Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
RMC Annual Meeting
December 2, 2020 12pm- 1pm
Location: Zoom Teleconference

Agenda

Participants: RMC Executive Committee Members and RMC Staff

A. Welcome and Agenda Overview — John Hartline, Chair

B. Rural Impact Awards
- Erroll Mattox, Rural Community Volunteer
- The Greater Cumberland Committee, Outstanding Rural Economic Development
- Dave Wheelan, Outstanding Rural Community Development
- Senator Stephen Hershey, Jr., Rural Champion
- Senator Douglas Peters, Rural Champion

C. Nominating Committee — Chris Benzing, Chair
1) 2020/2021 RMC Executive Board and Officers

D. Executive Director's Report — Charlotte Davis
1) Rural Maryland Day, *February 11th (all day)*
2) Legislative Committee, *January 1st@2pm*
3) Summit Planning, *January 7th@1pm*
4) Annual Report
   - Click on link to access the annual report-FY2020-RMC-Annual-Report.pdf (maryland.gov)
5) Calendar
6) RMC Milestones

E. New Business

F. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Friday, January 29, 2021, 12 pm – 2pm Location: TBD

Outstanding Rural Volunteer

Mr. Erroll Mattox

For leadership, dedication, and noteworthy volunteer achievement beyond the call of one's professional duties to help improve their community.

Outstanding Rural Economic Development

The Greater Cumberland Committee

For leadership, dedication, and noteworthy achievement to help improve economic development opportunities in rural communities.

Outstanding Rural Community Development

Mr. Dave Wheelan

For leadership, dedication, and noteworthy achievement to help improve rural communities.

Rural Champion

The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.

For outstanding leadership and public service in promoting legislation and policy solutions to benefit rural communities.

Rural Champion

The Honorable Douglas J. J. Peters

For outstanding leadership and public service in promoting legislation and policy solutions to benefit rural communities.

RMC Officers and Executive Board - 2020/2021				11/12/2020		
Position						
	Name	Member Organization	RMC Bylaws/Statutes	Term Expires		Replacing
Chair	John Hartline	Tri-County Council for SMD	Statute	2021	South	
1st VC	Greg Padgham	Tri-County Council for LES	Statute	2021	East	
2nd VC/Nom	Chris Benzing	MRDC	District 7: AA, Balt, Ho, Mont and PG Co	2021	Center	
Jt Plan/Dev	Mike Thielke	E Shore Entrepreneurship Cntr	Nonprofits	2021	East	
Legis	Lindsay Thompson	MD Grain Producers	Bylaw	2021	East	
Ag Com	Matt Teffeau	Choptank Electric Cooperative	ByLaw	2021	East	
RMPIF Chair	Susan O'Neill	Upper Shore Regional Council	Statute	2021	East	
	Dr. Heidi Anderson	UMES	ByLaws	2021	East	
RMF	Dan Rider	Rural Maryland Foundation	Bylaw	2021	East	
Immediate Past Chair	Scott Warner	MidShore Regional Council	Statute	2021	East	
	Leslie Hart	Wash Co Econ Dev	District 1 - Garr, All and Wash Co	2021	West	
	Elizabeth Chung	Asian American Center of Frederick	District 2 - Carroll, Fred and Harf Co	2021	West	
	Chris Kaselemis	St. Mary's Co Office of Econ Dev	District 3 - Char, Calvert and SM Co	2020	South	
	Sam Shoge	Kent County Chamber of Commerce	District 4 - Cecil, Kent and QA Co	2021	East	
	Debbie Bowden	Caroline County Economic Development	District 5 - Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester	2021	East	
	Matt Holloway	Quantico Creek Sod Farm and Baywater Farms	District 6 - Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset	2021	East	
	Renee Sheehy	Delmarva Power	Forprofits	2021	East	
	Bill Valentine	retired, Allegany Co Commissioner	At-Large	2021	West	
	Ryan Snow	Dir, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs	Governor Designee		Center	New Acting Dir IGA
	Cassie Shirk	Legislative Liaison, MDA	MDA Designee		Center	
	Elizabeth Carver	Dep Dir, Commerce	Commerce Designee		Center	
	Cindy Stone	Dir, CDBG, DHCD	DHCD Designee		Center	
	Bunky Luffman	Special Asst to Sec, DNR	DNR Designee		Center	
	Sara Seitz	Dir, Office of Rural Health	MDH Designee		Center	
	James Hanson	UMD Extension	Statute		Center	
	Leanne Mazer	TCC for WMD	Statute		West	
	Craig Hartsock	Western MD RC&D	Statute		West	
	John Kinnard	MML	Statute	2022	West	
	Jaime Windon	MML	Statute	2022	East	
	Jack Wilson	MACO	Statute	2021	East	
	Wilbur Levengood	MACO	Statute	2021	East	
	John Venditta	MD Assn of Pubic Library Admin	ByLaws	2021	East	Sharan Marshall retired
	Santo Grande	MD Assn of Community Action Agencies	ByLaws	2021	East	
	Patricia Bucci	MD Farm Bureau	ByLaws	2021	East	
	Beth Hill	MD Forest Assn	ByLaws	2021	East	
	Steve McHenry	Special Appointment	ByLaws	2021	Center	
	Denise Lovelady	USDA Rural Development	Statute/Bylaws allows up to 3 fed reps	2021	East	
	Del Sheree Sample-Hughes	MD House of Delegates	Statute		East	
	Del Brian Crosby	MD House of Delegates	Statute		South	
	Del Mike McKay	MD House of Delegates	Statute		West	
	Sen Douglas Peters	MD Senate	Statute		South	
	Sen Katie Fry Hester	MD Senate	Statute		West	
	Sen George Edwards	MD Senate	Statute		East	
		House/Senate from Harford Co	Statute		North	Sen Jason Gallion
	NOMINATING COMMITTEE:	Chris Benzing, Greg Padgham, Josh Hastings, Scott Warner, John Hartline, Charlotte Davis				

