



Government House in Annapolis, Maryland.

Greetings!

As the year 2018 comes to a close, we have some exciting events to look forward to in the beginning of 2019! I am honored to be serving as the re-elected Chair of the RMC, and I look forward to working with you in the coming year. We would like to thank Josh Hastings for his service as RMC chair for the past two years. His dedication to solving rural issues in Maryland has made a difference and we wish him the best of luck in the future.

Our [Welcome Breakfast for Rural Legislators](#) will be held on **Friday, January 18, 2019 from 7 am - 10 am at the Historic Inns of Annapolis on 58 State Circle, in Annapolis, Maryland.** The Breakfast provides an opportunity for rural legislators to meet with rural stakeholders to connect, engage and exchange ideas.

The [RMC Winter Quarterly and Executive Board](#) meeting will be held on **Friday, January 25, 2019 from 12 pm - 2pm at the Miller Senate Building, Presidents Conference Center West on 11 Bladen Street in Annapolis, Maryland.** Join us as we share an overview of our 2019 Legislative Priorities and upcoming events for the new year.

[Rural Maryland Day](#) will be held on **Thursday, February 14, 2019 at the Miller Senate Building, Presidents Conference Center West on 11 Bladen Street in Annapolis, Maryland.** The RMC and rural advocates will meet with key legislators as we discuss the challenges facing our rural communities. Co-hosts this year will be the Maryland Association for Soil of Conservation Districts and the Maryland Dairy Association.

Hope everyone has a safe and Happy New Year!!

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Events

[RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

1/14/2019

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Hope everyone has a safe and Happy New Year!!

Sincerely,



Scott Warner
Chair

Message from the Executive Director

The Rural Maryland Council has had a very successful year, see all of the great things that have happened with the council this year in our special Year in Review [video](#).

In the beginning of December, the RMC hosted a Community Reinvestment Act and Broadband Roundtable on Monday, December 10, 2018 at Allegany College in Cumberland, Maryland.

Our intent for this event was to educate rural lenders, service providers and other interested parties on the requirements of the CRA and the use of these investments on broadband as a creative and innovative possibility to push more investment into broadband networks. We may host another roundtable in the upcoming year.



From left, Mid- Atlantic Farm Credit's Tom Truitt, Charlie Taylor, Zach Marnane, Eric Peterson and Tom Marnane accept first place for MADTECH'S agricultural drone concept.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped put together the Grow and Fortify Value- Added Agriculture Summit that was held on Thursday December 6, 2018 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, Maryland. Presented by Grow & Fortify, in partner with the Rural Maryland Council and Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, the

2018 Summit focused on supporting and promoting Maryland's value-added agricultural producers, growers, agritourism operations and small food businesses. During the day, breakout sessions were held and AgPitch - a Shark

[Welcome Breakfast for Rural Legislators](#)

1/18/2019

7:30 am - 10:00 am

[Volunteer Maryland/RMC Information Session - Carroll County Nonprofit Center](#)

1/22/2019

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

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

1/25/2019

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

1/28/2019

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[Rural Summit Planning Committee Meeting](#)

1/31/2019

10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Volunteer Maryland/RMC Information Session - Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore](#)

2/5/2019

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

[RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

2/11/2019

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[Rural Maryland Day](#)

2/14/2019

All Day

[Volunteer Maryland/RMC Information Session](#)

Tank-style business competition, was held for entrepreneurs to present their agriculture business ideas before an audience to compete for cash and business related services. View more about the conference [here](#).

Hope everyone has a successful and productive New Year!

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 Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

The RMC Agriculture Committee's next meeting is to be determined.

To learn more about the RMC Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.



RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet on Monday, January 14, 2019 from 3 pm - 4 pm via Conference Call to discuss the upcoming Legislative session. View more about the meeting [here](#).

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

Community Links

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

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention](#)- Maryland State Horticultural Society - January 20-31, 2019

- [Southern Maryland](#)
2/19/2019
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

RMC In The News

[RMC funds include money for Kent economic development](#)
September 18, 2018

[Southern Maryland nonprofits receive rural development grants](#)
October 15, 2018

[MPT series Maryland Farm Harvest visits Allegany County in new season's first episode](#)
November 1, 2018

[AGH pharmacist receives Maryland Rural Health Practitioner Award](#)
November 27, 2018

[The hidden loss: Maryland farmers confront rising suicide rates](#)
December 8, 2018

