



RMC

Rural Maryland Council



Photo: Ms. Anne C. Hazlett, Senior Advisor for Rural Affairs, Office of National Control Drug Policy speaking to attendees at the virtual RMC Quarterly Executive Board meeting held on July 9, 2020.

In This Issue...

Greetings!

Believe it or not summer is starting to come to an end! The RMC is following the Safer at Home directive for Maryland issued by Governor Larry Hogan due to the coronavirus pandemic. Staff are currently teleworking to continue RMC operations. Look for more information in the future on any updates of upcoming state events and

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meetings as Maryland is in Phase Two of its [Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery](#).

On April 27, 2020, our grant portal opened for Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) for Fiscal Year 2021. We had an overwhelming interest in applications for the grant programs this year for Phase One. RMC staff enjoyed reviewing applications making the final decision on which organizations get awarded. We had anticipated Grant final decisions being announced on Monday, August 17, 2020 but due to the current budget freeze the state of Maryland is currently under due to the coronavirus pandemic, we may have to wait until September before we can announce our grant awardees.

The RMC Executive Board held its first virtual meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2020, 12 pm - 2 pm via zoom. Our featured guest speaker was Ms. Anne C. Hazlett, Senior Advisor for Rural Affairs, Office of National Drug Control Policy Executive Office of the President. During the meeting, Hazlett shared an overview of the [rural addiction resources](#) that are available to those struggling with addiction nationwide. Also, Mr. Kenrick Gordon, Director, Governor's Office of Rural Broadband spoke to our attendees and shared a presentation on the [Maryland Broadband Education Network](#) and how it is affecting unserved students in the state. The meeting also featured updates on the RMC Board and Committee activities.

The RMC has created a short survey to identify the concerns and challenges faced in rural Maryland. The information collected in our [2020 Rural Issue Survey](#) will help the Council identify trends and target certain planning priorities. This survey is only five questions long and will only take a few minutes to complete. Voice your opinion on what areas you feel that rural Maryland has the most challenges in. Help us to improve the quality of life in rural Maryland.

The State of Maryland has extended the application deadline for the second round of the Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative (NORI) and will accept applications until Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 5 pm. Eligible nonprofit organizations can receive up to \$50,000 in grant assistance for operational support. For more information, including eligibility requirements and application guidelines, visit <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/DHCD-NOFA.aspx>.

Save the date! Our Fall Quarterly Executive Board meeting will be held on Friday, September 25, 2020 from 12 pm -

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[Maryland Protected Lands Dashboard](#)

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Events

[RMC Executive Committee Meeting](#)
12 pm - 2 pm
9/11/2020

[RMC Executive Board Meeting](#)
12 pm - 2 pm
9/25/20

[Rural Maryland Foundation Meeting](#)
10 am - 12 pm
10/8/2020

RMC In the News

[From Rural Digital Divides to Local Solutions](#)
April 7, 2020

[Fort Ritchie Community Center's Junior Staff Program goes online](#)
April 28, 2020

[Teletherapy,](#)

2 pm. A location and speaker are to be determined.

Well wishes for your continued health and safety! As always, we strive to continue to support our rural Maryland communities.

Sincerely,



John Hartline
Chair

Message from the Executive Director

Since our March Newsletter, the Rural Maryland Council staff are continuing to telework due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. I know this is a difficult time for all of you as you continue to adjust to remote work and to maintain the health of your community and co-workers. At the bottom of this newsletter, you will find that we have compiled what we think are the most useful rural focused COVID-19 links and resources.

The Rural Maryland Council held two successful webinars in May for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Assistance Development Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Fund (RMPIF) FY2021 Grant Cycle. We had a lot of interest and requests for extensions in grant applications this year. We hope to announce our FY2021 grant awardees by the end of September.

The Rural Maryland Foundation has launched its third video "We Are Rural Maryland". To produce this video, we traveled across the state to talk with farmers, health care providers and educators about the programs and projects that they provide for our great state. View the video [here!](#) Please share with your networks.

Thank you for all that you do for our rural communities! Stay healthy and safe! If the Council or I can ever be of any assistance, please contact me at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov or (410) 841-5774.

Sincerely,

[telepsychiatry services expand to rural counties](#)

April 28, 2020

[Rural Maryland Council opens Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Programs](#)

May 12, 2020

[Charles residents should have their primary ballots](#)

May 15, 2020

[Library's 6th Annual Comic Con will be held virtually June 13](#)

June 5, 2020

[Officials break ground on Mistletoe Hall Commerce - Business Park](#)

June 16, 2020

[Community Growth Accelerator Program The Edge Welcomes 2020 Cohort](#)

July 8, 2020

[The Frederick Innovative Technology Center's \(FITCI\) Edge Accelerator Program Mentoring the Next Generation of Frederick, Maryland Life Science Startups](#)

August 5, 2020

Rural Maryland
Foundation



Rural Maryland
Foundation



Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

The Rural Maryland Foundation will meet on Thursday, October 8, 2020, 10 am - 12 pm via zoom. View more about the meeting [here](#).

Committee Updates



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee met on Friday, March 27, 2020 to discuss future [goals and objectives](#) for the RMC. A new [Strategic Plan](#) is currently being finalized. A follow up meeting will be scheduled soon! Please take the time to fill out our [Rural Issue Survey](#).

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 meet in the Fall of 2020 to prepare for the 2021 Legislative Session. View our 2020 Legislative Review [here](#).

