



**Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
Executive Committee Meeting
November 3, 2023 – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Location: 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 (pgs. 2-3)
 - 1) RMC Executive Committee Meeting August 28, 2023
- C. Board and Committee Reports
 - 1) Financial (pgs. 4-5)
 - a) FY2024 Budget
 - b) FY2025 Budget
 - 2) Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Scott Warner, Chair
 - 3) Legislative Committee (pgs. 6-10) Lindsay Thompson and Chris Benzing, Co-Chairs
 - a) 2024 Legislative Priorities
 - b) 2024 Legislative Session
 - c) Letter to Secretary for Coordinating Committee for Health and Human Services Transportation
 - 4) Rural Maryland Foundation Dan Rider, President
 - a) Transfer of Wealth Project Update
 - 5) Health Committee (pgs. 11-12) Sara Seitz, Chair
 - a) National Rural Health Day -November 14, 2023
 - b) Next Meeting Date – November 29, 2023
 - 6) Rural Housing Working Committee (pgs. 13-25)
 - a) Rural Housing Survey
 - b) Next Meeting Date-November 17, 2023
 - 7) Agriculture Committee (pgs. 26-27) Matthew Teffeau, Chair
 - a) Letter to Governor regarding GICA and Maryland Agriculture Commission Members
 - 8) Joint Planning and Development Committee (pgs. 28-34)
 - a) Strategic Planning
 - 9) Nominating and Membership Committee (pg. 35) Chris Benzing, Chair
 - 10) Executive Director’s Report (pgs. 36-66) Charlotte Davis
 - a) Staff Activity Reports
 - b) 2023 Rural Summit
- D. New Business (pgs. 67-68)
 - 1) Draft agenda for November 13, 2023, RMC Annual Meeting
 - 2) 2023 Rural Impact Awards
- E. Adjourn

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, January 12, 2024, 12 pm – 2 pm Location: TBD



Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Monday, August 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Charlotte Davis, Molli Cole, Amanda Clevenger, Chris Benzing, Heidi Anderson, Lindsay Thompson, Gregory Padgham, Susan O'Neill, John Hartline, Ezekiel Nosiri, Matthew Teffeau, Scott Warner, Daniel Rider, Mike Thielke

Executive Committee Chair Susan O'Neill welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 2:03pm. Chair O'Neill asked for a motion to accept the May 31, 2023, meeting minutes. Chris Benzing moved to approve the minutes, Heidi Anderson seconded the motion to accept the May 31, 2023, meeting minutes. The May 31, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Chair O'Neill asked members to review the March 31, 2023, Executive Board meeting minutes. Heidi Anderson moved to approve the minutes with the exception that her name be added to the attendee list, John Hartline seconded the motion to accept the March 31, 2023 meeting minutes. The March 31, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Charlotte Davis provided the updated financial report for FY2024, stating that RMC did not spend a whole lot of the funds, but the Council did receive a little bit under \$9.5 million dollars and that there was \$76,730.00 expended mainly for staff salary benefits. She also stated that the funds for the FY2024 grant recipients have not been distributed yet. Chris Benzing made a motion to approve the current FY2024 budget amount, Heidi Anderson seconded the motion. The motion to accept the current FY2024 budget amount was unanimously approved. The Committee discussed the FY2025 budget. Ms. Davis stated that the FY2025 budget letter request included \$300,000.00 for the Health and Human Services Transportation needed to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Agriculture by the end of August 2023. The Committee discussed meeting with Secretary Kevin Atticks to discuss Council's budget. Ms. Davis stated she would reach out to schedule a meeting with the Secretary for early October. Ms. Davis asked for a motion to approve the draft FY2025 budget request letter. Heidi Anderson moved the motion; Lindsay Thompson seconded the motion. The motion to submit the FY2025 budget request letter including the \$300,000.00 was unanimously approved.

Charlotte Davis reported that the grant review board met throughout the month of August to review FY2024 MAERDAF and RMPIF grant applications. 192 applications were received requesting 20.7 million dollars. Overall, 98 grants were awarded totaling 8.7 million dollars, including the regional councils. Ms. Davis stated that the grant awardees had not yet been notified and that the FY2024 grant awardee press release would be posted onto the RMC website on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at noon. RMC staff would start contacting grant awardees after the post of the press release. Mr. Chris Benzing made the motion to accept the Grant Review Board decisions on the FY2024 MAERDAF and RMPIF grant applications, Heidi Anderson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Grant Review Board decisions on the FY2024 MAERDAF and RMPIF grant applications was unanimously approved. Ms. Davis shared the FY2023 MFR statement that was sent to the Maryland Department of Budget and Management with the Committee. The Committee decided to announce that they met to review the MFR report and accepted the report to be released for information purposes.

Lindsay Thompson, RMC Legislative Committee Co-Chair reported that the RMC Legislative Committee plans to meet in the fall to review changes in the legislature since the last legislative session. Discussion on plans for 2024 Legislative Session events will be discussed at the RMC September Executive Board meeting.

Charlotte Davis reported that the Rural Maryland Foundation and the Transfer of Wealth Advisory Committee has been meeting to discuss the Transfer of Wealth study. She shared the draft Rural Innovation Fund document with the committee. Ms. Davis stated that the fund would help to keep wealth in rural areas. The Transfer of Wealth Advisory Committee and the Rural Maryland Foundation board will continue to meet regarding the Transfer of Wealth study. Ms. Davis reported that the Think Tank project received two Request for Proposals. She stated that the Foundation decided not to fund either one and that they decided to form an advisory group to discuss rural challenges. The RFP will be

reissued next year based on the findings of the group.

Charlotte Davis reported that the RMC Health Committee will meet on September 25, 2023, at 12 pm.

Matthew Teffeau, RMC Agriculture Committee Chair reported that a doodle poll was sent out to schedule the next committee meeting for early October. Follow up from the last Committee meeting will be discussed. Ms. Davis stated that Mike Thielke would be willing to present in front of the Committee at that meeting on what Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center is doing in regards to F3 Tech.

Charlotte Davis reported that the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee met to discuss the 2023 Rural Issues Survey planning and decided they were not happy with the questions that were provided by the University of Maryland Institute for Governmental Service and Research. The Committee decided to pause on the survey planning until next year and reach out to the University of Maryland Schafer Center in Baltimore to discuss survey planning in the meantime. Ms. Davis reported that the Committee is beginning to plan the next Strategic Plan and RMC staff will provide a proposal from Lacharla Figgs on creating a strategic plan at the next committee meeting on Thursday, August 31, 2023.