[Rural Maryland Council awards Benedictine \\$100K](#)
December 9, 2018

[Rural Maryland Council honors rural community advocates](#)
December 14, 2018

[Future of farming could begin with drones](#)
December 14, 2018

- [Choosing a Business Entity Seminar](#) - Harford County Community and Economic Development- January 16, 2019
- [Start-up Orientation Forum](#)- TEDCO - January 18, 2019
- [A Better Maryland Online Listening Sessions](#) - Maryland Department of Planning - January 10, 2019

[Ciotola honored with Rural Maryland Council Award](#)
December 19, 2018

[Effort Aims To Raise Farmer Suicide Rate Awareness](#)
January 3, 2019

Awards & Grants

- [Fy19 Heat & Power Grant](#) - Maryland Energy Administration - Applications due by February 15, 2019
- [FY 2020 Grants](#) - Maryland Historical Trust- Applications due by January 31, 2019

Rural Maryland Foundation



Rural Maryland Foundation

Programs & More

- [Federal Funding/Resource Guide to Help Address Rural Substance Abuse & Opioid Misuse](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Maryland Education Dashboard](#) - Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative
- [Maryland Ag & Natural Resources Entrepreneurial & Coaching Assistance Program](#) -University of Maryland Extension
- [Rural Economic Development Loan Grant Program](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Website Design and Development Requests for Proposals](#)- Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission - Proposals are due on January 11, 2019

The Rural Maryland Foundation will meet on Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm via conference call. View more information about the meeting [here](#).

Got a link to share? Send it to us!

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

MAERDAF Spotlight - Historic Sotterley Plantation creating a community gathering hub thanks to \$27,580 grant





Historic Sotterley Plantation's new covered outdoor pavilion.

For more than 300 years, the Historic Sotterley Plantation has been creating a living link to America's history through more than 20 historic buildings on its property as well as its working farm. Until this past spring, it lacked a covered outdoor pavilion hub for programming that could be cross-purposed for the farm's seasonal farmer's market.

Historic Sotterley Plantation can now check that off its list of strategic goals, thanks to the Rural Maryland Council's \$27,580.96 grant from the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF). In addition to funding the construction of the covered outdoor pavilion, the grant also enabled the organization to also install a well on the property. View more about the grant funding [here](#).

Special Feature - Rural Maryland Council's Annual and Executive Board Meeting

The Rural Maryland Council held its Annual and Executive Board Meeting on Thursday, November, 29, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Yellowfin Steak and Fish House in Edgewater, Maryland. In addition to providing an overview of upcoming events and activities for 2019, the Council also held its annual Rural Impact Awards Ceremony to honor advocates for rural Maryland communities.

We had the special honor this year of presenting Senator Thomas Middleton with our Rural Legacy Award which recognizes him for his extraordinary efforts to support agriculture, infrastructure, and to vastly improve rural quality of life. Steve McHenry, Executive Director at the Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Cooperation, spoke kind words of Senator Middleton's work for rural Maryland before he received his award at the meeting. "During the 2016 Session, Senator Middleton pulled together a large work group of farm, land conservation and environmental organizations to try to find a way to fund the Next Gen Program for the first time," said Steve McHenry, (MARBIDCO), "Senator Middleton led the way to find compromise among the diverse group of stakeholders, and worked with his counterparts in the House of Delegates and the Governor's office to find \$2.5 million of Next Gen Program funding for last year, FY 2018, and also this year, FY 2019." We are very thankful for Senator Middleton's dedication to improve life in rural areas.





Senator Thomas Middleton presented with the Rural Legacy Award by RMC Board Members Lindsay Thompson, Matt Teffeau and RMC Chair Josh Hastings.

This year, three awards were presented for the 2018 Rural Impact Awards Ceremony:

- **Outstanding Rural Volunteer Award** was received by Mrs. Cathy and Mr. Rick Schwab, nominated by the Town of Ridgely, for leadership, dedication, and noteworthy volunteer achievement beyond the call of one's professional duties to help improve their community.
- **Outstanding Rural Community Development Award** was received by For All Seasons for a program, project or organization that substantially improves quality of life in multiple rural communities.
- **Rural Champion Award** was received by Dr. Joseph Ciotola, Jr. for outstanding leadership and public service in advocating for policy solutions to greatly benefit rural communities.

In addition, two additional special recognition awards were presented:

- **Rural Friend Award** was presented to Susan Lawrence for her extraordinary efforts in supporting our state's rural areas.
- **Rural Dedication Award** was presented to Mike Pennington for his leadership and dedication while serving 15 years on the Rural Maryland Council Executive Board.

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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