



RMC
Rural Maryland Council



Quarterly Newsletter



Photo: (From left) Charlotte Davis, (Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council), Megan D'Arcy, (Program Administrator, Rural Maryland Council), Governor of Maryland Larry Hogan, Amanda Clevenger, (Administrative Assistant, Rural Maryland Council) and in the back right corner Claudia Wilson Randall, (Executive Director, Community Development Network) at the Maryland Association of Counties Conference in Ocean City, Maryland on August 20, 2021. Photo credit: Office of the Governor.

Message from the Chair

Greetings!

Fall is upon us and the Rural Maryland Council has remained quite busy. On July 1, 2021, Governor Larry Hogan announced that the state would be going to Level 1 - Normal Operations in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. State buildings reopened to the public and more employees were allowed to come back into the office. We were happy to be able to hold some of our events in person again. For more information on the state's current level of response to the coronavirus pandemic, please visit the Department of Budget and Management website [here](#).

In September, we hosted our Fall Quarterly Executive Board meeting virtually on Friday, September 24, 2021. Secretary Kelly Schulz from the Maryland Department of Commerce was our guest speaker. Highlights of the meeting were when Secretary Schulz shared an update on Maryland's recovering economy and how it was affected by COVID-19. RMC Committee updates were also shared. View a recording of the meeting [here](#).



Photo: (From left) Scott Warner (Executive Director, Mid-Shore Regional Council), Daniel Rider (Stewardship Manager, Maryland Department of Natural Resources), Lindsay Thompson (Executive Director, Maryland Grain Producers), Governor of Maryland Larry Hogan, John Hartline (Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland), Charlotte Davis (Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council), Steve McHenry (Executive Director, Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Development Corporation), Matthew Teffeau (Government Affairs Manager, Choptank Electric Cooperative), and Gregory Padgham (Executive Director, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore) at the 2021 Tawes Crab and Clam Bake on October 13, 2021. Photo Credit: Office of the Governor

The 44th Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake was postponed this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. This event is usually held in July and is described as an all-you-can-eat seafood affair featuring lots of politicians. The annual celebration is named in honor of Crisfield native, J. Millard Tawes, the 54th Governor of the State of Maryland. This year, we were proud sponsors of the event along with the Somerset County Economic Development Commission, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore, and the Maryland Broadband Cooperative.

Stay safe and well! As always, we strive to continue to improve the quality of life for our rural Maryland communities.

Sincerely,

John Hartline
Chair

Message from the Executive Director

Events

[RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting](#)

11/02/2021

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

[RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

11/3/2021

12 pm - 2 pm

[RMC Executive Committee Meeting](#)



Photo: The Rural Maryland Council staff Amanda Clevenger (RMC Administrative Assistant) and Dakota Matthews (RMC Program Coordinator) at the RMC outreach table at the In the Streets Festival in Frederick, Maryland on September 11, 2021.

The Rural Maryland Council recently concluded its 2021 Outreach Event season. Outreach Events give us the opportunity to let residents in Maryland know what our mission is and what services we offer to the state. We are always looking for volunteers to help with tabling at these events. If you are interested in volunteering next year, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

Our Maryland Rural Impact Awards for 2021 will be held at our annual meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis. The awards ceremony is an opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations that have performed extraordinary acts of service to communities throughout rural Maryland. We encourage you to submit your nominations.

Our award categories are:

- Rural Community Volunteer
- Rural Champion
- Outstanding Rural Economic Development
- Outstanding Rural Community Development

View the award criteria and guidelines [here](#). The deadline to submit a nomination is Friday, November 5, 2021. Submissions can be made to rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as COVID 19 is still present in our lives. At the bottom of this newsletter is a list of rural-focused COVID-19 links and resources for you and your business.

If the Council or I can ever be of any assistance, please contact me at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov or (410) 841-5774.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

11/10/2021

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[RMC Annual Meeting](#)

12/1/2021

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

[2021 Rural Summit](#)

["Redefining Resilience and Recovery"](#)

12/1-2, 2021

All Day

[Rural Maryland Foundation Meeting](#)

12/16/2021

10 am - 12 pm



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 10 am - 12 pm via zoom.

