



**Rural Maryland Council (RMC)  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, May 31, 2023  
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Zoom Teleconference**

**Agenda**

**Participants:** RMC Executive Committee Members and RMC Staff

- A. Welcome and Agenda Overview (pg. 1) Susan O’Neill, Chair
- B. Meeting Minutes
  - 1) RMC Executive Committee Meeting, March 24, 2023 (pgs. 2-3)
  - 2) RMC Executive Board Meeting, March 31, 2023 (pgs. 4-6)
- C. Board and Committee Reports
  - 1) Financial Charlotte Davis
    - a) FY2023 Budget Closeout (pgs. 7-8)
  - 2) Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Scott Warner, Chair
    - b) FY2024 MAERDAF/RMPIF Update
  - 3) Executive Director’s Report Charlotte Davis
    - a) Staff Activity Reports
    - b) RMC FY2024 Work Plan (pgs. 9-23)
- D. New Business
  - 1) Grant Writer RFP
  - 2) Broadband Forum
- E. Adjourn

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, September 8, 2023, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
Location: TBD**



## Rural Maryland Council Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, March 17, 2023

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chair Susan O'Neil, Chris Benzing, John Hartline, Greg Padgham, Mike Thielke, Lindsay Thompson, Dan Rider, Roseanna Vogt, Dr. Heidi Anderson, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy

Chair Susan O'Neill welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 12:05pm. Chair O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the January 27, 2023, meeting minutes. **Mike Thielke made the motion to approve the January 27, 2023 meeting minutes, Chris Benzing seconded the motion. The January 27, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.**

Charlotte Davis provided the FY2023 budget report stating that most of the funds have been expended in grants awards and that there are two outstanding grant awards to be processed. Ms. Davis stated that there have been challenges with getting grant awards out this year due to changes in the fiscal process that are now requiring W-9 forms. Ms. Davis reported that the majority of the RMC operating dollars have been expended and she asked that the Committee reconvene in May to discuss the end of the year close out. **Chris Benzing made the motion to accept the FY2023 budget report, Dr. Heidi Anderson seconded the motion. The FY2023 budget report was unanimously accepted.**

Charlotte Davis provided an update on FY2024 budget, stating that that RMC is in the budget for \$9,046,194. Ms. Davis thanked Governor Moore for his support and said that the budget is on track to pass by April 4. RMC Staff will send letters to the Governor and Committee Chairs thanking them for their support. Ms. Davis provided a review of how the new budget system worked.

Charlotte Davis stated that the RMPIF Committee will be meeting next week on March 21, 2023, to begin discussions on the FY2024 grant cycle that includes review of the FY2024 grant guidelines and criteria, the grant dates, and improvements to the process. Ms. Davis stated that the Grant Review Board will be meeting on March 30, 2023, to discuss the same items and set meeting dates for the FY2024 grant discussion and decision-making process. Ms. Davis stated that letters were sent to Secretaries to reconfirm their representative on the Grant Review Board. The Committee discussed the importance of being proactive in requesting changes to the Grant Review Board members and it was decided to pursue these changes for FY2025 due to the recent changes in the Administration.

Legislative Committee Co-chair Chris Benzing provided an update on the Committee's work during the 2023 session. The Committee discussed the status of the Council's two bills that include HB 695: Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund – Revisions and Sunset Repeal (Rural Communities Improvement Act of 2023) and HB596/SB51: Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023. Charlotte Davis invited Committee Members to attend Maryland Day that will take place on Friday, March 24, 2023 at Lawyer's Mall in downtown Annapolis.

Charlotte Davis provided the Rural Maryland Foundation report and stated that the Board met on March 10, 2023, and they are looking to establish a 1 year Rural Research Grant Program with the cost of \$100,000. Ms. Davis reviewed the targeted and open topic areas. Targeted topic areas include Transfer of Wealth; Analysis of Food Distribution and Production; Impact of Solar Development on Farmland; Economic Development in Rural Maryland; and Volunteerism in Rural Maryland. The open topic areas include rural education and engagement through remote learning; opioid and other addictions; health care in rural Maryland; and rural public transportation issues. The Committee discussed the value of this work and how it will help identify topics that can help guide both RMPIF priorities and the Foundation's Transfer of Wealth work.

Charlotte Davis provided an update on the Health Committee stating that the Non-Emergency Medical

Transportation Roundtable Report is in process of being finalized and will be presented to the Executive Board on March 31, 2023. The Committee will reconvene on May 24, 2023.

Charlotte Davis reported that the Agriculture Committee plans to convene a group after session and agenda items will include updating members on GICA and the directions of the Department of Agriculture under new leadership. John Hartline asked to join the Agriculture Committee and staff will add him to the Committee.

Joint Planning and Development Committee Chair Mike Thielke reported on the APG membership campaign stating that RMC received 32 new members. The campaign entailed 4 activities that included a targeted video, Facebook advertisement, a reveal add, and a targeted email. The Committee discussed focusing a future campaign on those individuals that are more actively engaged in helping to work with the Council. Committee Chair Thielke reported on the rural issues survey and stated that the Council Committee's were tasked to submit questions they would like to be considered for the survey. Ms. Davis stated that the questions will be sent to the IGSR team the week of March 20, 2023.

The Committee discussed the changes to the By Laws and it was decided to add this to the upcoming Executive Board meeting that will be held on March 31, 2023. The changes include 1) adding membership to the nominating committee so it will read 'Nominating and Membership Committee' to expand its function and 2) to move the Health Committee from a Standing Committee to an Ad Hoc Committee section. The Executive Committee discussed the roles of Committees and how some focus on governance and others on topics. Staff sent out the By Laws following the meeting with the Board materials in order to conform with the 10-day notification.