NOMINATING BOARD MEMBER BIOS

DEBORAH E. BOWDEN, Director of Caroline County Economic Development

Ms. Bowden holds a bachelor's degree in political science from University of Maryland University College. She was appointed as Director of Economic Development in April 2018. Prior to joining the County, Ms. Bowden worked as a regional representative with the Maryland Department of Commerce after serving as the freight and economic policy analyst for the Maryland Department of Transportation. Her time in public service follows nearly 20 years in the private sector owning and operating small businesses. Ms. Bowden sits on the boards of the non-profit Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Adkins Arboretum, the Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of the Caroline County Farm Bureau, Maryland Economic Development Association, and Denton Rotary.

Debbie's transition to the public sector followed 20 years in the private sector. Her business career began with her first job at a weekly newspaper and continued as she ran the operations of a regulatory consulting firm. She took what she learned from mentors and teachers to start several side hustles – the latest being a residential organizing service.

Debbie's educational career spanned decades. She received an Associate's degree in Journalism after graduating high school. Then she joined the "school of experience," learning from mentors and advisers, taking every professional development course she could, and practicing the time-honored tradition of trying-failing-trying again and succeeding. She returned to an academic path a few years ago and earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Debbie is a Delmarva native. She is a staunch advocate for the Eastern Shore as a whole, and Caroline County in particular. She strives to do her part for prosperity and economic viability for the place she calls home.

MATT HOLLOWAY, Owner & Operator of Quantico Creek Sod Farm and Baywater Farms

Matt Holloway is a fifth-generation farmer in Wicomico County. He owns and operates multiple businesses including a sod farm and a hydroponic lettuce operation. He was elected to the Wicomico County Council in 2000 and served eight years, two as its President. He was appointed the Ag Representative to the State of Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. He served six years as the Wicomico County representative on the Critical Areas Commission.

Mr. Holloway is currently the Wicomico County representative on the Board of Directors of Choptank Electric Cooperative. He and his wife Kate live in Salisbury with their three dogs.

SAM SHOGE, Executive Director of the Kent County Chamber of Commerce

Samuel Shoge currently serves as Executive Director of the Kent County Chamber of Commerce, a

position he has held since the Spring of 2020. In addition, Shoge is the principal and founder of Shore Studios, LLC, a drone photography and videography company he started in 2017.

Sam began his tenure with the Kent County Chamber during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and immediately pivoted the chamber to crisis communications. Shoge coordinated weekly conference calls with Kent County's business leaders and representatives from local government agencies managing the community's response to the coronavirus outbreak. Over several months, hundreds of callers dialed in to get updates on the spread of COVID-19 locally and learn about valuable business resources. In addition to overseeing a crisis communications campaign, Sam managed the modernization of chambers operations and procedures. A new member management software was onboarded, a new website created, and new marketing and communication platforms were added.

Prior to joining the Kent County Chamber of Commerce, Sam was the economic development coordinator for the Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism. In this position, Sam helped oversee the launch of a new brand for the department, the creation of a new website and marketing collateral, a 65% leasing of a 224,000 square foot former manufacturing facility that is now owned by the County, and the development of a 5-year strategic plan. In addition to the passionately undertaking the duty of assisting small businesses and start-ups expand, Shoge played a role in the creation and designation of several business incentives including two Enterprise Zones, an Arts & Entertainment District, and Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE).

Before Talbot County, Sam was an assistant director of admissions at Washington College in Chestertown, MD. This position had Sam traveling throughout the Greater DC Metropolitan Area and the Southeast to recruit graduating high school students. In addition, Sam served as government relations coordinator for Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling and actively led legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of the association. While working at Washington College, Sam was elected to a 4-year term on the Chestertown Town Council where he represented Chestertown's largest and most diverse ward.

With a passion for community service, Sam has served in various roles on public and non-profit boards and committees. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the University of Maryland Shore Regional Health and Chesapeake College Foundation. Furthermore, Sam Shoge served on the Chestertown Planning Commission, co-founded the Kent County Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals, was on the board of Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, and served as a volunteer firefighter.

Sam is a graduate of Elon University and holds a B.A. in environmental studies. He is from Kent County, MD and resides in Chestertown with his wife and daughter.