Charlotte Davis reported that the Rural Housing Working Committee recently conducted three regional meetings in Southern Maryland, Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore in partnership with the Community Development Network of Maryland. She stated that the engagement and attendance was good at all the meetings. The Committee's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

Chris Benzing, RMC Nominating Committee Chair reported that the Committee recently decided on recommendations to send to the Senate President and House Speaker to fill vacant Maryland General Assembly positions on the RMC Executive Board. Decisions will be made on the invitations to fill these positions at the next Committee meeting before the RMC Annual meeting.

Charlotte Davis provided the Executive Director's report and discussed the 2023 Rural Summit. She reported that the Rural Summit Planning Committee would meet on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, to review speaker proposals and to discuss the breakout sessions for the rural summit agenda. An Eblast would be sent out regarding summit sponsorships before September 2023 and RMC staff will draft a rack card invitation to send out to the RMC Constant Contact list. Ms. Davis shared RMC staff reports with the Committee and shared that staff have been working on reviewing FY2024 MAERDAF/RMPIF grant applications and moving the RMC office to the second floor of MDA.

Ms. Davis reported on new business. She shared the draft RMC Executive Board meeting agenda for September 22, 2023, with the Committee. The Committee decided to invite the Under Secretary of Agriculture, Roger Glendenning, to be a guest speaker at the meeting. Ms. Davis mentioned she would reach out to invite him to speak at the meeting. Ms. Davis stated that the 2023 Maryland Rural Impact Awards submission dates need to be moved up since the Summit is in November. The Committee decided to change the award submission due date to September 29th. A doodle pool will be sent out with the submissions for the Executive Committee members to choose awardees. Awardees will be notified during the month of October. Ms. Davis stated that the RMC is currently accepting ticket requests for Tawe's Crab and Clam Bake on September 27, 2023 and that RMC will provide bus transportation to and from Crisfield for the event.

Chair Susan O'Neill asked the committee for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Heidi Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm.

FY2023 BUDGET - Rural Maryland Council						
	<i>Obj</i>	<i>FY 2023 Actual</i>	<i>FY 2024 Budget</i>	<i>FY 2024 Actual</i>	<i>FY 2025 Budget</i>	<i>FY 2026 Budget</i>
Fund PCA		9/6/2022	5/24/2023	8/23/2023	3/14/2023	9/6/2022
General Fund Revenues	38101	\$ 9,001,144.00	\$ 9,046,194.00	\$ 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		\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
Regional Councils		\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00
Infrastructure		\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Entrepreneurship		\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Health Care		\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
MAERDAF		\$ 751,144.00	\$ 796,194.00	\$ 796,194.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
MAERDAF Line item	39101	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00
Rural Health and Human Services Transportation			\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00		
TOTAL Revenue		\$ 9,119,629.00	\$ 9,464,679.00	\$ 9,464,679.00	\$ 9,164,679.00	\$ 9,164,679.00
Expenses						
	<i>Obj</i>	<i>FY 2023 Actual</i>	<i>FY 2024 Budget</i>	<i>FY 2024 Actual</i>	<i>FY 2025 Budget</i>	<i>FY 2026 Budget</i>
<i>Fund PCA</i>	<i>Obj</i>	8/23/2023	5/24/2023	10/27/2023	3/23/2022	9/6/2022
Salaries	0101	\$ 276,685.02	\$ 306,000.00	\$ 104,918.49	\$ 312,120.00	\$ 321,500.00
Social Security	0151	\$ 18,381.90	\$ 19,100.00	\$ 7,083.85	\$ 19,300.00	\$ 19,900.00
Health Insurance	0152	\$ 46,932.60	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 13,594.49	\$ 45,200.00	\$ 46,600.00
Retiree Health Insurance	0154	\$ 30,635.36	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 10,919.94	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,810.00
Employee Pension	0162	\$ 49,463.32	\$ 46,500.00	\$ 15,731.27	\$ 47,500.00	\$ 49,000.00
Unemployment	0174	\$ 672.83	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 709.26	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,300.00
Professional Development		\$ 3,765.00	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
Total Personnel Expenses		\$ 426,536.03	\$ 451,500.00	\$ 152,957.30	\$ 459,870.00	\$ 476,110.00
Other Operations						
Postage	0301	\$ 440.27	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 56.73	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Telephone (Desk Calls)	0302		\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Cellular	0306	\$ 362.74	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 37.33	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Grants Management Software		\$ 13,200.00			\$ 13,200.00	
Instate Routine Ops	0401	\$ 14,682.90	\$ 12,015.00	\$ 4,511.61	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
In State/Conf./Training (Board Meetings)	0402	\$ 9,990.77	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 3,845.30	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Motor Pool mileage	0706	\$ 1,453.90	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 59.85	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Out of State	0404	\$ 3,569.06	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,550.96	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Printing and Reproduction	0804	\$ 9,982.55	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 713.83	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Constant Contact/Zoom	0862					
Xerox	0838	\$ 1,052.68	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 108.54	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Office Supplies	0902	\$ 3,712.23	\$ 5,085.00	\$ 1,337.17	\$ 3,330.00	\$ 3,380.00
Audio/Visual	0903		\$ 11,750.00		\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Subscriptions	1304	\$ 4,967.93	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,478.75	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Association Dues	1305	\$ 6,169.00	\$ 6,200.00		\$ 6,200.00	\$ 6,200.00
Insurance	0704					
Legislative Committee - Issue Forums outreach		\$ 7,172.48	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Health Care Committee		\$ 3,594.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Board Development		\$ 14,777.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Marketing and Promotion		\$ 21,978.50	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 21,794.31	\$ 23,400.00	\$ 23,310.00
Grants, Contributions and Constituent Outreach		\$ 80,000.00	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
MAERDAF Grants						
RMPIF Grants						
Conf. Sponsorships (RRTs, MRHA)	0840	\$ 40,725.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 5,320.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Statewide event/Broadband Symposium		\$ 8,442.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 12,530.70	\$ 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		\$ 8,550.00	\$ 8,550.00
Board Retreat - Strategic Planning			\$ 2,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Research - TOW/Think Tank		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Broadband Task Force survey						
Total Other Operations		\$ 727,809.04	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 206,302.38	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
		ESRGC/UM IGRS				
Grant Expenditures						

Regional Councils		\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00
Infrastructure		\$ 1,530,558.00	\$ 1,500,000.00		\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Entrepreneurship		\$ 1,144,748.00	\$ 1,500,000.00		\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Health Care		\$ 1,541,120.00	\$ 1,500,000.00		\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
MAERDAF		\$ 1,025,768.00	\$ 796,194.00		\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
MAERDAF Line item	39101	\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00		\$ 118,485.00	\$ 118,485.00
Rural Health and Human Services Transportation			\$ 300,000.00			
TOTAL Grant Expenditures		\$ 8,360,679.00	\$ 8,714,679.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ 8,368,485.00	\$ 8,368,485.00
TOTAL RMC/GRANT EXPENDITURES		\$ 9,088,488.04	\$ 9,464,679.00	\$ 2,006,302.38	\$ 9,118,485.00	\$ 9,118,485.00



Rural Maryland Council 2024 Legislative Priorities

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC), an independent state agency, brings together rural leaders, government officials at all levels, and the representatives of the non-profit and for-profit sectors to develop public policy solutions to the challenges unique to rural Maryland. Ultimately, our mission is to improve the quality of life while preserving the cultural heritage of Maryland's rural communities.

