



Photo Courtesy of Edwin Remsburg Photography

Greetings!

Spring is finally here! After a long winter, the Rural Maryland Council remains as busy as ever. **During the 2019 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session, the council remained active.** Activities during session included testifying before standing committees, hosting a welcome breakfast for new legislators, as well as drafting and submitting written position statements. We are grateful for the hard work of our Legislative Committee and the rural advocates who made the 2019 session a success. The RMC would like to acknowledge the passing of House Speaker Michael Busch (District 30A - Anne Arundel). Speaker Busch served in the Maryland General Assembly since 1986 and will be greatly missed.

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Pictured: From left, Ms. Charlotte Davis (RMC Executive Director), Senator Chris Van Hollen (United States Senate), and Mr. Dean Fisher (Maryland Energy Administration) at the RMC Winter Quarterly Executive Board meeting.

Our Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly Executive Board meeting was held on Friday, January 25, 2019. Our featured guest speakers were United States Senator, Christopher Van Hollen and Ms. Ashley Biggs, Outreach Librarian for the Maryland Center for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. There was much discussion during the meeting about the recently passed 2018 Farm Bill and the resources provided to our Blind and Physically Handicapped residents in our rural communities. We would like to extend our thanks to Mr. Jack Reitnauer for taking the time to speak and engage our board members about [Warwick Mushroom Farms](#) in Cecil County, Maryland. Our next Quarterly Executive Board Meeting will be held on **Friday, September 27, 2019** at the Wharves of Choptank Visitor and Heritage Center, 3 Crouse Park Lane in Denton, Maryland 21629.

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee is in the process of updating the current RMC Strategic Plan. We need your feedback, help us plan for the future! Please fill out our Strategic Plan Survey [here](#).

Join the RMC for the 43rd Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake on **Wednesday, July 17, 2019**, from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Somers Cove Marina, 715 Broadway Avenue, Crisfield, Maryland 21817. Register to attend [here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Warner".

Events

[RMC Grant Information Session - Eastern Shore](#)

5/2/2019
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

[RMC Grant Information Outreach Session - Southern Maryland](#)

5/3/2019
2 pm - 3:30 pm

[RMC Grant Information Session - Western Maryland](#)

5/8/2019
2 pm - 3:30 pm

[RMC Grant Information Session Webinar](#)

5/9/2019
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

[Rural Aspirations V2.0 RFP Proposals Due](#)

5/13/2019
All Day

[Rural Maryland Council Board Retreat: Strategic Planning](#)

5/24/2019
9:30 am - 3:30 pm

[RMC Rural Summit Planning Committee Call](#)

6/7/2019

[Rural Maryland Foundation Board Conference Call](#)

6/12/2019

[43rd Annual Tawes](#)

Message from the Executive Director

Save the date! The RMC biannual Rural Summit will be held this year on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at the Double Tree Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. Our summit brings together many of our state's top elected and appointed officials. Expected outcomes include learning about current issues as well as networking and hearing from fellow rural Marylanders from across the state. **Call for Proposals are now open! [Submit your breakout session proposal here.](#) All proposals are due on or before Friday, May 31, 2019 by electronic submission.** We are also currently looking for sponsors. View summit sponsorship opportunities [here](#).

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) online applications will be available on Monday, April 29, 2019 for Fiscal Year 2020. RMC will offer a webinar and information sessions throughout the State that will allow attendees to learn more about our grant programs including eligibility, guidelines, criteria and application deadlines. For access to instructions and guidelines, please visit the web page [here](#).

Sign up for an information session located near you!

Adkins Arboretum

12610 Eveland Road
Ridgely, Maryland 21660
May 2, 2019 2 pm - 3:30 pm
Register to attend [here](#).

Tri- County Council for Southern Maryland

15045 Burnt Store Road
Hughesville, Maryland 20637
May 3, 2019 2 pm - 3:30 pm
Register to attend [here](#).

Byron Memorial Park, Community Building

11 Park Road
Williamsport, Maryland 21795
May 8, 2019 2 pm- 3:30 pm
Register to attend [here](#).

Webinar

May 9, 2019 2 pm - 3:30 pm
Register to attend [here](#).