Upcoming Meetings for Calendar Year 2021*

* Meeting dates are tentative. Leadership reserves the option to change or add meetings as needed to address issues that come up during the course of business

Executive Board – 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Friday, January 29	Annapolis, Maryland (Sponsored by
Friday, April 9	Annapolis, Maryland (Sponsored by
Friday, September 24	Western Maryland, Location TBD
Wednesday, December 1	Annual Dinner, Location TBD

Executive Committee – 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Friday, January 15	Harry Browne's, Annapolis
Friday, March 26	Harry Browne's, Annapolis
Friday, September 10	Location, TBD
Wednesday, November 10	Location, TBD

Rural Summit – All day event

Thursday, December 2

Legislative Committee – 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Monday, January 11 Conference Call

General Assembly Convenes – January 13

Welcome Breakfast for Rural Legislators, Friday, January 15, 7:30am – 9am – Maryland Inn, Annapolis

Wednesday, January 20 Budget introduction

10th Day of Session – January 22 – Senate and House Bill Request Guarantee Date

Monday, January 25 Conference Call

Monday, February 8 Conference Call

27th Day of Session – February 8 – Senate Bill Introduction Date

Rural Maryland Day, Thursday, February 11, 9:00am – 1:00pm– Maryland General Assembly

31st Day of Session – February 12 – House Bill Introduction Date

Monday, February 22 Conference Call

Monday, March 8 Conference Call

55th Day of Session – March 8 – Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules

63rd Day of Session – March 16 – Committee Reporting Courtesy Date

Monday, March 22 Conference Call

69th Day of Session – March 22 – Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date

Monday, April 5 Conference Call

83rd Day of Session – April 5 – Budget bill to be passed by both chambers

Sine Die – April 12 – 2020 Legislative Session Ends

Monday, April 19 Conference Call – Session Review

Rural Maryland Council
2021 Calendar

MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board

Thursday, March 25	Review board to meet prior to MAERDAF/RMPIF application announcement, 1pm- 2pm, Conference Call
FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Proposal Phase One Application Available – Monday, April 26	
FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Phase One Proposal Due – Friday, May 21	
Monday, May 24	FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Applications available for Board review
June 15, 16 or 17	FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board Meets to Consider Phase One Applications
FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Proposal Phase Two Applicants Notified – Monday, June 21	
FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Phase Two Proposal Due – Friday, July 16	
Monday, July 19	FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Applications available for Board review
August 10, 11 or 12	FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board Meets to Consider Phase Two Applications
Monday, August 23	FY22 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grantees Announced

Joint Planning and Development Committee- 10:00am to 12:00pm

Thursday, March 18	Conference Call
Thursday, September 2	Conference Call

Rural Summit Planning Committee-1:00pm to 3:00pm

Thursday, January 7	Conference Call
Thursday, March 11	Conference Call
Thursday, May 27	Conference Call
Thursday, October 21	Conference Call

Rural Maryland Foundation – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Thursday, March 4	Conference Call
Thursday, June 3	Conference Call
Thursday, October 7	Conference Call
Thursday, December 16	Conference Call

Other dates of interest:

Western Maryland Positive Attitudes Change Everything (PACE) Conference – CANCELLED
Taste of the Eastern Shore – CANCELLED
Taste of Southern Maryland – CANCELLED
Maryland Municipal League Convention – June 27-June 30, 2021
J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake – July 21, 2021
Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference – August 18-21, 2021
Maryland State Fair – August 26 through September 6, 2021
Maryland Farm Bureau Convention – December 2021

Rural Maryland Council Milestones 1994 - 2020

1994

- Governor William Donald Schaefer signs an Executive Order establishing the "Maryland Rural Development Council" (under the auspices of President George H. W. Bush's Presidential Initiative on Rural America). Maryland becomes the 36th State to establish a State Rural Development Council under the emerging National Rural Development Partnership Program.
- Organizational meetings are held in Easton, Cumberland, and later in Solomons.
- Mr. Bill Walker is selected to serve as the Council's first executive director.

1995

- The Maryland General Assembly's Rural Caucus introduces legislation permanently establishing the Maryland Rural Development Council as an independent State agency, and renames it the "FORVM for Rural Maryland".
- The FORVM conducts the "Ears to Rural Maryland Tour" by making visits and holding town meeting-type sessions in a half-dozen regions located throughout rural Maryland.

1996

- A report on the findings of the "Ears to Rural Maryland Tour" is published which highlights many needs facing rural Maryland.
- The first annual meeting of the FORVM is held in Annapolis. An initial slate of officers are elected and the first full Executive Board (Board of Directors) is confirmed.
- A Rural Non-Profit Leadership Training Series is conducted in three rural counties in Maryland.

1997

- Bill Walker resigns as Executive Director and the nationwide recruitment effort to hire a new Executive Director begins.
- In addition to promoting job creation in rural areas, value-added agricultural development, broadband communications deployment, and microenterprise development emerge as key issues.

1998

- Mr. Stephen R. McHenry is appointed as the FORVM's new Executive Director.
- The FORVM hosts the "Shining the Lights on Rural Maryland" conference in Hagerstown.
- The "Harvesting the Sun - Solar for Farms" pilot project begins in partnership with the Maryland Energy Administration.
- The First Annual Maryland Rural Summit is held at Rocky Gap, in partnership with the State Office of Rural Health and the Maryland Rural Health Association. The Annual Rural Awards also begin.