In September 2023, the Bureau of Revenue Estimates reported revenues slightly below expectations and made minor adjustments to Fiscal Year 2024 revenues. The economic forecast is largely unchanged, reflects modest growth rates but does not include a recession. Elevated risks to the revenue forecast remain including the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 as well as a potential federal government shutdown. The current forecast reflects a diminishing structural balance over the five-year period as ongoing spending outpaces ongoing revenues and does not account for weakening economic conditions that could lead to a recession.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF): As Maryland recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the rural areas of the state continue to struggle to recover economically as reflected in unemployment and poverty rates. **To address these disparities, funding of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) remains a top priority.** Rural areas always see a delay in the impact and recovery of economic impacts and events. Our rural areas have not fully recovered from the last economic recession when the recent pandemic hit. It is important that rural areas receive the investments they need to recover at the same rate as the rest of Maryland. In Fiscal Year 2024, our grant program had 192 applicants requesting \$20,763,664, out of which 98 grants, totaling \$8,714,679 were awarded. **We respectfully ask for level funding of \$9 million in the Fiscal Year 2025 operating budget.**

For the Maryland General Assembly's 2024 Legislative Session, the Rural Maryland Council supports the following legislative priorities:

Broadband and Infrastructure:

Infrastructure improvements remain a key piece of place making strategies in creating and retaining vibrancy in our rural communities including rural broadband expansion.

The Council looks to ease access to rights-of-way along public roadways. Rural Maryland remains slightly older in population and efforts and outreach should be made to address broadband affordability and adoptability to ensure digital inclusion of all Maryland residents.

Transportation: RMC supports the distribution of transportation funding for Local Governments and expansion of heavy rail for commerce, transit, and tourism-related purposes. Non-emergency health care transportation is a concern as well as the repair and reconstruction of bridges across the state. We believe a new model of rural transit systems should be

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Priorities

The rural areas of the state continue to struggle to recover economically as reflected in unemployment and poverty rates.



Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

- \$9,000,000
- Supports entrepreneurship, infrastructure and health care



Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund

- \$167,000
- Builds capacity of rural-serving nonprofits



Rural Maryland Council

- \$750,000
- Supports the Council's staff, grant administration and event planning expenses



Regional Councils

- \$200,000 each for maintaining the current funding of the State's five regional councils at the historic levels
- Support the Small, Women and Minority-Owned Business Account fund



MARBIDCO

- \$5,235,000 for core programs, local farm enterprise and WPIEI grants, watermen's and oyster shucking house loans
- \$10,000,000 for the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program

developed including utilizing smaller vehicles, relying on less fixed route coordination, more on demand services, and access to additional resources. We are requesting \$300,000 for a rural health and human services transportation pilot program.

Rural Health: Rural Maryland currently experiences a shortage of health care providers particularly in primary care, specialty areas, mental health, and dental care. Moreover, rural populations are also overall older and in worst health than their suburban counterparts. RMC supports efforts to enable and expand telehealth to provide access to preventative, socio-behavioral and critical care services in rural areas. The Council also supports strategies to address health work force shortages such as shortening the length of training or offering test out options for workers licensed in other states. Of particular concern is the nation-wide closure of pharmacies which could create additional “pharmacy deserts” in rural communities.

Housing: Rural communities face unique challenges when dealing with the affordable housing crisis because development does not generally occur at a large scale in rural areas, and construction costs are often higher in rural communities compared to urban areas, which reduces the incentives for private investment. Additionally, a lack of access to credit in many rural areas limits funding for maintenance of existing units. RMC supports efforts to repair and weatherize homes to keep seniors aging in their homes as well as the production of additional workforce housing units to serve public service and moderate income workers.

Rural Economic Development: The Council supports efforts to encourage rural economic development in the form of tax credits to new or expanding businesses in rural Maryland. This includes tax credits for broadband expansion, services and a sales tax exemption of broadband equipment, and income tax credit for angel investments. These initiatives will attract and expand industry sectors other than cyber and biotechnology to all jurisdictions across the state, in part encouraging needed investment in the rural counties of Maryland.

Energy

The Council supports energy policies that promote long-term, locally generated, renewable energy. Funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Wood Products Industry Equity Investment Fund (WPIEI) should be considered. In order to reach renewable energy goals, upgrades in electric infrastructure will need to be made.

Rural Workforce Development: The Council supports apprenticeships and community colleges so young adults can stay in their rural areas and become part of the rural workforce. Efforts to improve career and technology education through implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, including specifically agriculture education.

Viable Agriculture, Aquaculture, Forestry & Rural Communities: Agriculture remains Maryland’s largest commercial economic sector and is incredibly important to our rural areas. Agriculture contributes approximately \$16.5 billion to the state economy supported 73,009 jobs and added nearly \$610 million in combined state and local tax revenue. The total economic impact of resource-based industries in 2022 equaled \$20.1 billion, supported over 88,610 jobs, and generated over \$755 million in state and local tax revenue. RMC supports programs and policies that will sustain and enhance agricultural production and agritourism. RMC also supports efforts to address food security and other policies that build strong rural communities:

- Adequate funding to ensure the retention and placement of University of Maryland Extension (College Park and Princess Anne) agricultural agents in each county and provide for appropriate agricultural research;
- Adequate funding for the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund;
- Land preservation programs such as Program Open Space which funds Rural Legacy and the Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation;
- Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to ensure low-income workers and families access to basic necessities and providing an economic boost to neighborhood businesses;
- Core Smart Growth programs such as the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit, Maryland Heritage Area Grants, and the Community Investment Tax Credit; and

- Expanded funding for the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Community Legacy, Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund; Neighborhood Business Works and Rental Housing Works programs.