RMC In The News

[Oyster Trail website aims to document local industry](#)
February 19, 2019

[Van Hollen addresses rural stakeholders at legislative luncheon](#)
March 1, 2019

[Our Food, Our Future Conference to feature international food system experts](#)
March 8, 2019

[Montgomery Week in Review](#)
March 30, 2019

[Preservation Maryland pop-up offices in Chestertown](#)
April 9, 2019

[Fort Richie Community Center to host teen summit](#)
April 12, 2019

Rural Maryland Foundation



Rural Maryland
Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation is requesting proposals to create a brief film highlighting innovative agriculture,

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

aquaculture, forestry, and other economic development projects currently taking place in 18 rural counties. **Proposals will be accepted until Monday, May 13, 2019.** Access the [Rural Aspirations 2.0 Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#).

The Rural Maryland Foundation will hold a Conference Call on **Wednesday, June 12, 2019** from 10 am - 12 pm. View more about the meeting [here](#).

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation, please visit the website at ruralmdfoundation.org

Committee Updates



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee is in the process of updating the current RMC Strategic Plan. We need your input, help us plan for the future! Please fill out our Strategic Plan Survey [here](#). The committee will meet on Friday, May 24, 2019 for a Board Retreat at the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

To learn more about the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will reconvene on Monday, November 11, 2019 via conference call to prepare for the 2020 Legislative Session.

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

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

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Tech Transfer Seminars](#) - Federal Lab Consortium - May 7 & May 22, 2019
- [Forest Action Plan Listening Sessions](#) - Department of Natural Resources - May 8-20, 2019
- [Maryland Municipal League Conference](#) - The Maryland Municipal League - June 23- 26, 2019
- [Natural Resources Career Camp](#) - Maryland Forest Association - July 21 -27, 2019

Awards & Grants

- [Governor's Service Awards](#) - Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism - Nominations due by June 7, 2019
- [Rural Business Development Grant](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications due on June 25, 2019
- [Dick Stanfield Scholarship](#) - Maryland Forest Association - Applications due by August 31, 2019

Programs & More

- [Holly Center Project Video](#) - Bay Area Center for Independent Living
- [Request for Proposal](#) - First Book
- [H-2A Visa Checklist Tool](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Buy Local Challenge Celebration](#) - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission - July 20th - 28th, 2019
- [2019 Southern Maryland Meats Junior Program](#) - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission - Applications due by May 17, 2019
- [Pre-Accelerator Program](#) - F3 Tech - Applications due by May 19, 2019

Got a link to share? Send it to us!

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

Join the RMC for the 43rd Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Somers Cove Marina, 715 Broadway Avenue, Crisfield, Maryland 21817. Bus transportation from Annapolis and back from Crisfield will be provided. Pick up will be at 9:30 am at the House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street in Annapolis, Maryland 21401. Enjoy all-u-can-eat seafood (crabs/clams/fish/sides/beverage) under our VIP tent. Sign up today or for more information contact the RMC at 410-841-5772. Register to attend [here](#). For more information, visit our website at rural.maryland.gov.



Photo: Tawes Crab and Clam Bake at Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, Maryland.

MAERDAF/RMPIF Spotlight - Fiscal year 2020 Administration Budget includes historic funding for rural communities

The Fiscal Year 2020 administrative budget includes level funding support for the Rural Maryland Council (RMC), Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF), and the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF). The RMC would like to thank Governor Hogan for budgeting funds to support RMPIF and MAERDAF.

The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund is included in the budget for \$6,000,000 for targeted investment to promote economic prosperity in Maryland's traditionally disadvantaged and undeserved rural communities by sustaining efforts to promote rural regional cooperation, facilitating entrepreneurial activities and supporting key community colleges and nonprofit providers. Last year, for the third time, RMPIF received \$6 million in funding.

RMPIF will support the Rural Maryland Council's activities and MAERDAF, which provides capacity-building funds to rural nonprofit service providers. It will also support the states' five regional councils, regional infrastructure projects, rural entrepreneurship development, rural community development, and rural health care organizations. **Information on grantees may be found at rural.maryland.gov.**

Special Feature - Rural Maryland Day

Rural Maryland Day was held on February 14, 2019. We welcomed attendees for morning appointments with

legislators and staff in the house and senate buildings. In partnership with the [Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts](#) and the [Maryland Dairy Industry Association](#), we hosted a luncheon with over one hundred attendees. Thank you to those who were able to attend. Due to your efforts, we can acknowledge our success.



RMC Executive Director (Charlotte Davis) presented with the State of Maryland Proclamation by Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford on Rural Maryland Day 2019.

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/>
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