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 on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 12 pm - 2 pm via zoom to discuss the upcoming 2022 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

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

[TCCSMD's Skillup Southern Maryland Provides Free Courses To Job Seekers And Businesses](#)

August 4, 2021

[Open House for Harford Community College's Leading Edge Training Center](#)

August 25, 2021

[Free Courses Available to Job Seekers, businesses](#)

September 1, 2021

[Around the Community](#)

September 2, 2021

[ARPA Explained: A Recap of MACo's 2021 Fall Symposium - Conduit Street](#)

October 1, 2021

[TidalHealth receives asthma control grant](#)

October 5, 2021

[TGCC receives grant to create marketing plan for local timber](#)

October 7, 2021

[Local non-profit looks to expand reach to support youth, continues to push forward despite challenges](#)

October 18, 2021

Community Links

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

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [MPCA Conference](#) - Maryland Planning Commissioners Association - October 25th - 27th, 2021

Awards and Grants

- [Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants](#) - Maryland Department of Natural Resources- Applications due on November 15, 2021
- [Rural Energy for America Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications due by January 31, 2022
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications due on February 28, 2022

Programs & More

Rural Maryland Foundation



Rural Maryland Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation will meet on Thursday, December 16, 2021, 10 am - 12 pm via zoom.

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation or to become a member, please visit the website at ruralmdfoundation.org.

- [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#) - Maryland Department of Agriculture
- [Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Assistance Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Increase Access to Childcare Services Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture

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

COVID-19 Resources

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

- [COVID-19 Resources Useful for Rural People and Communities](#) - The Aspen Institute
 - [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
 - [Opioid Treatment Program Guidance for Patients Quarantined at Home with the Coronavirus](#) - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
 - [Mental Health during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) - Maryland Health Connection
 - [COVID-19 Health Crisis: Financial Relief Guide for Marylanders](#) - Maryland Department of Labor
 - [Maryland COVID -19 Crisis Support Program](#) - Maryland Department of Health
-

MAERDAF Spotlight - Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Recipients Announced



The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant recipients were announced for Fiscal Year 2022. MAERDAF provides capacity-building grants to rural serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges that promote statewide and regional planning, health care, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. This year a total of 30 grants were awarded to the program totaling \$910,788. We look forward to seeing the results of this year's awarded projects. View more about the grants awarded [here](#).

Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
**AGRICULTURE LAW
EDUCATION INITIATIVE**
MPOWERING THE STATE

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) will hold its seventh annual Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference (AELC) virtually Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., and Thursday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. - noon. This unique event brings together stakeholders from Maryland's agriculture, conservation, and legal fields to focus on the network of environmental laws affecting the state's agricultural businesses. Registration for the event is \$35; students can attend for free. This year's conference will feature six panels with experts discussing state and federal agricultural and environmental issues. Continuing nutrient management education credits will be available to attendees. For a detailed schedule and to register, visit go.umd.edu/umlawconfreg21.

Special Feature - 2021 Rural Summit "Redefining Resilience and Recovery"

Our Rural Summit "Redefining Resilience and Recovery" will be held on Wednesday, December 1, and Thursday, December 2, 2021, at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. This two-day conference will cover topics on Agriculture, Aquaculture, Forestry, Community Development, Economic Development, and Health Care. Other sessions include hearing from our State Legislators.



Our featured Keynote Speaker will be Whitney Kimball Coe, Director of National Programs at the Center for Rural Strategies. In that role, she leads the Rural Assembly, a nationwide movement striving to build better policy and more opportunities for rural communities across the country. As an organizer, speaker, moderator, and writer, Whitney has shared her perspectives on community and civic courage with audiences around the world. She has been featured on stage at the Aspen Ideas Festival and the inaugural Obama Foundation Summit, and as a guest on the radio program On Being with Krista Tippett. She writes a regular column for her local newspaper, the Daily Post Athenian, and has participated in Citizen University's Civic Saturday Fellowship program. She holds an M.A. in Appalachian studies from Appalachian State University and an undergraduate degree in religion and philosophy from Queens

University. She lives in her hometown of Athens, Tennessee with her husband Matt, and daughters, Lucy and Susannah. Website Link: <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/our-people/whitney-kimball-coe/>.

The cost to attend is \$60 per attendee. If attendees would only like to attend one day of the summit, the cost is \$40 per attendee. Meals are included. We currently need volunteers to help with registration and facilitating sessions on the day of the event. If you are interested in helping with the Summit, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

To view the draft agenda and to register to attend, please visit our website [here](#).

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 nondiscriminatory manner.

Rural Maryland Council | 410-841-5772 | rmc.mda@maryland.gov | <http://www.rural.maryland.gov/>
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Copyright © 2021. All Rights Reserved.