RMC is also interested in nutrient management regulations and land use decisions that may adversely impact agriculture production, particularly in regard to the expansion of utility-scale solar arrays without local input. The Council opposes any tax or fee imposed on agricultural products such as poultry.

Public Safety: Small rural volunteer fire and emergency agencies find it difficult to recruit and retain qualified trainees and employees. Efforts should be considered that allows rural emergency services access to workforce development tools.

For more information, visit the RMC’s website at: rural.maryland.gov

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DRAFT



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Susan O'Neill, Chair

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

October 13, 2023

Mr. Paul Wiedefeld
Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
Harry R. Hughes Department of Transportation Building
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Secretary Weidefeld:

I am writing to bring to your attention the recently passed Senate Bill 511/House Bill 596 - Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023 (Chapters 331 and 332). This important bill, signed into law by Governor Moore, addresses critical transportation needs in our rural areas. An important component of the new law codified and reestablished the State Coordinating Committee for Health and Human Services Transportation to examine the transportation needs of residents of the State who are elderly, have a disability, or require transportation to access jobs, medical and other health-related appointments. We kindly write to ask the Department to reestablish the Committee, appoint members and schedule a future meeting date.

Routinely the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) receives requests to fund health related transportation projects through our grant programs. Examples of these include the purchase of vehicles to take patients to dialysis; the development of computer dispatch software to aid in non-emergency medical transportation; and salary and wage support for staff that intake and coordinate health transportation needs. The rise in demand for these requests led RMC to partner with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland in the Fall of 2022 to lead three Transportation Health Care Roundtable meetings between healthcare and transportation providers to determine how non-emergency health transportation can be improved throughout the State.

The research and findings generated from these roundtables showed that there is a lack of coordination between the transportation and healthcare sectors. Based on national statistics, there are at least 76,000 to 82,000 Marylanders who will miss at least one (most likely more) medical appointment a year. 1 out of 5 of these missed medical appointments are due to transportation problems. Additional findings from the roundtables show that there is a need to develop a more flexible route system (versus fixed route), use smaller vehicles, support more on demand services, and take a more regional approach in providing transportation services.

The Coordinating Committee plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth coordination of transportation services to a key underserved community. Given the importance of this Committee's work, it is vital that qualified individuals are appointed to serve as members. We kindly request your assistance in expediting the appointment process and urge you to schedule a meeting as soon as possible. Your commitment to ensuring the mobility of our rural residents is greatly appreciated. By addressing these matters, we will ultimately benefit the well-being and accessibility of our citizens.

The Council strongly believes that the Coordinating Committee on Health and Human Services Transportation will help alleviate the challenges found in the non-emergency Health and Human Services transportation sector. If the Council can be of any assistance in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 841-5774, or e-mail at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov.

Thank you for your service to our State. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Davis
Executive Director



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Email: rmc.mda@maryland.gov
Website: www.rural.maryland.gov
Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Susan O'Neill, Chair

Date 10/31/2023

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Charlotte Davis
410.841.5774

Letter to the Editor: Maryland Rural Health Day

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, has been proclaimed National Rural Health Day by the National Organizations of State Offices of Rural Health as a way to showcase the good work of America's 62 million rural citizens and to promote the efforts of the Maryland State Office of Rural Health, and other partners in addressing rural health concerns. Governor Moore has proclaimed November 14, 2023, as Maryland Rural Health Day.

This Maryland Rural Health Day we will gather for the 2023 Rural Summit titled "Pathways to Prosperity" which includes discussions on improving health care access in rural areas. One alarming recent issue is the nation-wide closure of pharmacies creating "pharmacy deserts" in underserved communities. These closures leave many residents without access to essential medications and healthcare services.

Rural areas are already facing numerous challenges when it comes to healthcare access, and the closure of pharmacies only exacerbates these issues. Without nearby pharmacies, residents are forced to travel longer distances to obtain necessary medications, which can be particularly burdensome for elderly individuals or those with limited means of transportation. The consequences of these closures are far-reaching and will have a profound impact on the overall health and well-being of rural communities. It not only affects individuals who rely on regular prescriptions but also poses significant risks in emergency situations where immediate access to medication is vital.

It is crucial for state, local and federal elected officials and policymakers recognize the importance of supporting and funding programs that address the health care needs of rural communities. Initiatives such as telehealth or mobile units could help bridge the gap and ensure that rural residents have access. As we meet on November 14th we will consider policy recommendations for the Moore Administration and the Maryland General Assembly.

On this Maryland Rural Health Day, let us remember the significance of health care and wellness in quality of life. Our rural communities are stepping up and finding creative ways to address the problem. Together we can improve the quality of life throughout our State and reduce health disparities in rural, urban and suburban Maryland.

Visit <https://www.powerofrural.org/> or <https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/National-.aspx> to support National Rural Health Day and the Maryland State Office of Rural Health.



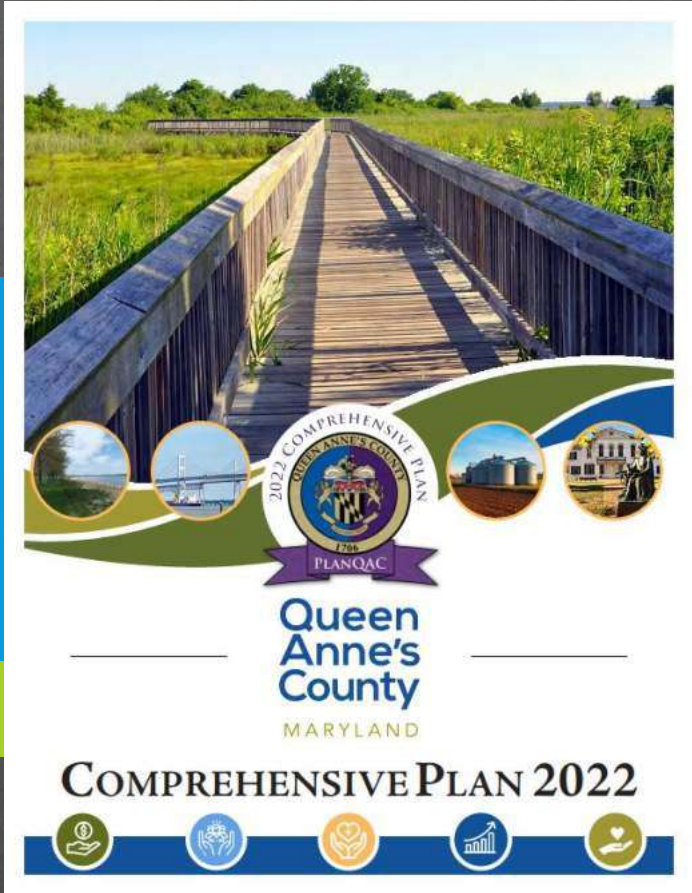
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Email: rmc.mda@maryland.gov
Website: www.rural.maryland.gov
Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Susan O'Neill, Chair

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CD", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Charlotte Davis
Executive Director



Housing Strategy
for
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Prepared for:
Queen Anne's County
Department of Community Services

April 20, 2021



Rural Housing Working Committee Meeting

Friday, 6 October 2023

Is It Really That Easy?