1999

- The "Stand Up for Rural Maryland" Day is held in Annapolis during the Maryland General Assembly Session. The Senate and House of Delegates pass resolutions citing the FORVM's contributions to improving the quality of life in rural Maryland.
- A statewide microenterprise development conference (sponsored by the FORVM and others) is held at Chesapeake College. As an outcome, the FORVM is asked to facilitate the development of a statewide microenterprise development program serving both urban and rural areas.
- Legislation passes authorizing the new Cigarette Restitution Fund to fund rural healthcare services and the Southern Maryland tobacco buyout program (among other things).

2000

- Legislation initiated by the FORVM's Agriculture and Natural Resources Working Committee passes establishing the Task Force on Resource Based Industry.
- The FORVM, with the leadership of the Rural Caucus, successfully initiates the creation of the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), which is established to provide financial assistance to rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses.
- Legislation supported by the FORVM passes that doubles State financial support for rural regional libraries located in Southern and Western Maryland as well as on the Eastern Shore.
- The Microenterprise Council of Maryland is established. FORVM Executive Director Steve McHenry is elected to serve as the Council's first Chairman.
- The FORVM's Infrastructure Working Committee examines small community wastewater needs and works with the Governor's Task Force on Upgrading Sewerage Treatment Systems.

- The FORVM supports with the work of the Eastern Shore Economic Development Task Force and assists with its regional development and outreach efforts.
- LEAD Maryland (Maryland's new agricultural and rural leadership development program) "graduates" its first class of fellows. FORVM staff participates in the program and serve on the LEAD Curriculum Committee. (FORVM staff also serves on several state/national advisory panels.)

2001

- Legislation supported by the FORVM passes establishing the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore and the Mid Shore Regional Council.
- The FORVM, working in concert with MML, is successful in inserting small community wastewater needs into the final report of the Governor's Task Force to Study Upgrading Sewage Systems.
- The FORVM's Housing and Community Development Working Committee works with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and others to amend new State regulations that prohibit the use of federal housing and other funds in less populated rural areas.
- The FORVM receives a National Rural Impact Award from the NRDP (USDA) for its work.

2002

- Legislation initiated by the FORVM and sponsored by the Rural Caucus passes to provide $1 million to pay for small community wastewater system and utility rate studies.
- The Lower and Mid-Shore Rural Regional Councils become fully operational.
- Legislation supported by the FORVM passes to establish the Task Force on Resource Industry Business Development.

2003

- Legislation is passed changing the name the FORVM for Rural Maryland to the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) and enlarging the Board to provide even more State agency participation.
- Legislation supported by the FORVM passes establishing a Task Force on Rural Broadband Communications Deployment as well as the Upper Shore Regional Council.
- The RMC moves its offices from Baltimore City to a more accessible facility located in Annapolis (with the Maryland Department of Agriculture).
- The RMC begins work on the 2020 Rural Prosperity Investment Plan; a long-term strategy to promote economic prosperity in Maryland's traditionally underserved rural communities and industries. In addition, the Rural Progress Index (RPI) is developed to provide an overview of health and

prosperity in Maryland's six distinct rural and semi-rural regions (covering 18 rural counties).

- The MAERDAF Program hits the $1 million mark in total grants awarded (some 26 rural serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges have been beneficiaries).

2004

- Legislation initiated by the RMC passes establishing the Maryland Agricultural and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) to promote the viability of Maryland's agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, and seafood industries through enhanced economic development assistance opportunities. Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. signs the bill into law on May 26, 2004.
- The RMC hosts cooperative developments seminars in conjunction with the Rural Regional Planning and Development Councils.
- The RMC Executive Director is selected to chair the Interagency Technical Assistance Committee on Wastewater Systems in Maryland (MDE). RMC staff also serves on three subcommittees.
- Work on rural broadband deployment, health care and agricultural/RBI development continues.
- The 7th Annual Maryland Rural Summit is held on November 4-5 in Solomons.
- The RMC celebrates 10 years of service to Maryland's rural communities.

2005

- The Maryland Agricultural and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) Board of Directors is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Maryland Senate. The RMC agrees to provide interim staffing support to MARBIDCO and secures a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from USDA to initiate MARBIDCO programmatic planning. Legislation is also enacted to authorize MARBIDCO to receive up to $5 million annually.
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation provides a sizable grant to the RMC to initiate the Strengthening Rural Maryland Families Direct Services Program.
- The RMC hosts a series of rural prescription drug forums in light of major changes in Federal Medicare Program.
- The RMC assists with the advance preparations for the Governor's Agricultural Forum to be held in early 2006.
- The 8th Annual Maryland Rural Summit is held in October in Garrett County.
- Work on rural broadband deployment, health care and agricultural/RBI development continues.

2006

- Legislation is enacted (the Agricultural Stewardship Act of 2006/House Bill 2) that will provide seed funding of about $50 million in Fiscal Years 2008 - 2020

to the Maryland Agricultural and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) to promote the viability of Maryland's agricultural, forestry, and seafood industries and help sustain Maryland's rural working landscape. The Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program was also authorized in House Bill 2. The RMC had been providing staff support to MARBIDCO since its establishment by the General Assembly in 2004.