Charlotte Davis provided the Executive Director's report stating that the Program Coordinator position was filled by Molli Cole and that her first day will be March 30, 2024. Ms. Davis further stated that Ezekiel Nosiri will be returning this summer as an intern. Ms. Davis stated that the Council hosted a successful EV Symposium in February that was attended by 55 people and included remarks from Paul Pinsky, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration and Diane Turchetta, Senior Advisor with the U.S. Department of Transportation as the keynote speaker. Ms. Davis stated that staff are focusing on legislative work, the upcoming grant cycle, and planning the Broadband Symposium for June 21, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.



## RMC Quarterly Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: March 31, 2023, 12 pm – 2pm

Location: Banneker Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

**Participants:** Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Molli Cole, Amanda Clevenger, Don Mulrine, Dan Schneckeburger, Leslie Hart, Matt Holloway, Holly Porter, Greg Padgham, John Hartline, Matthew Scales, Annette Williams, Roseanna Vogt, Melissa Kelly, Zack Tyndall, Elizabeth Hulett, Bill Valentine, Steve Pennington, Lori Ratzburg, Sara Seitz, Dawson Hunter, Terry Fearins, Janet Brittingham, Ruth Toomey, Matthew Tefteau, Lisa Challenger, Julie Woepke, Elizabeth Chung, Bill Reid, Alice Settle-Raskin, Kimberly Kratovil, Jessica Cook, Alyssa Hastings, Nancy Fields, Chris Abell, Claudia Cunningham, Patricia Eleazer, Kevin Anderson

Participants were asked to get their lunch and find their seats before the program began. Once participants were seated, Chair Susan O’Neill welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 12:25pm. Chair O’Neill welcomed LeRonn Herbert, Administrative Manager for the Banneker Douglass Museum to the podium to share remarks about the venue. Chair O’Neill introduced the guest speaker – Secretary of Commerce Kevin Anderson to address the audience.

Chair Susan O’Neill asked the participants to review the January 27, 2023, Executive Board meeting minutes, and asked for a motion to approve the January 27, 2023 meeting minutes. **Dr. Heidi Anderson made the motion to accept the meeting minutes, Mr. Matt Tefteau seconded the motion. The January 27, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.**

Charlotte Davis provided the FY2023 budget report stating that the majority of the funds have been distributed. Ms. Davis asked the Board to delegate the authority for the end of the year close out to the Executive Committee who will meet in May as the Board does not meet again until September. **Ms. Elizabeth Chung made the motion to accept the FY2023 budget report, Dr. Heidi Anderson seconded the motion. The FY2023 budget report was unanimously accepted.** Chair O’Neill asked for a motion for the Executive Board to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to make the FY2023 end of the year decisions. **Mr. Dawson Hunter made the motion for the Executive Board to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to make end of the year FY2023 budget decisions, Mr. Bill Valentine seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Charlotte Davis asked everyone to thank Governor Moore and the presiding officers for fully funding RMC in FY2024. Ms. Davis shared that an additional \$300,000 was given to the RMC in the FY2024 budget and Ms. Davis believes the intended use of these funds is to go towards the Council’s Health and Human Services Transportation Program. Ms. Davis asked for guidance from the Board on what to do with these funds and suggested that they go to RMPHF – Health Care and carve out a special section for non-emergency transportation. **Mr. John Hartline made the motion to put the money towards non-emergency transportation, Mr. Matt Tefteau seconded the motion. The motion to utilize the \$300,000 towards non-emergency transportation was unanimously approved.**

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that the Council is currently preparing for the FY2024 grant cycle and referred to the updated FY2024 guidelines and criteria that were in the meeting packet. Ms. Davis reviewed the breakdown of funds with the Board and asked for a motion to support the distribution of funds that were nominally changed for administrative purposes. **Mr. John Hartline made the motion to accept the**

**nominally changed breakdown of funds, Mr. Matt Tefteau seconded the motion. The motion to accept the FY2024 fund breakdown was unanimously approved.** Ms. Davis shared the grant cycle dates and upcoming information sessions, and reviewed updates to the FY2024 grant guidelines and criteria. She informed the Board that RMC has a bill (HB695) in session this year and it's intention is to include workforce development and cooperative development in RMPIF under the Entrepreneurship focus area. Ms. Davis asked the Board to accept the FY2024 guidelines and criteria. **Mr. John Hartline made the motion to accept the FY2024 guidelines and criteria, Ms. Sara Seitz seconded the motion. The FY2024 guidelines and criteria were unanimously accepted.**

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided the Legislative Committee report. Ms. Davis thanked everyone who participated in Maryland Day, which was held on Friday, March 24, 2023, and stated 225 lunches were distributed to legislators and their staff. Ms. Davis provided an update on the two RMC bills (HB 695: Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund – Revisions and Sunset Repeal (Rural Communities Improvement Act of 2023) and HB596/SB51: Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023) and additional rural related bills as well as a successful supplemental request for broadband.

Agriculture Committee Chair Matt Tefteau reported that the Committee plans to convene after session and agenda items will include updating members on GICA and the directions of the Department of Agriculture under new leadership.

Health Committee Chair Sara Seitz reported that the Committee is working on developing on their goals and values that are the following: advocacy and connection of partners to build awareness of health needs in rural Maryland; development of a robust health care workforce across the state; rural populations' access to health care through innovative and appropriate models of care; and, understanding of the interconnectedness of rural Maryland's health with all aspects of Maryland. Values include inclusion, equity, social drivers of health, advocacy, and innovation. Ms. Seitz shared that the Committee will be meeting virtually quarterly on the fourth Wednesday of the month and the next meeting is May 24, 2023, at 10:00am.

Charlotte Davis provided the Joint Planning and Development Committee report. Ms. Davis stated that the Council recently completed a membership campaign that generated 32 new members. The campaign entailed 4 activities that included a targeted video, Facebook advertisement, a reveal add, and a targeted email. Ms. Davis stated that the Council is currently developing the 2023 rural issues survey and hired the University of Maryland Institute for Governmental Service and Research (IGSR) to develop a more robust survey. Ms. Davis asked Board Members to write questions they might have for the survey on post-it notes. The questions were collected on an easel pad and questions were given to the IGSR team. The survey will be open from June through August.