An Examination of the Debate Around Planning
and Zoning Policy

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

2022 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Adequate Public Facilities
 - WWTP – Nutrient Cap Limit
 - Chesapeake Bay Bridge – Crossing Study and Impacts
 - School Capacity
- Resiliency Planning
 - 2016 Sea Level Rise and Coastal Storm Surge Vulnerability Assessment Study
 - 2018 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Nuisance Flood Plan
 - 2019 County Climate Resilience Planning & Financing Study
- Affordable Housing
 - 2021 Housing Strategy for QAC (Housing Study)

9. Housing

VISION

The County will consist of sustainable, walkable neighborhoods that collectively are economically diverse, provide living arrangement options and housing opportunities for all income levels and ages; with access to a variety of goods, services, transportation options, employment opportunities, public and private facilities, amenities, and services.

KEY ISSUES	PLAN THEMES
Affordable Housing	FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY Leverage local, State, and federal funding opportunities
Workforce Housing	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH Encourage aging-in-place opportunities
Multi-family Housing	COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION Alternatives to traditional single-family detached housing
Bonuses & Incentives	PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION Appropriate residential land use development policies
Aging in Place	HEALTH & RESILIENCE Avenues for workforce and affordable housing

RELEVANT STATE VISIONS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

GOALS

The overarching goal for housing is to encourage the increased supply of housing of diverse types and price points to help sustain the County's economic vitality.

- 9-1 Create a variety of housing types that are affordable to residents of all needs, ages, life stage, and income levels.
- 9-2 Promote opportunities and programs to increase housing affordability for all County citizens.
- 9-3 Preserve the County's existing housing stock.

Housing PlanQAC 2022 Page 9-1

2021 HOUSING STRATEGY FOR QAC (HOUSING STUDY)



Goals and Objectives

- Analyze potential solutions of the housing crisis in Queen Anne's County
- Incorporate a community housing needs assessment which will be used to identify the community's issues and needs.
- Examine geographical areas of opportunity
- Examine blighted areas for possible rehabilitation and rental units
- Examine housing for specific populations such as older adults, and any other project also considered to assist low- and moderate-income level households.
- Review promising and proven housing strategies to estimate their capacity to succeed in Queen Anne's County.
- Unique aspects of the County were considered in the analysis.
- Information in the study will help identify resources and write intelligent, thorough and well-conceived proposals for funding.

2021 HOUSING STRATEGY FOR QAC (HOUSING STUDY)

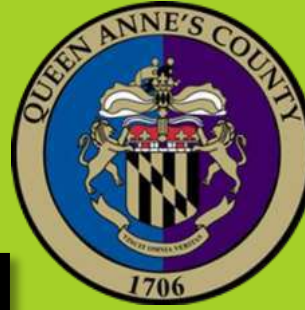


Priorities

1. Preserve Existing Housing
2. Adopt Planning and Zoning Provisions to Allow Greater Range of Housing Types ➔
3. Incentivize New Housing
4. Explore Partnerships for Affordable Housing
5. Pursue Additional Financial Resources


Sub-strategy	Impact	Cost Implementation
2-1: Increase Multi-Family and Apartment Zoning	-	-
2-1(A): Encourage additional Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Development	Medium	Moderate
2-1(B): Expand zones that allow multi-family development with ≥ 10 units per acre	Medium	Low
2-1(C): Expand by-right apartment zoning from 10 to 20 units per acre	Medium to High	Low
2-2: Zone for "Missing Middle" Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units	-	-
2-2(A): Amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow Missing Middle Housing	Medium to High	Moderate
2-2(B): Develop model Missing Middle Housing codes for Town adoption	Medium to High	Moderate
2-2(C): Encourage Accessory Dwelling Unit development	Medium	Low
2-3: Reduce Parking Requirements	Medium	Low
2-4: Make more development matter of right	Medium to High	Low

2021 HOUSING STRATEGY FOR QAC (HOUSING STUDY)



Affordable Housing Committee

STEP ONE:

The group determined what strategies were most important and most urgent. 

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	<p>STRATEGY 2: ADOPT PLANNING AND ZONING PROVISIONS TO ALLOW A GREATER RANGE OF HOUSING TYPES</p> <p>STRATEGY 3: INCENTIVIZE NEW HOUSING</p> <p>STRATEGY 1: PRESERVE EXISTING HOUSING</p>	<p>STRATEGY 4: EXPLORE PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING</p> <p>STRATEGY 5: PURSUE ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES</p> <p>STRATEGY 1: PRESERVE EXISTING HOUSING</p>
NOT IMPORTANT		

AFFORDABLE HOUSING – NEEDS AND CHALLENGES



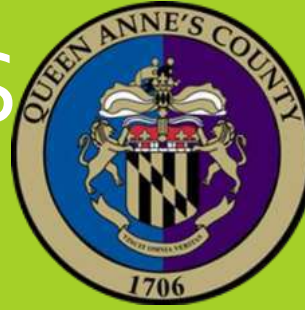
Houses


- Stock has decreased due to rising property values
- Pandemic eviction policies have resulted in a lack of interest in being a landlord
- Development costs
 - Building Code
 - Impact Fees
 - Water and Sewer Fees
- Missing Middle: variety in housing stock; accessory dwelling units and cottage home development

Apartments

- More stock than historically available but still not enough
- Multifamily development matter of right
- Development costs
 - Site plans
 - Building Code
 - Impact fees
 - Water and Sewer Fees
- NIMBY: address the fear that people have of the population served by affordable housing programs/overcome unfounded perceptions

COMP PLAN/HOUSING STUDY STRATEGIES GUIDING CODES AND POLICIES



- Development costs
 - Site Plans
 - Building Code
 - Impact Fees
 - Water and Sewer Fees
 - Missing Middle: variety in housing stock: accessory dwelling units and cottage home development
 - Multifamily development matter of right
 - NIMBY: address the fear that people have of the population served by affordable housing programs/overcome unfounded perceptions
- 
- Consider Reducing/Waiving/**Incentivizing**
 - Site Plans – reduction/waiver based on affordable housing options
 - Building Code
 - Impact Fees – County is currently re-evaluating its Impact Fee Ordinance
 - Water and Sewer Fees– reduction/waiver based on affordable housing options
 - Missing Middle
 - Code permits accessory dwelling units and cottage home development
 - Seek more housing styles
 - Multifamily development matter of right
 - Overcome unfounded perceptions
 - **Inclusionary Housing** included in Subdivision Code
 - **MPDU**

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Large disparities between the market rates required for private development and those affordable to the County's workforce create significant financial gaps. County incentives to help close those gaps could encourage private and non-profit developers to build new workforce housing. Such incentives could include bonus density, waivers of development fees, tax abatement, and provision of County-owned land.