- Legislation establishing the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (Senate Bill 902/House Bill 1487) is enacted.
- Legislation is enacted (Senate Bill 753) that establishes the Rural Maryland Broadband Coordination Board and provides $10 million over three years to support the construction of a cooperative-based fiber-optic broadband "backbone" in rural areas of the State.
- The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), which the RMC administers with the help of an interagency board, is funded again in the State Budget after a one-year hiatus. MAERDAF receives a record number of grant proposals, of which 25 are funded.
- The Interagency Technical Assistance Committee on Wastewater Systems in Maryland, chaired by the RMC Executive Director, issues its final report.
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation provides for a second year a sizable grant to the RMC to continue the Strengthening Rural Maryland Families Direct Services Program.
- The RMC, for a second year, hosts a series of rural prescription drug forums.
- The RMC assists with the preparations for the second annual Local Officials' Agricultural and Land Use Workshop as well as the inaugural meeting of the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture.
- The 9th Annual Maryland Rural Summit is held on October 25-27 at Sandy Cove in Cecil County.

2007

- MARBIDCO becomes a free-standing organization with its own staff and offices. The RMC's long-time executive director resigns to head up MARBIDCO. The RMC Board appoints David M. Jenkins, former director of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, as RMC's third executive director.
- The RMC Board completes a strategic direction process and updates its strategic plan to reflect a switch in focus from agriculture (which MARBIDCO is now addressing) to improving access to affordable and quality health care in rural communities.
- The RMC's Health Care Working Committee testifies before several legislative committees on the results of its statewide pharmacy forums, held over the previous two year, and to emphasize the health care workforce shortage as it relates to rural pharmacists.
- Two RMC Board members sit on the steering committee which developed the Rural Maryland Health Plan, which DHMH released in June 2007.

- RMC enters into a partnership with the Department of Aging to aid in its three-year grant to implement the Evidence Based Prevention Program.
- The RMC provides staff support for the Rural Broadband Coordination Board which was established during the 2006 General Assembly Session and held its first organizational meeting late in 2006. Nearly $4 million is distributed to entities constructing a high speed network on the Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland.
- The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund awards $252,000 in grants to rural-serving nonprofits. MAERDAF has awarded $1.9 million since 2001.
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation continues funding the Strengthening Rural Maryland Families Direct Service Grant Program for a third year.
- The tenth annual Maryland Rural Summit is held on Solomons Island.

2008

- In October 2008, the RMC sponsored a Rural Health Roundtable with sponsorships from 11 other agencies and organizations to develop recommendations and an action plan to help improve the recruitment and retention of rural health providers as a means of increasing access to primary and specialty care for Maryland's rural citizens. A major recommendation to come out of the Roundtable was to develop a statewide telehealth consortium so that both those receiving and delivering telehealth services could better coordinate their efforts and use technology more efficiently and more widely to increase access to care in rural areas.
- Council cohosts a Rural Roundtable: Overcoming Barriers to Family Economic Success on December 11-12, 2008 in Frederick, Maryland in partnership with the Maryland CASH Campaign.
- During FY 2008, the MAERDAF Grants Review Board received 29 applications requesting $764,073; however, due to limited funding, only $288,739 in grants were awarded to 18 rural-serving nonprofit organizations.

2009

- In February 2009, the RMC hosted a follow-up Telehealth Roundtable to discuss the feasibility of creating a statewide telehealth consortium.
- RMC partners with the Maryland CASH Campaign, the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center, and the State Office of Rural Health in October 2009 to host a Statewide Rural Roundtable -- a one day event where nearly 150 rural leaders from around the state met in Annapolis to discuss the issues most important to rural areas and to find new ways to collaborate.
- In partnership with the Maryland CASH Campaign to offer an improved Rural Maryland Families Direct Service Grant Program. Under the program, funded by the Casey Foundation, the Council selected seven rural-serving nonprofit

organizations to work with low-income rural families to develop individualized savings and financial plans.

- During FY 2009, the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund received 26 grant applications requesting $666,129 in funding. The Board selected 16 rural serving nonprofit organizations to receive the $264,150 in available funding.
- The Rural Maryland Broadband Coordination Board during FY 2009 approved more than $3.4 million in federal funds and $604,000 in state funds for rural broadband buildout.
- Vanessa Orlando hired as RMC Executive Director.

2010

- The Rural Maryland Broadband Coordination Board meets to approve the distribution of $1.5 million in state funds to the Maryland Broadband Cooperative.
- The RMC developed RuralStat, which went online in January 2010. RuralStat is an interactive web-based tool that tracks the general health of rural counties and regions in Maryland. Developed in partnership with the GeoDASH Initiative at Salisbury University, RuralStat allows a user to see how any rural county or region is doing in specific quality-of-life areas (such as poverty, unemployment, etc.) compared to the state, the region, or any other county or region in the state.
- During FY 2010, the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Assistance Development Assistance Fund program has a total grant pool of $142,000. The RMC, which is statutorily responsible for administering the program, received 25 applications, requesting $463,184.
- The Council administers the Strengthening the Well-Being of Rural Maryland Families program. During FY 2010, six rural-serving nonprofit organizations were selected to receive nearly $91,000 in grants for program-related expenses.

2011

- During FY2011, the MAERDAF Grants Review Board received 28 grant applications requesting $491,422 in funding. The Board selected 15 rural serving nonprofit organizations to receive the $130,000 in available funding.
- Passage of HB 173 – Business and Economic Development – Invest Maryland Program which included $250,000 for RMC operations.