Ms. Charlotte Davis report on the Rural Maryland Foundation stating that the Board is looking to establish a one year Rural Research Grant Program and topics will include Transfer of Wealth; Analysis of Food Distribution and Production; Impact of Solar Development on Farmland; Economic Development in Rural Maryland; and Volunteerism in Rural Maryland.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided the Executive Director's Report. Ms. Davis welcomed the new RMC Program Coordinator Molli Cole. Ms. Davis stated that the Council hosted a successful EV Symposium in February that was attended by 55 people and included remarks from Paul Pinsky, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration and Diane Turchetta, Senior Advisor with the U.S. Department of Transportation as the keynote speaker. Ms. Davis stated that staff are focusing on legislative work, the upcoming grant cycle, planning the Broadband Symposium for June 21, 2023 and, planning the Rural Summit.

The Board discussed the changes to the By Laws that included 1) adding membership to the nominating committee so it will read 'Nominating and Membership Committee' to expand its function and 2) to move the

Health Committee from a Standing Committee to an Ad Hoc Committee section. **Mr. Dawson Hunter made the motion to expand the function of the Nominating Committee to include Membership, Ms. Elizabeth Chung seconded the motion. The motion to add membership functions to the Nominating Committee so it will read Nominating and Membership Committee was unanimously approved. Mr. John Hartline made the motion to move the Healthcare Committee from a Standing Committee to an Ad Hoc Committee, Ms. Elizabeth Chung seconded the motion. The motion to move the Healthcare Committee from a Standing Committee to an Ad Hoc Committee was unanimously approved.**

Chair Susan O'Neill thanked everyone for attending the meeting. **Mr. Dawson Hunter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Sara Seitz seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:03pm.**

FY2023 BUDGET - Rural Maryland Council								
	Obj	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Budget
Fund PCA		9/24/2020	11/8/2021	9/6/2022	9/6/2022	5/24/2023	3/14/2023	9/6/2022
General Fund Revenues	38101	\$ 5,852,459.00	\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ 9,001,144.00	\$ 9,001,144.00	\$ 9,046,194.00	\$ 9,046,194.00	\$ 9,046,194.00
Special Fund Carry Over	38109							
Special Funds - Racing Revenue	38103							
RMPIF Breakdown								
RMC Operating		\$ 487,705.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
Regional Councils		\$ 1,950,820.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00
Infrastructure		\$ 975,410.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Entrepreneurship		\$ 975,410.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Health Care		\$ 975,410.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
MAERDAF		\$ 487,705.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 751,144.00	\$ 751,144.00	\$ 796,194.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
MAERDAF Line item	39101	\$ 158,650.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00
Rural Health and Human Services Transportation						\$ 300,000.00		
<b>TOTAL Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 6,011,109.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,118,485.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,119,629.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,119,629.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,464,679.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,164,679.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,164,679.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Fund PCA	Obj	9/8/2021	9/6/2022	3/23/2022	5/24/2023	5/24/2023	3/23/2022	9/6/2022
Salaries	0101	\$ 244,949.32	\$ 257,468.67	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 224,861.03	\$ 306,000.00	\$ 312,120.00	\$ 321,500.00
Social Security	0151	\$ 17,179.70	\$ 19,016.27	\$ 19,100.00	\$ 14,971.16	\$ 19,100.00	\$ 19,300.00	\$ 19,900.00
Health Insurance	0152	\$ 42,349.48	\$ 44,144.81	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 38,489.69	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,200.00	\$ 46,600.00
Retiree Health Insurance	0154	\$ 21,971.29	\$ 26,178.34	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 25,147.47	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,810.00
Employee Pension	0162	\$ 44,218.44	\$ 44,764.20	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 41,290.84	\$ 46,500.00	\$ 47,500.00	\$ 49,000.00
Unemployment	0174	\$ 103.86	\$ 721.27	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 547.94	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,300.00
Professional Development			\$ 4,600.00	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 765.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 370,772.09</b>	<b>\$ 396,893.56</b>	<b>\$ 440,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 346,073.13</b>	<b>\$ 451,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 459,870.00</b>	<b>\$ 476,110.00</b>
<b>Other Operations</b>				<b>\$420,589.13</b>				
Postage	0301	\$ 508.62	\$ 1,108.66	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 440.27	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Telephone (Desk Calls)	0302			\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Cellular	0306	\$ 1,267.64	\$ 931.54	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 362.74	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Grants Management Software		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 13,200.00		\$ 13,200.00	
Instate Routine Ops	0401	\$ 2,653.75	\$ 4,762.43	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,682.90	\$ 12,015.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
In State/Conf./Training (Board Meetings)	0402	\$ 1,330.53	\$ 4,802.18	\$ 15,450.00	\$ 9,990.77	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Motor Pool mileage	0706	\$ 254.10	\$ 1,320.55	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,453.90	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Out of State	0404		\$ 1,039.40	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,569.06	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Printing and Reproduction	0804	\$ 1,455.75	\$ 5,324.65	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 9,982.55	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Constant Contact/Zoom	0862	\$ 950.00						
Xerox	0838	\$ 62.55	\$ 528.02	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,052.68	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Office Supplies	0902	\$ 7,911.88	\$ 3,033.37	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,712.23	\$ 5,085.00	\$ 3,330.00	\$ 3,380.00
Audio/Visual	0903		\$ 13,700.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 11,750.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Subscriptions	1304	\$ 986.93	\$ 1,499.50	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,967.93	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Association Dues	1305	\$ 3,795.00	\$ 3,645.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 6,169.00	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 6,200.00
Insurance	0704	\$ 185.00						
Legislative Committee - Issue Forums outreach				\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,172.48	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Health Care Committee				\$ 30,000.00	\$ 3,594.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Board Development			\$ 1,222.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 14,777.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Marketing and Promotion		\$ 6,075.00	\$ 6,864.21	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 21,978.50	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,400.00	\$ 23,310.00
Grants, Contributions and Constituent Outreach		\$ 33,000.00		\$ 35,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
MAERDAF Grants								
RMPIF Grants								
Conf. Sponsorships (RRTs, MRHA)	0840	\$ 935.00	\$ 18,400.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,725.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Statewide event/Broadband Symposium		\$ 7,440.00	\$ 17,031.93	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 8,442.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
National conference - PRA				\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Mis. Contract Services (Rural Stat)	0899			\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,550.00	\$ 8,550.00
Board Retreat - Strategic Planning		\$ 790.80				\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Research - TOW/Think Tank			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Broadband Task Force survey								
<b>Total Other Operations</b>		<b>\$ 450,374.64</b>	<b>\$ 507,107.00</b>	<b>\$ 750,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 642,346.14</b>	<b>\$ 750,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 750,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 750,000.00</b>
<b>Total RMC Operating Available Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 37,330.36</b>	<b>\$ (7,107.00)</b>		<b>\$ 716,862.14</b>	<b>MDA projections</b>		
					<b>33,137.86</b>	<b>Available</b>		
<b>Grant Expenditures</b>								
Regional Councils		\$ 1,950,820.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00
Infrastructure		\$ 848,311.00	\$ 1,125,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,530,558.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Entrepreneurship		\$ 892,134.00	\$ 647,763.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,144,748.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Health Care		\$ 923,898.00	\$ 913,949.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,541,120.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
MAERDAF		\$ 669,015.00	\$ 792,788.00	\$ 751,144.00	\$ 1,025,768.00	\$ 796,194.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
MAERDAF Line item	39101	\$ 158,316.00	\$ 118,000.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00
Rural Health and Human Services Transportation						\$ 300,000.00		
<b>TOTAL Grant Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ 5,442,494.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,597,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,369,629.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,360,679.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,714,679.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,368,485.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,368,485.00</b>
<b>TOTAL RMC/GRANT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$ 5,892,868.64</b>	<b>\$ 6,104,607.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,119,629.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,003,025.14</b>	<b>\$ 9,464,679.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,118,485.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,118,485.00</b>
Returned MAERDAF FUNDS: \$17,918.82								
Outstanding FY2023 Delmarva Community Services \$8,950								
FY2023 End of Year Funding Requests Received								
Chesapeake Culinary Center		\$35,000						7