- In the Growth Areas, the County requires all developments with 20 or more units to make 10% of the units affordable to households at 80% of AMI, pay a fee in-lieu of providing MPDUs, or donate land for MPDU development. Over the past 10 years, this provision has resulted in the payment of \$3M in-lieu fees and 46 loans for home purchases. To increase the production of MPDUs, the County should consider providing density bonuses.
- The County's development impact fees are relatively high, although the development impact fee ordinance provides exemptions for "residential housing units that are subsidized by any municipal corporation, County, state, or the federal government and are intended for low income owners or tenants." Allocation fees paid for tapping into the water and wastewater treatment systems are also burdensome.

The County should consider tiering the allocation fees to encourage development of multi-family and other smaller units. Reducing or waiving those fees for units committed for long-term affordability would provide a meaningful incentive.

- County property taxes account for roughly \$1,500 per unit in annual operating expenses for local apartments. County reduction, abatement, or phasing-in of property taxes could provide a meaningful savings, allowing workforce housing providers to reduce monthly rents.
- Land costs are typically a major factor in residential development. Provision of unneeded County-owned land at below-market prices could support new workforce housing development. When developing new facilities, the County should also evaluate whether the property could also accommodate collocated affordable housing.²⁰

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The County offers a mix of housing types including detached single-family dwellings, attached single-family dwellings, duplexes, townhouses, and multi-family dwellings. **Table 9-2** provides the composition of housing stock within the County in 2000, 2010, and 2019. The breakdown of units shown in this table may vary based on the respondent's knowledge of housing types. This table also uses the Census definition of multi-family housing: Residential buildings containing units built one on top of another and those built side-by-side, which do not have a ground-to-roof wall and/or have common facilities (e.g., attic, basement, heating plant, plumbing). This definition is different than that of the County.

Table 9-2. Housing Stock Composition

Housing Type	2000		2010		2019		Change		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	'00-'10	'10-'19	'00-'19
Single-Family Detached	13,873	83.2%	16,651	84.0%	17,743	83.8%	20.0%	6.6%	27.9%
Single-Family Attached	925	5.5%	1,217	6.1%	1,147	5.4%	31.6%	-5.8%	24.0%
2-Family/Duplex	213	1.3%	232	1.2%	183	0.9%	8.9%	-21.1%	-14.1%
Townhouse	269	1.6%	95	0.5%	351	1.7%	-64.7%	269.5%	30.5%
Multi-Family	560	3.4%	889	4.5%	1,161	5.5%	58.8%	30.6%	107.3%
Mobile Home	830	5.0%	740	3.7%	599	2.8%	-10.8%	-19.1%	-27.8%
Boat, RV, Van, etc.	4	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	-100.0%	-	-100.0%
Totals	16,674		19,824		21,184		18.9%	6.9%	27.0%

Source: 2000 U.S. Decennial Census; 2006-2010 & 2015-2019 American Community Survey

COUNTY HOUSING CODE

Chapter 15 of the *County Code, Housing*, establishes minimum property maintenance standards, minimum requirements for residential structures, and outlines responsibilities of residential property owners, operators, and tenants.

INCLUSIONARY HOUSING

Article XXI—*Inclusionary Housing* of the County's *Zoning and Subdivision Regulations* includes provisions for moderately priced dwelling units.

MODERATELY PRICED HOUSING FUND

The County created a Moderately Priced Housing Fund for developer payments of fees in-lieu of building MPDUs or land donations for MPDUs. Its funds support the MPDU Program, which provides 0% interest-deferred second mortgages to help income-eligible (median income is 80% or lower) to buy homes. Available funding for these programs falls short of need.

Local Housing Trust Funds throughout the State have a number of different funding sources: recordation tax premiums on mortgages and refinancing, condominium conversion taxes, transfer tax revenues, percentage of local real estate transfer taxes, etc. The County should consider ways to strengthen and make the Moderately Priced Housing Fund more accessible.