2012

- During the summer of 2012, the RMC Executive Board hired Mr. Jim Youngquist with the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) to conduct a strategic assessment of the organization and conduct a nationwide executive director search.

- Charlotte Davis hired as Executive Director in November 2012.

2013

- For Fiscal Year 2013, the RMC received a line item appropriation of $167,000 through the State's Operating Budget. The Council reported $170,970 in carried over funding received in Fiscal Year 2012 through the Invest Maryland Initiative. Additional operating funding of approximately $25,000 was received in horse racing revenues. Total Fiscal Year appropriations were $383,182.14 with expenses totaling $246,825.48.
- The State Office of Rural Health (SORH), Rural Maryland Council (RMC), and Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) jointly hosted a webinar on May 21, 2013 on an upcoming Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rural Health Care Connect Fund. A presentation was made by Mark Walker of Wireline Competition Bureau of the FCC.
- Cohosted with the Maryland Rural Health Association and the State Office of Rural Health, the Rural Action Assembly is held on October 17 and 18, 2013 at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen, Harford County.

2014

- Council conducts online surveys of 6-12th grade students in Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties.
- Rural Maryland Foundation films "Rural Aspirations" video.
- RMC presents a new logo, URL and website, www.rural.maryland.gov
- Passage of SB137/HB1024 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund –
- Revisions and Extension of Termination Date during the 2014 General Assembly Session. This legislation extends the fund's authorization from 2020 to 2030, increases the capacity of the five regional councils and expands programming to include health care.

2015

- Council hosts Rural Maryland Day on February 19, 2015.
- During Fiscal Year 2015, a total of 54 rural-serving organizations submitted applications requesting more than $1,000,000 in grants. This year, however, only $170,000 was available; this was distributed to 17 rural serving nonprofits.
- The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) and the Upper Shore Regional Council (USRC) partner together on a pilot youth engagement was envisioned to provide the tools and framework necessary for our communities to engage young people and keep them rooted in our rural areas.
- Council hosted Rural Summit on December 3, 2015 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis.

2016

- Council hosts Rural Maryland Day on February 11, 2016.
- We were successful in our efforts to attain funding for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) for the first time! On March 29, 2016, the Maryland Legislature passed the Fiscal Year 2017 State Operating Budget, which included funds, for the first time since its creation in 2006, to support RMPIF, a key step forward in addressing disparities in the State's rural areas.
- Supported the successful passage of Program Open Space-Transfer Tax Repayment-Use of Funds (HB462). For the first time since its inception, the program will realize full funding and in Fiscal Year 2018 will be allocated $5 million for implementation of the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program.
- Hosted RMC Executive Board retreat in April 2016 to discuss strategic planning.
- During FY 2016, the MAERDAF Grants Review Board received 57 grant applications requesting a total of $866,450.75 in funding. The Board selected 16 rural-serving nonprofit organizations to receive $166,968.00 in available funding.
- Rural Maryland Foundation hosts Farmland screenings in Easton, Denton, Cockeysville, Mt. Airy and Thurmont.
- RMC Health Care Committee releases report encouraging all Primary physicians include an evaluation for depression in their private office visits; review and revise roles of school nurses and counselors to assist in detecting signs of depression for possible medical attention and develop certifications programs in mental health to further enhance qualifications and offset the recognized physician shortage in addressing, treating or referring adolescents suffering from depression.

2017

- Council adopts Strategic Plan with updated vision and goals.
- Council hosts Rural Maryland Day on February 9, 2017.
- Council cohosts a Regional Forum on Rural Broadband in partnership with USDA Rural Development on May 24, 2017 in Annapolis.
- RMC Executive Director named chair of state-wide Task Force on Rural Broadband, Internet, Wireless and Cellular Service.
- Council hosts Rural Summit "Bridging the Divide: Strengthening Rural and Urban Communities" on December 1, 2017.

2018

- In Fiscal Year 2018, the Council receives 119 grant applications.
- Council hosts Rural Maryland Day on February 8, 2018.
- 2018 Maryland Rural Health Plan released highlighting six areas of need and outlining several policy, system-based, and individual recommendations.

- Council hosts two regional Community Reinvestment Act and Broadband roundtables in Hughesville and Allegany College in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Baltimore Branch.
- Council hosts Small Business Lending Forum in Hagerstown in partnership with USDA Rural Development.
- Council hosts national Partners for Rural America annual meeting in Annapolis.

2019

- Council hosts Rural Maryland Day on February 14, 2019.
- For Fiscal Year 2019, the Council receives 163 grant applications requesting $10,520,515 in funding requests: the Council awards 79 grants totaling $5,980,343.
- The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund awards 42 grants for a total of $1,093,930 in disbursements.
- Council submits a Managing For Results Report that highlights the RMPIF investments having enhanced life in rural MD through:
    - 657 new full time jobs.
    - 18,755 individuals served.
    - 5,406 hours of instruction.
    - $1,147,389 in capital investment.
    - Services to 124,099 rural Marylanders.
    - Leveraged $5,891,531 in nonstate funds.
- Foundation films follow-up video "We are Rural Maryland".
- RMC receives USDA state rural development council recognition.
- Council successfully hosts the biennial Rural Summit on December 12, 2019 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis.