MPT (Funded already in FY2023)	\$35,000			
MAEF	\$10,000			
Middletown Town Hall	\$100,000			
Aaron's Place (budget overrun-already funded FY2	\$11,621.56			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$191,621.56</b>			
Outstanding RMC expenditures				
UM IGSR (can encumber)	\$50,000			
ESRGC (can encumber)	\$10,000			
Amanda Clevenger professional development				
RMC printer				
RMC shirts				
Chairs/furniture				
Rural Summit prepay				
PRA Annual Meeting sponsorship				



The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) brings together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of Rural Maryland communities. We provide a venue for members of agriculture and natural resource-based industries, health care facilities, educational institutions, economic and community development organizations, for-profit and nonprofit corporations, and government agencies to cross traditional boundaries, share information, and address in a more holistic way the special needs and opportunities in rural Maryland. Our vision is a future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy, connected communities.

## **Our Goals**

- Encourage healthy, connected communities throughout Rural Maryland
- Support the development and growth of vibrant economies
- Foster stewardship of Maryland’s natural resources
- Maximize Rural Maryland Council outreach, resources and mission

For the Fiscal Year 2024, the Rural Maryland Council proposes the work plan listed below.

## **Programs of the RMC**

### ***Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund***

Established in 2000, the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) offers important financial support to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education efforts. The Fund also provides targeted financial assistance to community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses through enhanced training and technical assistance offerings.

### ***Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund***

The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) provides targeted investment to promote economic prosperity in Maryland’s traditionally disadvantaged and underserved rural communities. By sustaining efforts to promote rural regional cooperation, facilitating entrepreneurial activities, and supporting key community colleges and nonprofit providers, the quality of life in rural Maryland can be advanced over the next several years. The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund supports the Rural Maryland Council’s activities and the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (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.

## **Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund -**

Administer and manage the FY 2024 MAERDAF grant program. The grant pool is: \$ \$914,679

<b>July 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and process FY2023 final reports</li> <li>• FY2024 Grant applications due</li> <li>• Review FY2024 Phase II applications</li> <li>• Start to draft FY2023 MAERDAF Annual Report (due 10/1)</li> </ul>
<b>August 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Review Board meets</li> <li>• Notify awardees and rejected applicants</li> <li>• Start to Develop grant agreements</li> <li>• Start to Draft FY2023 MAERDAF Annual Report                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Submit to statutorily required entities by 10/1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>September 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop grant agreement and distribute funds</li> <li>• Develop and distribute press releases on awards</li> <li>• Organize local recognition events at project sites</li> </ul>
<b>October 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAERDAF Annual Report due to DLS by October 1st</li> <li>• Legislative letters - notify elected officials in districts of grant awardees</li> <li>• Update Foundant with interim report template and post to grantees</li> </ul>
<b>February 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review interim grant reports</li> <li>• Conduct site visits when possible</li> <li>• Update FY2025 Guidelines and Criteria</li> </ul>
<b>March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene Grant Review Board prior to application announcement to review guidelines and criteria for FY2025</li> <li>• Finalize Grant application materials</li> <li>• Prepare Foundant for upcoming grant cycle</li> <li>• Plan information sessions</li> </ul>
<b>April 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update website with materials</li> <li>• Announce FY2025 funding availability</li> <li>• Make Phase One Grant application available</li> </ul>
<b>May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm Grant Review Board members</li> <li>• Host information sessions for potential applicants</li> <li>• Host webinar session for potential applicants</li> </ul>
<b>June 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare applications and due diligence for grant application review</li> <li>• Notify Grant Review Board of application review</li> <li>• Convene Grant Review Board meeting to consider phase one applications</li> <li>• Notify Phase One applicants of grant review board decisions</li> </ul>

