RMC's two grant programs and Volunteer Maryland's AmeriCorp program. **Register to attend a session located near you [here](#).**

Hope everyone has a blessed New Year!!

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 Legislative Committee](#)

[Conference Call](#)

1/15/2018

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[RMC Executive Committee Meeting](#)

1/16/2018

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Transfer of Wealth Study \(TOW\)](#)

[Meeting: Goal Clarification](#)

1/19/2018

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Volunteer Maryland / RMC Information](#)

[Session - Carroll County](#)

1/25/2018

10:00 am - 11:00 am

[RMC Legislative Luncheon and Executive Board](#)

[Meeting](#)

1/26/2018

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[RMC Legislative Committee](#)

[Conference Call](#)

1/29/2018

3:00 - 4:00 pm

[Volunteer Maryland / RMC Information](#)

[Session - Wicomico County](#)

2/1/2018

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[RMC Legislative Committee](#)

[Conference Call](#)

2/5/2018

3:00 - 4:00 pm

[Rural Maryland Day](#)

2/8/2018

8:30 am - 2:30 am

[Transfer of Wealth Study \(TOW\)](#)

[Meeting: Strategy](#)





### 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 2018. The Committee is led by our two Co-Chairs: Lara Wilson, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Health Association, and Rodney Glotfelty, Garrett County Health Department.

**RMC Legislative Committee**  
The RMC Legislative Committee will meet by conference call on January 15th, 2018. Learn about the meeting [here](#).

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC a [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto: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](#).

2/16/2018  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[RMC Legislative Committee Conference Call](#)

3/5/2018  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## RMC In The News

[MidAtlantic Farm Credit Announces Winner of AgPitch](#)  
December 7, 2017

[Less Regulations Will Improve Broadband](#)  
December 15, 2017

[New ag business awarded](#)  
December 14, 2017

## Community Links

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

### Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [On-farm Food Safety and Recall Readiness Training for an On-farm market-](#) Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics - January 19, 2018
- [On-farm Food Safety and Recall Readiness Training for Agritourism Operators](#) - Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics - January 25, 2018
- [Sheep and Goats Workshop](#) - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission - January 13, 2018
- [F3 Tech Symposium](#) - F3 Tech Accelerator Program - January 31, 2018

### Awards & Grants

- [Grants Available for FY 2019](#) - Maryland Heritage Areas Program - Applications due by January 26, 2018
- [Special Solicitation Grant](#)- Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Transit Administration - Applications due January 31, 2018
- [Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) for Opioid Use Disorders](#) - Maryland Health Care Commission - Applications due February 19, 2018
- [Rural Business Development Grant Program](#) - United States Department of Agriculture Applications Due by April 20, 2018

### Programs & More

- [Chesapeake Bay Commission Policy Report](#) - Agricultural Technical Assistance

## Rural Maryland Foundation



Rural Maryland Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation (RMF) will be hosting Transfer of Wealth Webinars. They are as follows:

[Transfer of Wealth: Goal Clarification](#)  
1/19/2018  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Transfer of Wealth: Strategy](#)  
2/16/2018  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Transfer of Wealth: Strategy Selection](#)  
3/16/2018  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

- [GIS for Maryland's Eastern Shore](#) - Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative
- [Matching Products to Customer Appetites in 2018 Article](#)- University of Maryland Extension

[Transfer of Wealth: Implementation Check](#)

4/20/2018

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

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

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

The Rural Maryland Foundation is working on a sequel to our Rural Aspirations video. Click to view the first video [here](#).

The Rural Maryland Foundation will hold a conference call on March 8, 2018. Learn more [here](#).

2018 Mid- Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center Summit



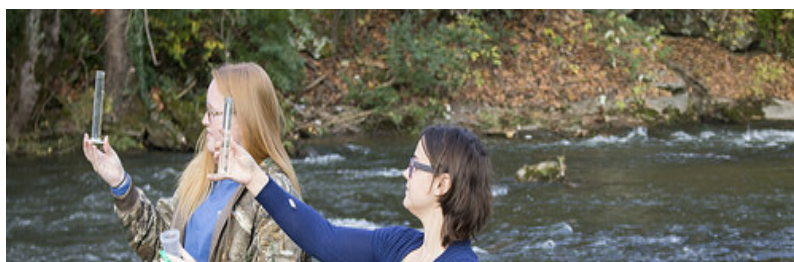
**Mid-Atlantic Telehealth will be hosting their 2018 MATRC Summit, April 15-17 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania.** Register now at <http://matrcsummit.org/> before the Early Bird discount ends on January 19th, 2018!! In addition to a provocative agenda this year to engage more new colleagues in telehealth, we will also provide the following Pre-Summit sessions:

- o Project ECHO
- o Telehealth in Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine
- o Telehealth 101 Mini Course
- o Chronic Disease Management and Remote Patient Monitoring 101 Mini Course
- o Telemental Health 101 Mini Course

Also, **Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) invites you to submit a Call for Poster Session Abstract for presentations at the MATRC 2018 Annual Telehealth Summit.** We will be covering broad telehealth issues and challenges related to HIPAA, private payers, efficacy, evidence base, and liability. All submissions should be from original work. Deadline to submit is January 26, 2018. Learn more information to apply [here](#).

MAERDAF Spotlight - Hagerstown Community College receives a Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant for their new environmental studies program

[Hagerstown Community College](#) recently received a grant from the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund, or MAERDAF, administered by the Rural Maryland Council, to hire an assistant to help support the development of the new environmental-studies program.



The MAERDAF grant will be used to fund a part-time recruiter/curriculum development assistant to work with lead faculty to help recruit students for the new environmental-studies program, assist with the planning of a summer institute for K-12 teachers, and help develop collaborative relationships with community partners.



## Special Feature - RMC Rural Summit and Annual Meeting

### **On December 1, 2017, the Rural Maryland Council hosted its biennial summit "Bridging the Divide: Strengthening Urban and Rural Communities".**

The conference was held at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. Breakout sessions included topics on Agriculture, Economic Development, Community Development and Health Care. Special sessions this year included Broadband Taskforce and Agpitch. Our keynote speakers were Amy Goldstein, Author of Janesville: An American Story and Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Maryland (USM).

We also held great Secretary and Legislative Panels. Our featured Legislative panel guest speaker was Brian Frosh the Attorney General of the State of Maryland. View recordings, PowerPoint presentations and our evaluation survey for the event [here](#).



Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford speaking at RMC Rural Summit held at the Double Tree Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland.

**Our annual meeting was held on Thursday November 30, 2017 at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland before the summit.** Our achievements and activities for the year were recognized. The meeting featured the Rural Impact awards. The awards ceremony recognized individuals and organizations that have performed extraordinary acts of services to communities throughout rural Maryland.

Congratulations to our awardees:

- Mr. J. Robert Tibbs, Jr., honored for Outstanding Rural Volunteer;
- Mr. Mike Thielke, honored for Outstanding Rural Economic Development;
- Dr. William McGowan, honored for Outstanding Rural Community Involvement

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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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