2020

- Council hosts Rural Maryland Day on February 4, 2020.
- Council reaches 25th year of operations.
- New Rural Outlook demographic dashboard launched.
- The Council receives and reviews 179 grant applications totaling $14,679,005 in funding requests.
- In FY2021, the Council under the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund distributes $4,808,170 to 34 entities.
- The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), which the RMC administers with the help of an interagency board, is funded again in the State Budget. MAERDAF receives a record number of grant proposals, of which 39 are funded for a total of $844,543.
- Council adopts updated Strategic Plan.

RMC Executive Director
Activity Report
September – November 2020

Daily: Zoom staff meetings @ 9:00am.

Legislative

- Hosted and participated in Zoom meetings with:
    - Sen Guy Guzzone (Chair of Senate Budget and Taxation Committee) on Oct 8 with John Hartline and Scott Warner
    - Sen Cory McCray (Chair, Public Safety, Transportation and Environment Subcommittee of Sen Budget and Tax) on Oct 14 with John Hartline and Elly Cowen with Preservation MD
    - Del Marc Korman (Chair, Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee, House APP com) on Oct 26 with John Hartline
    - Del Carol Krimm (Vice Chair Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee, House APP Com) on Oct 23 with John Hartline
    - Del Maggie McIntosh (Chair, House APP Committee) on October 27 with John Hartline, Scott Warner and Chris Benzing
- Attended Task Force on the Economic Future of Western MD on Tuesday Oct 27. The More Jobs for Marylanders Act (Commerce's manufacturing tax credit) expires in 2022 so will need to be reauthorized soon.
- Attended Spending Affordability Meeting on Oct 27
    - Attended Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Virtual Fiscal Briefing on Oct 8https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSvF6vo-LQs&feature=youtu.be&t=1093

MAERDAF/RMPIF

- FY2021 grants
    - Reviewed scopes of work and deliverables of FY2021 grant agreements. Grantees have received their grant agreements. Signed agreements are being returned to the office for disbursement of funds
    - Submitted regional council grant agreements for disbursement
    - Attended Upper Shore Regional Council/Polo Pallet discussion on Oct 19
    - Attended MFA sponsored Forestry Days in Grantsville on Oct 10 and 11
    - Participated in grant debrief w MidShore Pro Bono on Oct 7
    - Participated in call w Jennifer Merritt re Crisfield Arts and Entertainment District Volunteer MD Coordinator on Sept 29
    - Participated in grant debrief w Valerie Mann on Sept 16
    - Participated in ARC of Central MD webinar on workforce study recommendations on Sept 15
- Meetings with FY2022 potential applicants:
    - United State Bomb Technicians Association on Oct 29
    - True Chesapeake Oyster on Oct 23
    - Alliance for the Bay on Oct 1
    - Town of Rock Hall on Oct 5

Health Care Committee

- Participated in MHA meeting re the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant awarded by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Region I and Region 5

cover the state's rural areas. Part of their job is to build regional coalitions with a number of groups like local health departments, FQHC's, schools, EMS Councils, etc. Their overarching mission is to equip and prepare MD regions for disasters and emergencies. They conduct annual table-top exercises, collaborate with members on emergency preparedness plans, and promote emergency preparedness and response trainings throughout our respective regions. They are interested in presenting at the Rural Summit or speaking at a Board meeting.

- Drafted Chair's opening script for MRHA conference sponsor video

Joint Planning and Development Committee

- Drafted Executive Director Succession plan
- Updated personnel policy

Regional Councils

- Attended Mid-Shore Regional Council CEDS meeting on Oct 28. Gave funding updates on the Delmarva Community Services Intergenerational Center and the Eastern Shore Innovation Center
- Attended MSRC Board meeting on Oct 14
- Attended Upper Shore Regional Council mtg on Sept 16 in Chestertown. Del Mike Griffith asked about using grant funds for a regional dairy processing facility. Sent him MAERDAF-funded MDIA feasibility study.
- Attended Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore Full Council Meeting on Sept 23 in Fruitland

Rural Maryland Foundation

- Digital/TV ad campaign
    - Various meetings with Effectv on market, mosaics, ad production and analytics
    - Set up landing page for viewers
    - Purchased RuralMDStrong.org URL for landing page
- Drafted Development Plan for the Foundation
- Hosted and participated in development plan discussion on Oct 27
- Hosted and participated in Foundation meeting on Oct 8

RMC Admin

- Completed hiring freeze exemption request to offer Program Coordinator position to Dakota Matthews. Completed Intent to Fill package. Executed and submitted contract to MDA HR. Start date is November 11
- Executed task order with Salisbury ESRGC to update RMC service territory map
- Received MDA credit card. Set up online account.
- Submitted updated FY2022 MFRs on Oct 5

MDA

- Drafted and submitted FY2022 Operating Budget Request with 10% reduction for FY2022.
- Participated in Marketing, Animal Industries, and Consumer Services staff call on Sept 21

MARBIDO

- Reviewed Value Added grant applications. Participated in grant decision meeting on Oct 23

CDN

- Participated in various virtual events related to Community Development Week.
- Opportunity Zones, Ox Fiber Paint Brush Factory conversion in Frederick on Oct 1
- Broadband discussion on Oct 6
    - Spoke with Jeanne McCann with Waldron Strategies for quote for press release for CDN Broadband webinar on Oct 1
- Oct 8 – Annual Meeting and Awards luncheon. Nominated the Evergreen Heritage Center, a MAERDAF grantee, for a Creative COVID response award.