## **Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) –**

Administer and manage the FY 2024 grant program. The grant pool is: \$7,800,000

<b><i>July 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and process FY2023 final reports</li> <li>• FY2024 Phase II Grant applications due</li> <li>• Review FY2024 Phase II applications</li> <li>• Start to draft FY2023 RMPIF Annual Report</li> </ul>
<b><i>August 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Review Board meets</li> <li>• Notify awardees and rejected applicants</li> <li>• Start to Develop grant agreements</li> </ul>
<b><i>September 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop grant agreement and distribute funds</li> <li>• Develop and distribute press releases on awards</li> <li>• Organize local recognition events at project sites</li> </ul>
<b><i>October 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative letters - notify elected officials in districts of grant awardees</li> <li>• Update Foundant with interim report template and post to grantees</li> <li>• Complete FY2023 RMPIF Annual Report</li> </ul>
<b><i>February 2024</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review interim grant reports</li> <li>• Conduct site visits when possible</li> <li>• Update FY2025 Guidelines and Criteria</li> </ul>
<b><i>March 2024</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene Grant Review Board prior to application announcement to review guidelines and criteria for FY2025</li> <li>• Finalize Grant application materials</li> <li>• Prepare Foundant for upcoming grant cycle</li> <li>• Plan information sessions Update guidelines and criteria</li> </ul>
<b><i>April 2024</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Final passage of FY2025 Operating Budget</i></li> <li>• Update website with materials</li> <li>• Send out notice of funding availability</li> <li>• Make Phase One Grant application available</li> </ul>
<b><i>May 2024</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm Grant Review Board members</li> <li>• Host information sessions for potential applicants</li> <li>• Host webinar session for potential applicants</li> </ul>
<b><i>June 2024</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare applications and due diligence for grant application review</li> <li>• Notify Grant Review Board applications are available for review</li> <li>• Notify Phase Two applicants on Grant Review Board Decisions</li> </ul>

## ***Community Engagement***

The Council’s mission is to convene federal, state, local elected and appointed officials as well as private stakeholders to identify the challenges in Rural Maryland. Working collaboratively across different sectors, the Council works on policy identification, development, and advocacy of the issues unique across all of Rural Maryland including Western Maryland, Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore. To accomplish this mission, the Council convenes the several working and ad hoc committees.

## ***Legislative Committee***

The Legislative Committee has been meeting regularly since its resurrection in 2014. The Committee meets several times during the interim in person to discuss legislative priorities, potential legislation and hear from speakers. During the Legislative Session, the Committee regularly meets via conference call to review introduced legislation and discuss legislative issues.

<b><i>June 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research policies and topics of interest {Dependent on Issues Survey}.</li> </ul>
<b><i>October 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Committee meets to discuss 2024 Legislative Priorities</li> </ul>
<b><i>November 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact legislators for potential sponsorship: draft legislation</li> <li>• Contact stakeholders for education and support</li> <li>• Meet with legislators regarding FY2025 budget request</li> </ul>
<b><i>December 2023/ January 2024</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft 2024 Legislative Priorities; send to members for review</li> <li>• Distribute 2024 Legislative Priorities to elected officials; post to website and social media</li> <li>• Draft legislative testimony and contact potential support letters/testimony</li> <li>• Identify sponsors for Welcome Breakfast for Legislators             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invite legislators to Welcome breakfast event</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><i>January 2024</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Committee to meet bi-weekly via conference call during the Legislative Session Represent Rural Maryland Council before the Maryland General Assembly</li> <li>• Attend Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland and Western Maryland Delegations and Rural Caucus meetings</li> <li>• Meet with legislators as necessary during the legislative session</li> <li>• Attend budget hearings and other legislative hearings</li> <li>• Attend various receptions and dinners</li> <li>• Begin organizing Legislative Committee Advocacy (Rural Maryland) Day             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Schedule appointments with legislators.</li> <li>○ Draft talking point and leave behind materials</li> <li>○ Invite guest speaker(s)</li> <li>○ Request proclamation from Governor’s office</li> <li>○ Make lunch arrangements for Advocacy Day participants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Welcome Breakfast for Rural Legislators</li> <li>• Prepare for and participate in weekly Legislative Committee conference calls</li> <li>• Assist organizing Ag and Rural Caucus</li> </ul>
<b>February 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize RMC members to meet in teams to meet with targeted legislators (each team meets with three to four legislators’ for event)</li> <li>• Host Advocacy Day for Rural Maryland by second week of February</li> <li>• Send thank you follow up email to participants and letters/emails to legislators that were participated in Rural Maryland Day.</li> <li>• Start planning for Maryland Day Event – secure location permit, caterers, request for sponsors.</li> <li>• Prepare for and participate in weekly Legislative Committee conference calls.</li> </ul>
<b>March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to prepare and host Maryland Day event on Lawyers Mall on <b>March 25, 2024</b> – set up registration link, invite legislators, develop outreach materials, coordinate logistics with sponsors.</li> <li>• Prepare for and participate in weekly Legislative Committee conference calls</li> </ul>
<b>May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft and distribute Legislative Wrap-Up</li> </ul>

## Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Committee

The RMPIF Committee identifies strategies and opportunities to support development of the RMC’s grant program. Created in 2006 but funded in 2017, RMPIF promotes efforts to improve the rural area’s quality of life through targeted investments in entrepreneurship, infrastructure, health care and regional economic development and planning efforts. Future constitutional changes in Maryland’s budget process become effective in the next gubernatorial administration. The committee will review the current RMPIF statute and make recommendations for changes and updates for potential legislation during the 2023 Maryland General Assemble Legislative Session if deemed necessary.