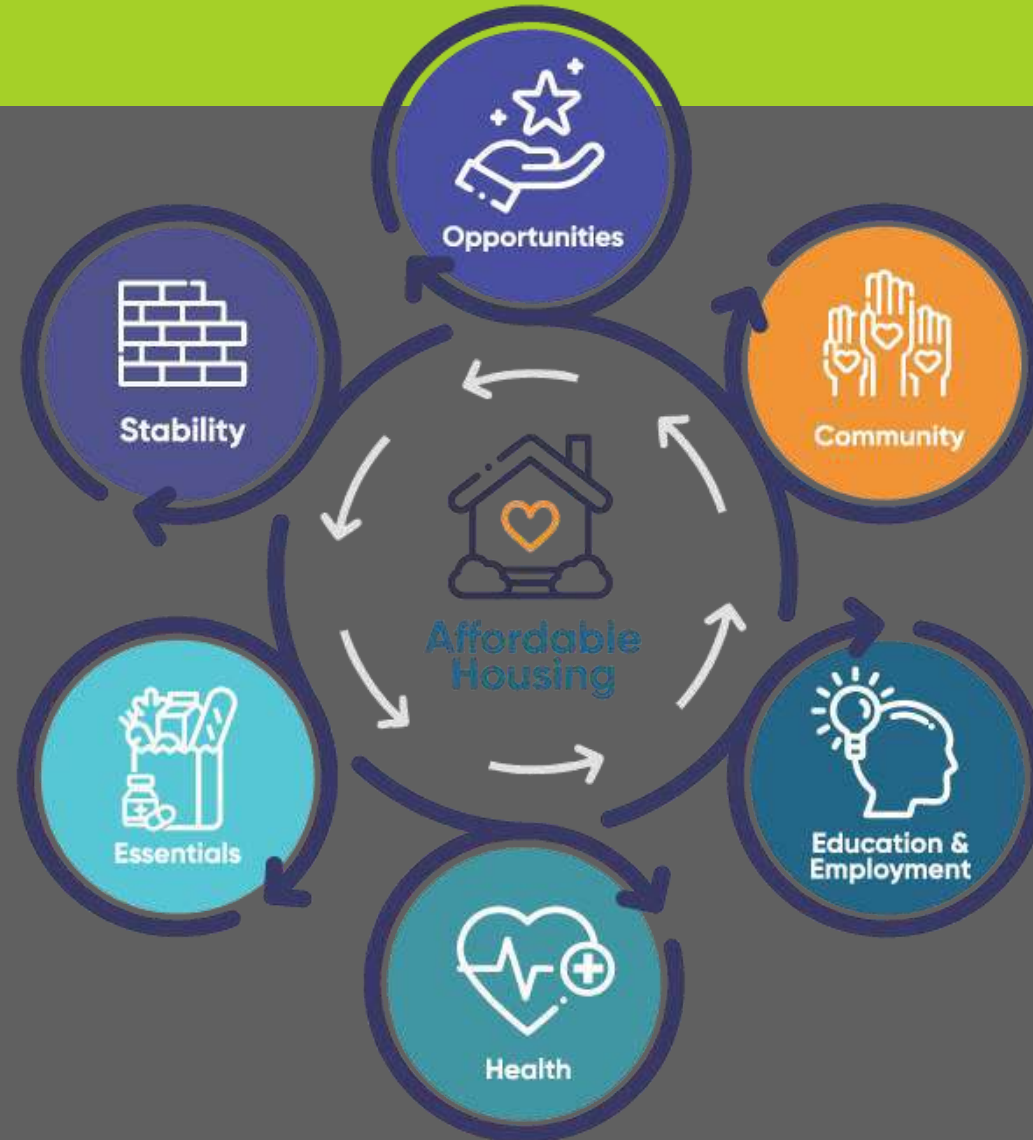
ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

In October 2020, the County adopted Ordinance No. 20-04 regarding Accessory Dwelling Unit Provisions in the Resource Conservation Area, to make the County's development standards and definition consistent with those outlined in the State *Natural Resources Article* as well as COMAR.

COTTAGE HOMES

In February 2021, the County adopted Ordinance No. 20-13 regarding Cottage Home Planned Residential Development. The Ordinance allows for cottage homes, a type of multifamily unit in a condominium regime where the detached single-family dwelling is individually owned and the common areas are commonly owned by the unit owners, as part of the Planned Residential Development standards.

MOVING FORWARD



QUESTIONS?

Amy G. Moredock
Director
amoredock@qac.org



Rural Housing Survey for Local Government – DRAFT

To be sent to: County Administrative Head, Manager or Administrator or the County Executive; Town Managers; cc planning departments and housing administrators.

Why are we doing this? Assess capacity of local jurisdictions to address this issue.

The Rural Maryland Council Housing Committee sees the importance of affordable housing in rural communities. We hold the standard that individuals and families should not spend more than 30% of their annual income on housing costs. The Council also understands that there are struggles with capacity in rural housing, and it can be difficult for local governments to alleviate those capacity issues. Our overall goal with this survey is to identify both areas of strengths and weakness within our 18 rural-designated counties in the state of Maryland to better understand our spectrums of rural housing across the states.

We plan to take this information and present it to the Maryland General Assembly during the 2024 Session to help implement or brainstorm new and help regulatory and/or legislative policy changes.

From the Maryland Housing Needs Assessment & 10-Year Strategic Plan released in 2020:

Maryland currently lacks approximately 85,000 rental units for its lowest-income households (meaning extremely low-income or those earning 30 percent of area median income [AMI] or below). In many parts of the state, there aren't enough rental units for very low-income households (those earning under 50 percent AMI) either. Maryland will add an estimated 97,200 extremely and very low-income households between 2020 and 2030. Without further acceleration to create and preserve deeply affordable units, this shortage will worsen.

Contact Information Requested:

1. Name
2. Job Title
3. County – required.

Draft Questions:

1. Is there an affordable housing organization that works within your county or municipality?
2. What are the roadblocks for your residents to find affordable housing in your county or municipality?
3. What programs and incentives does your jurisdiction have to encourage affordable housing and preservation? Are these programs adequately resourced?
4. What is the waiting list for residents to find affordable housing in your county or municipality?
5. What private investment has occurred (banks, financial institutions, etc.) to encourage affordable housing in your community?
6. Is your jurisdiction considering using surplus property for affordable housing?
7. Are there resources or technical assistance that your local government needs?

8. Does your county already have fair housing legislation or are there plans to enact any similar legislation?
9. Do you have a housing needs assessment regarding infrastructure capacity?
10. How often do you review and update your county-wide housing strategy?



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Email: rmc.mda@maryland.gov
Website: www.rural.maryland.gov

Susan O'Neill, Chair

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

October 26, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor, State of Maryland
The State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Moore:

I am writing to request your assistance in seating members and organizing a meeting of the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA) as well as seating members of the Maryland Agriculture Commission. Given the importance of these commissions' work, the Rural Maryland Council believes it is imperative to ensure that all the necessary appointments are made. The collective knowledge and expertise of the members will undoubtedly contribute to the formulation of effective policies and initiatives for our state's agricultural sector. We kindly request your attention to facilitate the appointment of qualified individuals who can provide valuable insights and represent the diverse interests of our agricultural community. Additionally, we urge you to coordinate with the relevant departments and agencies to schedule a GICA meeting at the earliest convenience, allowing the commission to commence its important work without delay.

Created in 2006, GICA works to promote the economic profitability of agriculture in the State by ensuring that all appropriate State agencies work in a cooperative, coordinated manner with local government and industry groups in planning, implementing, overseeing and evaluating intergovernmental initiatives related to agricultural affairs of the State. This Commission plays a crucial role in addressing the various challenges and opportunities within the agricultural sector of our State. The Commission last met in 2021. One of its most useful activities was developing a tool kit to provide local communities and officials with a basic understanding of the current state of Maryland agriculture. It suggested tools, methods, and resources that will help farmers, neighbors, and local officials to better work together towards creating communities that support both profitable agricultural production and a high quality of life. It also included a variety of resources and information available to communities.

The Maryland Agriculture Commission serves as an advisory body to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and consists of 30 members representing various commodities across Maryland, and includes both a consumer and a University of Maryland representative. The commission currently pursues the following priorities and activities: encouraging the agricultural community to be more pro-active on issues affecting agriculture and rural life, evaluating farm and agriculture industry labor and regulations, increasing public awareness of food safety and supporting the Department's efforts to promote agriculture.