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

Our third video "We Are Rural Maryland" is now available to [stream](#)! We have traveled across Maryland to talk to rural residents about the projects and programs that they provide for our state. The Foundation would like to thank Andover Media and all of the citizens of Maryland that were involved in the making of this video.

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation, please visit the website at rmdfound@gmail.com

Community Links

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

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Food Safety Webinar Series](#) - Maryland Farm Bureau - May - November 2020

- [Mental Health First Aid Webinars](#) - Maryland Rural Opioid Technical Assistance - August 8 - August 28, 2020
- [Farm Succession Webinar Series](#) - Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics - August 6 - August 27, 2020

Programs & More

- [2020 Southern Maryland Farmers' Market Guide](#) - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
- [Master Marketing Article](#) - University of Maryland Extension
- [Maryland's Brownfield Redevelopment Assistance Program](#) - Maryland Department of Planning
- [Salvation Army Launch Feeding Program](#) - Maryland Department of Disabilities
- [Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Business and Industry CARES Act Program](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [June 2020 Master Marketing Article](#) - University of Maryland Extension
- [DefTech Maryland Program](#) - Maryland Department of Commerce
- [Rural Tech Program](#) - United States Department of Education
- [Farm Bureau seeks entrepreneurs addressing farm and rural challenges](#) - American Farm Bureau Federation

Got a link to share? Send it to us!

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

COV-19 Resources

Please see the links below for general and specific rural COVID-19 information. The following resources can also be found on our regularly updated [website](#).

- [United States Rural Development COVID-19 Response](#) - United States Department of Agriculture

- [COVID-19 Resources Useful for Rural People and Communities](#) - The Aspen Institute
- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Listing of Federal Programs That Can Help Rural Communities, Organizations, and Residents Impacted by COVID-19](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [COVID-19 Information for SAMHSA Discretionary Grant Recipients](#)- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- [Opioid Treatment Program Guidance for Patients Quarantined at Home with the Coronavirus](#) - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- [COVID-19 Funding for Minority, Rural and Socially Vulnerable Communities](#) - Office of Minority Health
- [Mental Health during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) - Maryland Health Connection
- [Health Coverage and the Coronavirus](#) - Maryland Health Connection
- [COVID-19 Health Crisis: Financial Relief Guide for Marylanders](#)- Maryland Department of Labor

Maryland Protected Lands Dashboard

The [Maryland Protected Lands Dashboard](#) provides a quick assessment of the status of Maryland land preservation at the state, regional, and county levels. The twelve categories of protected lands include federal, state, county, and private programs. Whether you prefer a map showing where land has been preserved, a colorful pie chart indicating what category or program has preserved the most acreage, or what progress has been made on Maryland's official agricultural land preservation goal to preserve 1,030,000 acres by 2022, the dashboard makes it all available at your fingertips.

Your feedback is appreciated as the Maryland Department of Planning strives to provide resources that are accessible and the information you need. Contact Jason Dubow at jason.dubow@maryland.gov or 410.767.3370.

MAERDAF Spotlight - NetGloFarmFITS Application Funding

Grandma's Jam House was looking for a way to meet growing demands from regulators and buyers for lot traceability when it became aware of NetGloFarmFITS. This hosted application, sponsored by the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), helps meet the Food Safety Modernization Acts "one forward / one back" traceability requirement. Several Maryland farmers consistently rated this software above seven, on a scale of one to ten, for its ease of use and applicability. Jason from Grandma's Jam

House said that they are also looking forward to the "Safety Plan" module (required for GAP, etc. certification) expected to be available in 3rd Quarter 2020.

As part of the MAERDAF sponsorship of this software, a limited number of farms will be offered a lifetime roughly sixty eight percent discounted price of \$19.75 monthly. Please contact Brandi Dillon on brandi@netglo.com or (410) 970-6738 for more information.

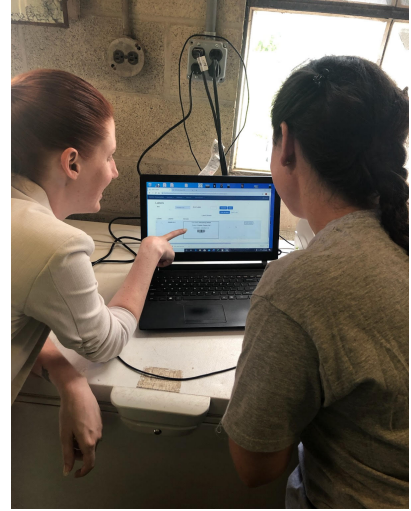


Photo:
NetGlo Employee Brandi Duffy training Katelin Brower of Whispering Breeze Farm on the NetGloFarmFITS tracking software.

Special Feature - Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference 2020

The Maryland Municipal League held its first virtual Summer Conference on June 29 - 30, 2020.

Due to COVID-19, MML decided to have the conference virtually instead of having it in its usual location in Ocean City, Maryland. The conference focused on reimagining the future for Maryland's cities and towns.

For the conference program and details, please visit the website [here](#). Next year's Summer conference will be

held on June 27 - 30, 2021 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland. The

Winter Maryland Association of Counties conference is currently scheduled to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland on December 9-11, 2020. Also, save the date for next year's [Tawes Crab and Clam Bake](#) that will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, 12 pm - 4 pm in Crisfield, Maryland.



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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