A concern identified in the RMC Strategic Plan, RMPIF is currently funded through General Funds. The RMC needs to identify a funding source and should make an effort to secure State Special Funds for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund. Additional legislation to be

included but may not be limited to the establishment of a non lapsing fund, create a workforce development fund, and remove the current sunset date.

<b>June 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee meets</li> </ul>
<b>August 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee makes recommendations for legislative changes</li> <li>• Begin discussions at MACo summer conference August 16-19, 2023</li> </ul>
<b>September 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Legislative and RMPIF Committee meeting</li> <li>• Draft Legislation presented to RMC Executive Committee and Executive Board for Review</li> <li>• Identify potential sponsors/meet with potential sponsors (Likely committee assignments: To Be Determined)                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ [List Candidates]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>October 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft request into Bill Drafting</li> <li>• Pitch and draft MAERDAF/RMPIF grant stories for earned media placement in local papers/radio</li> </ul>
<b>November 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft bill available</li> <li>• Draft potential op-eds/letters to the editor in support of Rural Prosperity to targeted outlets</li> </ul>
<b>January 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill introduced</li> </ul>

## Rural Broadband Planning and Technical Assistance

The Governor’s Office of Statewide Broadband can only utilize funding for unserved rural areas but many small municipalities across the state suffer from unreliable or slow internet services. The Council will continue to develop a rural broadband planning and technical assistance program for rural towns. The Council will host a Broadband Symposium with the purpose to update the status of rural broadband and highlight the significance of the Office of Rural Broadband.

<b>June 2023</b>	Broadband Symposium event
<b>July 2023</b>	Review event evaluations Broadband Symposium Planning meeting debrief and identification of next steps
<b>November/December 2023</b>	Host Broadband workgroup at Rural Summit

## Health Committee

The committee had been active in health work force shortage issues and began meeting in 2015 to investigate the role that allied health professionals could play in addressing the health care work force shortage in rural areas. The provision of adequate and affordable health care is vitally important to rural Marylanders. Moreover, the impact that health facilities and occupations have on rural economies is substantial but increasingly at risk of being lost in the new managed care environment. The Committee has not convened for four years since the 2017 report was issued and only recently reconvened in 2022. The purpose of the Committee is Identify priorities for the Committee and the Council in the area of health; invite presentations from speakers of interest to committee members where appropriate; and, reach a consensus on priorities and propose solutions; and, include an analysis of alternatives to current and proposed health care solution. The outcomes for the Committee are the following: Develop advocacy in the form of strategies, position papers, legislation and testimony both oral and written in partnership with the Legislative Committee; develop and implement convenings on rural health and develop recommendations and policy recommendations; and research and report on current health topics.

<b><i>August 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host quarterly meeting</li> <li>• Identify potential legislative solutions to rural health and human services transportation legislation</li> <li>• Participate on MD Health Care Commission meetings on telehealth</li> <li>• Participate on Interstate Telehealth workgroup meetings</li> </ul>
<b><i>September-December 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Human Services Coordinating Committee meets</li> <li>• Host quarterly meeting</li> <li>• Follow up on rural health and human services transportation legislation</li> <li>• Attend MRHA Annual Conference</li> </ul>
<b><i>January 2023</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate activities with Legislative Committee</li> <li>• Host quarterly meeting</li> <li>• Develop Committee goals and activities for FY2025</li> </ul>
<b><i>March/April 2024</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend MATRC conference</li> <li>• Host quarterly meeting</li> </ul>

## Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

Reconvene the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee as determined under the RMC Strategic Plan. The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee will work to improve the employment opportunities, income, and well being of Maryland’s rural residents by strengthening their capacity to compete in the global economy through sustainable development of natural resources. The purpose of the Committee is to Convene stakeholders to identify and encourage viable agriculture through small business development, entrepreneurship, diversification, and value added; develop strategies and

activities that incentivize agriculture production in the State; and encourage expansion and support of current agricultural education programming through all levels.

<b>June 2023- December 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop Committee goals and outcomes</li> <li>• Develop committee roster and recruit interested participants</li> <li>• Host meeting</li> </ul>
<b>January 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate activities with Legislative Committee</li> <li>• Host Committee meeting if necessary</li> </ul>
<b>May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host committee meeting if necessary</li> </ul>

## Youth Engagement Committee

The economic recovery of our State’s rural areas depends upon engaging young people to not only stem their flow from rural areas but also to invest in the future. **For decades, individuals ages 18 to 35 have left our rural communities.** The good news is that many would stay if there were viable career opportunities available. Most believe that their rural communities would be a great place to raise their own families; however, actions must be taken to ensure that young people have tangible opportunities to invest in their hometowns as places that offer both a great quality of life and economic opportunities.

The Committee will continue the Council’s work in survey our student representatives and exploring strategies to help attract and **retain young people in our rural communities.**

Goal #1: Continue the Council’s youth engagement by conducting additional phases of the Youth Engagement project in a new jurisdiction. Survey work has already been in Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Allegany Counties.

Goal #2: Research and identify potential youth engagement strategies including after school enrichment programs, youth entrepreneur programs and others

Goal #3: Develop report to the full RMC on activities with recommendations for future activities

<b>June - September 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite potential individuals to be members of the committee</li> <li>• Identify Committee leadership</li> <li>• Host organizing committee meeting</li> <li>• Review work plan, scope of work and goals</li> <li>• Review past projects in Upper Shore and Allegany County</li> <li>• Identify jurisdictions for a potential phase of the project</li> <li>• Invite identified potential jurisdictions to quarterly committee meeting</li> <li>• Start planning for Student Rural Maryland Day</li> </ul>
<b>October 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host committee meeting</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin preparations for phase 3 of youth engagement project</li> <li>• Review potential innovative strategies in youth attraction and retention; identify potential speakers</li> </ul>
<b>December 2023-February 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host committee meeting to review progress</li> <li>• Host guest speakers on innovative strategies</li> <li>• Plan</li> </ul>
<b>March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host committee meeting</li> </ul>

**Youth Engagement Project** - The Rural Maryland Council has conducted two stages of a project designed to provide the tools and framework necessary for our communities to engage young people and keep them rooted in our rural areas. The economic recovery of our State’s rural areas depends upon engaging young people to not only stem their flow from rural areas but also to invest in the future. For decades, individuals ages 18 to 35 have left our rural communities.