Keystone Development Center

- Attended board discussion of executive director compensation on Oct 2 and Oct 23

Partners for Open Space

- Attended Chesapeake Conservancy Equity in Health and Access to Green Space in Towns and Rural areas Work Session on Oct 22
- Participated in steering committee call on Sept 22 re DNR request
- Participated in conference call w DNR re potential legislation to allow POS funds for maintenance on Sept 11

Harry Hughes Center for AgroEcology

- Asked to participate on Research Advisory Committee; accepted
- Attended strategic planning mtg on Oct 29

Sustainable Growth Commission

- Attended Sustainable Growth Award Ceremony on Oct 5. Sudlersville Laundry, a FY2017 RMPIF awardee and nominated by the RMC, received an award.

PRA

- Attended Board meeting on Oct 5

Misc

- Attended Investing in Rural America Conference hosted by the Federal Reserve Richmond Branch. Keynote speaker was Scott Hamilton, formerly Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission, now Executive Director of the Golden Leaf Foundation in North Carolina: https://www.goldenleaf.org/ . Event can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSvF6vo-LQs&feature=youtu.be&t=1093
- Attended Grow and Fortify Value-Added Summit planning meeting on Sept 28th. The Event is scheduled for Thursday Dec 3 and will be virtual.
- Participated in call with Jane Thery with the MD Horse Council on Sept 14. She would like legislation to create a tax credit for small horse farm owners for manure composting. Referred her to MDA manure transport program and to MD Horse Industry Board. Spoke to Ross Peddicord with MHIB who will follow up.

RMC Program Administrator – Activity Log | 2020/2021

September

Meetings Attended

- Daily RMC 9:00 AM Staff Calls
- AT&T Policy Forum-9/1
- Western Maryland Task Force Meeting-9/23
- Maryland Environmental Trust Board Meeting, 9/14
- Executive Committee Meeting-9/10,9/22,9/23
- Executive Board Meeting-9/25

Grant Management

- Prepared Regional Council grant agreements and coding slips
- Grant Agreement Template preparation
- Grantee historical data & survey (w/ Dakota)
- FY20 Grantee Extension follow-up and final report processing
- Continued correspondence with FY21 Applicants regarding DBM notification delay
- Update FY21 materials to reflect disbursements

Administrative

- Final edits to Strategic Plan
- Tallied Rural Issues Survey data and created 1 pager for distribution
- Foundation Development planning with staff
- Access membership database input
- Coordination of MHRA sponsor video
- MD Rural Impact Awards guidelines and criteria updated
- Executive Committee & Board Meeting preparation
- Office organization project (ongoing)

October

Meetings Attended

- Daily RMC 9:00 AM Staff Calls
- Rural Maryland Foundation meeting, 10/8
- Maryland Environmental Trust, Land Committee meeting,10/21

Grant Management

- FY2022 MFR updates submitted
- FY21 Awardee approved/declined notification
- Developed scope of work and deliverables (review w/ CD); outreach to several grantees to clarify scope of work
- Generated 90% of grant agreements and sent to Grantees for review and signing; provided technical support as needed.
- FY21 applicant's follow-up teleconference calls: Valerie Mann; Mid Shore Pro Bono; Crisfield Arts & Entertainment.

- Outreach Updates to Grant Review Board to reflect disbursement and grantee scope of work change requests.
- Planning for FY22 Grant calendar

Administrative

- Executive Committee & Board Meeting preparation
- Annual Report formatting and layout (partial)
- Review of RMC Succession Plan, RMC Personnel Policy, and Foundation Development Plan
- Program Coordinator position planning with CD
- Office organization project (ongoing)

September 7, 2020 – September 11, 2020	• Attended MDA Staff meeting on 9/9. • Updated RMC Quarterly Newsletter. • Attended RMC Executive Committee Meeting on 9/10. • Sent out Executive Board meeting Eblast.
September 14, 2020 – September 18, 2020	• Updated RMC Quarterly Newsletter. • Updated upcoming events on RMC website.
September 21, 2020 – September 25, 2020	• Attended RMC Executive Committee meeting on 9/22 and on 9/23. • Attended RMC Executive Board meeting on 9/25. • Updated RMC Quarterly Newsletter. • Started cleaning out outdated RMC office files for shredding and office cleanup project.
September 27, 2020 – October 2, 2020	• Updated RMC Quarterly Newsletter. • Staffed the RMC outreach table at the Centreville Farmers Market.
October 5, 2020 – October 9, 2020	• Reached out to Legislators to schedule appointments with the RMC prior to the 2021 Legislative Session. • Attended RMF Foundation meeting on 10/8.
October 12, 2020 – October 16, 2020	• Updated RMC Quarterly Newsletter. • Attended MDA Staff meeting on 10/14. • Organized files for RMC office organization project.
October 19, 2020 – October 23, 2020	• Updated RMC Quarterly Newsletter. • Attended the MRHA Annual Conference on 10/20. • Set up landing page on Rural Maryland Foundation website.

October 26, 2020 – November 3, 2020	• Sent out RMC Quarterly Newsletter. • Sent out Maryland Rural Impact Awards Eblast.