<b>January 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify potential partners for third phase of project</li> </ul>
<b>April 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch web-based survey.</li> <li>• Monitor participation.</li> <li>• Invite members of the community and survey participants to a regional town hall.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Send out press release;</li> <li>○ Update website;</li> <li>○ Post to social media</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct focus groups with local students.</li> <li>• Host webinar with RMC members to discuss survey and findings</li> <li>• Host regional town hall with survey participants, local elected officials, local champions and members of the community.</li> </ul>
<b>June 2024</b>	Distribute report to: Governor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lt. Gov</li> <li>• Secretary of Agriculture</li> <li>• Department of Budget and Management</li> <li>• Presiding Officers</li> </ul>
<b>June 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Planning and Development Committee discusses next phase of the project.</li> </ul>

Project activities include: conducting a web-based survey administered with the assistance of local schools, youth oriented focus groups in the school setting and town hall meetings with families and

school administrators. The survey explores students’ plans for the future with a special focus on perceptions about their home communities, business ownership and career interests. The findings of this survey provide encouragement for rural community leaders and developers to build upon the too often untapped potential and energy of young people. Our community leaders can then take immediate steps to cultivate the full potential of their youth population. Utilizing the information obtain from this project will help local leaders realize goals for youth engagement, retain and attract young adults and families to rural communities.

## **Rural Housing Committee**

The Rural Housing Committee was formed in December 2021 and its purpose is to examine the availability of quality affordable housing in rural Maryland. The Committee is charged with reviewing the Maryland Housing Needs Assessment and 1) identify specific rural challenges; 2) develop policies and strategize in order to incentivize the construction of affordable housing; and 3) identify best practices and case studies. Potential outcomes include a report on the housing assessment and recommendations to the Executive Committee and where appropriate, the Legislative Committee; and 3) host a symposium.

<b>July 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-host with CDN Regional Community Development Meetings</li> </ul>
<b>September 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host committee meeting</li> </ul>

## **Entrepreneurship Program**

An RMC goal is to help build prosperous communities through the development of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship development is a necessary component of economic development and is the most promising strategy for rural areas. Creating an entrepreneurial environment requires culture changes and adopting a “grown our own” mentality.

<b>Fall 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsor the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center’s F3 Tech program including the BioTechnology and CyberAg Symposiums</li> <li>• Distribute press releases and other marketing materials for F3 Tech</li> <li>• Attend TEDCO’s Entrepreneur Expo</li> </ul>
<b>Spring 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support entrepreneurship through TEDCO and Manufacturing Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) program</li> </ul>

**Rural conferences, issue forums, regional and local meetings** – Conducted in partnership with other organizations, convene stakeholders to consider the challenges in rural areas and craft policy solutions.

<b>Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Planning and Development Committee meets quarterly to make recommendations to the RMC Executive Committee and Executive Board</li> </ul>
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<b>Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional meetings to discuss the challenges to community development through specific regions as identified and coordinated by the Community Development Network (CDN).</li> <li>CDN will contract with local entities that wish to serve as organizing bodies.</li> <li>Attend and facilitate meetings when possible.</li> </ul>
<b>June 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning for Partners for Rural America conference</li> <li>Begin planning for Tawes Crab and Clam Bake</li> </ul>
<b>July 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Summit conference planning</li> </ul>
<b>August 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend MACo conference in Ocean City</li> </ul>
<b>September 2023-November 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Summit planning</li> <li>Host RMC members at Tawes Crab and Clam Bake in Crisfield, September 27, 2023</li> </ul>
<b>December 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RMC Annual Meeting and Rural impact Awards</li> <li>Host Rural Summit</li> </ul>
<b>January - February 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin hosting issue forums with Volunteer Maryland.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend meetings when possible.</li> <li>Distribute meeting details through email lists and social media.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Convene Jt Planning and Development Committee to discuss updating RMC strategic plan, committee structure and potential Board retreat</li> </ul>

**Information Distribution** - In order to promote the activities and accomplishments of the Council.

- Draft, produce and distribute materials such as reports and newsletters.
- Maintain and update Constant Contact database regularly with special attention to State and local elected officials; increase number of contacts.
  - Currently report over 6,590 active contacts.
  - Staff maintains social media accounts with Twitter and Facebook.
    - Currently report 2,130 (increase from 1,896) twitter followers and 1,300 followers and 357 followers on Facebook.

<b>August 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer/Fall newsletter</li> <li>Begin drafting the RMC FY2023 Annual Report</li> <li>Start to Draft FY2023 MAERDAF and RMPIF Annual Reports (MAERDAF Report to be submitted by 10/1 to DLS)</li> </ul>
<b>October 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to develop RMC FY2023 Annual Report</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit MAERDAF Annual Report, 10/1</li> </ul>
<b>November 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present FY2023 Annual Report to RMC Executive Committee and send to printers once approved.</li> </ul>
<b>December 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Board approves FY2023 Annual report and copies are distributed to statutorily required entities including the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of DBM, Presiding Officers, Budget Committee Chairs with cover letters by December 15, 2023.</li> <li>• Winter newsletter/ Session Preview</li> </ul>
<b>March 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring newsletter</li> </ul>
<b>June 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer newsletter/Session Wrap Up</li> </ul>

### **Coordinate RMC Executive Board Meeting and Working Committee Meetings**

- Executive Committee meetings (quarterly)
- Executive Board meetings (quarterly)
- Working committees:
  - Legislative
  - Planning and Development
  - Health Committee
  - RMPIF Committee
  - Nominating and Membership Committee
  - Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
  - Youth Engagement Committee

**Coordinate and Support the Rural Maryland Foundation** – the Forum for Rural Maryland Foundation Board of Trustees reconvened at the beginning of 2014. By the start of FY2015 the Foundation Board of Trustees had elected new leadership, adopted changes to the bylaws, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Rural Maryland Council and other organizational documents. The Board meets quarterly or as necessary.

<b>August – October 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and negotiation with vendor for technical assistance and economic analysis on potential think tank</li> <li>• Host foundation meeting</li> </ul>
<b>December 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Foundation Annual meeting</li> <li>• Formulate strategies with local partners to encourage charitable giving and estate planning</li> <li>• Outreach to local community foundations and local financial wealth managers regarding transfer of wealth study</li> </ul>

<b>January 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Assistance and Economic Analysis vendor identified</li> </ul>
<b>March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host foundation board meeting</li> </ul>
<b>May -July 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host foundation board meeting</li> <li>• Begin planning fundraising event</li> </ul>

## Research and Data collection

The Council relies on research and data to evaluate program effectiveness and efficiency. Previous RMC sponsored data projects included RuralStat, an interactive tool developed with GeoDASH at Salisbury University to track the general health of individual rural counties and regions in Maryland and the Maryland Broadband map. In September 2018, the RMC executed a memorandum of understanding with Salisbury University to develop Rural Outlook, an interactive dashboard that is designed to showcase key demographics for each of the State’s 18 designated rural communities as well as the six rural regions to communicate to policy and lawmakers on how rural regions in Maryland are doing individually both currently and overtime. In FY2023, the Council will work with Salisbury University on an interactive grantees mapping project that will highlight grant projects statewide since the Council’s inception.

A recommendation of the RMC Strategic Plan is to better analyze data collected through RMC grant reports. The Rural Maryland Foundation will release a Request for Proposals to identify a vendor partner to develop project framework, potential outcomes and other suggestions. Towson University’s (TU) Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) completed two analysis in the Spring 2022. The analysis looked at a Rural Maryland Profile to provide an overview of economic activity within Rural Maryland, and an economic and fiscal impact analysis based on the IMPLAN mRFPodel utilizing RMPIF and MAERDAF grant data over the past four fiscal years. RESI will continue to work with the Council in analyzing future grant data.

<b>July-August 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide FY2022 grant data to RESI</li> <li>• Review interactive grantee mapping project status with Salisbury University</li> </ul>
<b>September 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debut mapping project and associated press release and communications to highlight map.</li> </ul>

In Fiscal Year 2019, the Council developed a series of metrics for the Maryland Department of Budget and Management for inclusion in the State’s Operating Budget books. **Managing for Results** (MFR) is a strategic planning, performance measurement, and budgeting process that emphasizes use of resources to achieve measurable results, accountability, efficiency, and continuous improvement in State government programs. Each year the MRFs are reviewed and updated.

<b>July 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit draft MFRs to MDA and DBM</li> </ul>
<b>August 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit final MFRs with data to DBM</li> </ul>
<b>June 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review MFRs for FY2025</li> </ul>

**Outreach, Information Distribution and Surveys** – the RMC sponsors and attends several large outdoor gatherings throughout the year. Attendees are asked to respond to RMC’s issues survey. Surveys are collected and results are tallied. The Council is currently planning to meet with the Institute for Government Service and Research and may pursue a new style format for their survey for FY2024.

<b>July 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink Maryland, North Beach</li> <li>• Update membership survey of issues to consider                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distribute membership survey through eblast and newsletter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>August – October 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review membership survey results and distribute results to RMC Executive Board and Legislative Committee.</li> <li>• MACo convention, Ocean City</li> <li>• Baltimore Farmers Market, Baltimore</li> <li>• Maryland State Fair and local fairs</li> <li>• In the Streets, Frederick</li> <li>• Autumn Glory Festival, Oakland</li> </ul>
<b>June 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MML convention, Ocean City</li> <li>• Drink Maryland, Centreville</li> </ul>

**Representing the Rural Voice** – represent RMC on boards, commissions and task forces. RMC staff attends events, conferences and meetings around the state on a variety of issues.

- Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation – The RMC Executive Director is required by statute to sit on the MARBIDCO Board of Directors. The Board meets three to four times a year. MARBIDCO also hosts “MARBIDCO Mondays” once a quarter for service providers.
- Governor’s Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA) – RMC has representation serving on this commission. Coordinate with representative to disseminate information as necessary.
- Partners for Rural America (PRA) – PRA is a national nonprofit that advocates on behalf of the state rural development councils. The Executive Director serves on the Board of Directors and attends the annual conference.
- Other Organizations:
  - Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) – the RMC serves on the Board of Directors as a non-voting member
  - Maryland Chamber of Commerce. The RMC serves on the Energy and Environment subcommittee.
  - Community Development Network (CDN), a statewide community development organization.
  - Partners for Open Space – RMC Executive Director serves on the Steering Committee as Co-Chair

- Grow and Fortify – the RMC Executive Director serves on the Advisory Committee
- MTel – a statewide association for telemedicine practitioners
- Maryland Economic Development Association
- Maryland Horse Council
- Leadership Maryland – the RMC Executive Director is a member of Class '14
- LEAD Maryland – the RMC Executive Director is a Class IX Fellow and the Program Administrator is currently a class XII member
- Keystone Development Center – The RMC Executive Director serves on the Board of Directors as Chair. Its mission is to sustain communities, economies, and resources through cooperatively-owned businesses. Established as a nonprofit corporation in 1999 to provide technical and research assistance to group who wish to organize as cooperatives.
- Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organizations
- Maryland Philanthropy Network
- Maryland Heritage Areas and Authority Grant Review
- Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition
- Maryland Tourism Coalition