Thank you for your commitment to the growth and prosperity of our state's farmers. Your support in promptly addressing these matters will contribute significantly to the success of both commissions and ultimately benefit farmers, consumers, and our communities. Should you have any questions, concerns or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 841-5774, or e-mail at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov. We look forward to working together to support Maryland Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

Cc: Secretary of Appointments Tisha S. Edwards



Strategic Planning Proposal

PREPARED FOR

Rural Maryland Council
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

PREPARED BY

LaCharla Figgs, Founder & Principal
LaCharla Figgs Consulting,
PO Box 1568
Greenbelt, MD 20768

August 28, 2023

Ms. LaCharla Figgs, Principal
LaCharla Figgs Consulting
PO Box 1568
Greenbelt, MD 20768

Ms. Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Rural Maryland Council
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Ms. Davis,

I'm pleased to submit the following proposal for strategic planning consulting in response to your recent request. I'm happy to answer any questions you or the board may have.

Thank you for the invitation to submit this proposal; I would enjoy serving RMC again.

Respectfully,

LaCharla

LaCharla Figgs, Owner & Principal
Mobile 301.775.2817
CEO@LaCharlaFiggs.co
Website: <https://www.lacharlafiggs.co/>

STRATEGIC PLANNING FACILITATION

A part of this proposed strategic planning engagement, I propose to start with the existing strategic plan and also gather updated information about the agency, its work, and the environment in which it operates.

I will facilitate a full in-person planning retreat and up to 8 small-group work sessions—either in person or virtually—in order to help RMC’s leaders review their progress against the current strategic plan, flesh out their aspirations for the future, and refine those aspirations into a 3-year strategic plan.

I’ll prepare a strategic plan narrative and an accompanying action plan matrix.

I have included **ATTACHMENT A**, which details the process that I propose to follow. Of course, I’m open to modifying that approach to meet RMC’s needs.

The Proposed Budget

I am offering to perform the work described in **ATTACHMENT A** for a fee of \$8,000.

The estimated cost for performing the work described in **ATTACHMENT A** is as follows:

Proposed Payments

If this proposal is accepted, the fee would be payable as follows:

1. 20% retainer at the time of contract execution
2. 20% after delivery of the post-retreat write-up
3. 30% after delivery of the draft goals and objectives, and
4. 30% after the board has accepted the final strategic plan.

LaCharla Lowd Figgs Résumé

Post Office Box 1568 | Greenbelt, MD 20768-1568 | Phone 301.775.2817 | Email: CEO@LaCharlaFiggs.co

SUMMARY

LaCharla is an experienced nonprofit leader and organizational development consultant with a passion for results. She has demonstrated skills in strategic planning, training, program design, grant writing, nonprofit startup, and board development. Committed to making a difference, LaCharla worked successfully with government officials, nonprofit leaders, and residents working to transform their neighborhoods.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Community Building

- Trains Public Housing and other residents of low-income communities on strategy, program development, fund raising, and nonprofit agency start-up
- Facilitates neighborhood planning exercises for community residents
- Mediates and resolves disputes between rival community organizations
- Manages community outreach and marketing for a pilot healthcare initiative

Fund Raising & Communications

- Researches funders and writes government, foundation and corporate grant proposals
- Meets with prospective funders to secure new or continued support
- Edits an informational newsletter for Community Development Block Grant administrators

Board Development

- Trains nonprofit boards on governance fundamentals and board operations
- Facilitates board strategic planning and solution-focused sessions
- Writes manuals and a video on board governance

Program Development

- Create survey and use it to assess life improvement needs of a low-income community
- Designs an ESOL program for residents of an apartment community for low-income renters
- Designs a pilot “mini-reengineering” project to boost nonprofit agency viability & productivity
- Designs an operating plan for a residential facility for women leaving substance abuse treatment
- Designs a community development support program for assessing, funding, and improving the productivity of community development nonprofits

Management and Administration

- Hires, manages, evaluates and supports professional and administrative staff
- Develops standards for program evaluation, record keeping and reporting
- Creates and oversees \$5M budget consisting of private and government grants
- Oversees grant-making and capacity-building program for nonprofits

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Organizational Development Consultant, January 2006 – Present

- Provides nonprofit start-up support, strategic planning facilitation, leadership coaching, grant writing, board development, organizational assessment, program design, and other organizational development services to associations, regional organizations, and community- and faith-based nonprofits
- Creates and delivers classes on various topics for nonprofit board and staff members
- Serves as interim management or executive staff

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., September 1991 – February 2006

Deputy Director & Director of Housing & Community Development, Jan. 2004 – February 2006

- Provides custom services to agencies serving the needs of low-income communities
- Redesigns and manages the program operations
- Builds relationships with local government, corporate and nonprofit sector stakeholders to improve community impact;
- Develops and manages department budget and grants management system
- Helps develop and manage \$4M office budget
- Assists with office strategic planning
- Supports office fundraising through grant writing and donor management
- Represents the office director as needed

Interim Co-Director, Baltimore Office, Feb. 2002 – April 2003

Oversees management of the Baltimore office, with its 11-member staff. Manages a \$5+ million budget and office operations, and helps oversee external affairs, fund raising and program development

Assistant Program Director/Program Director/Senior Program Director, Aug. 1993 - Dec. 2003

Provides organizational development consultation to nonprofits across the US and manages the organizational capacity-building program for the Baltimore office

Contracts Coordinator, Sep. 1991 - Aug. 1993

Manages \$5 million in federal, state, and private contracts and subcontracts

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- University of Georgia, Athens. Bachelor of Arts, Economics
- National Development Corporation. Certificate, Single-Family Housing Development
- Center for Negotiations and Conflict Management, Univ. of Baltimore, Mediation Certificate

WEBSITES

- LaCharla Figgs Consulting: <https://www.lacharlafiggs.co/>
- Nonprofit Startup Academy: <https://www.nonprofitstartupacademy.com/>

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

**David Bowers, VP, Mid-Atlantic Market &
Sr. Advisor, Faith-Based Development Initiative**

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

10 G Street NE

Washington, DC 20002

202.842.9190

dbowers@enterprisecommunity.org

Maryann Dillon, Executive Director

Housing Initiative Partnership Inc.

Hyattsville, MD

301.985.1252

mdillon@hiphomes.org

Stephanie Proestel, Deputy Director

Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc.

Hyattsville, MD

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sproestel@hiphomes.org

Kate Patton, Executive Director

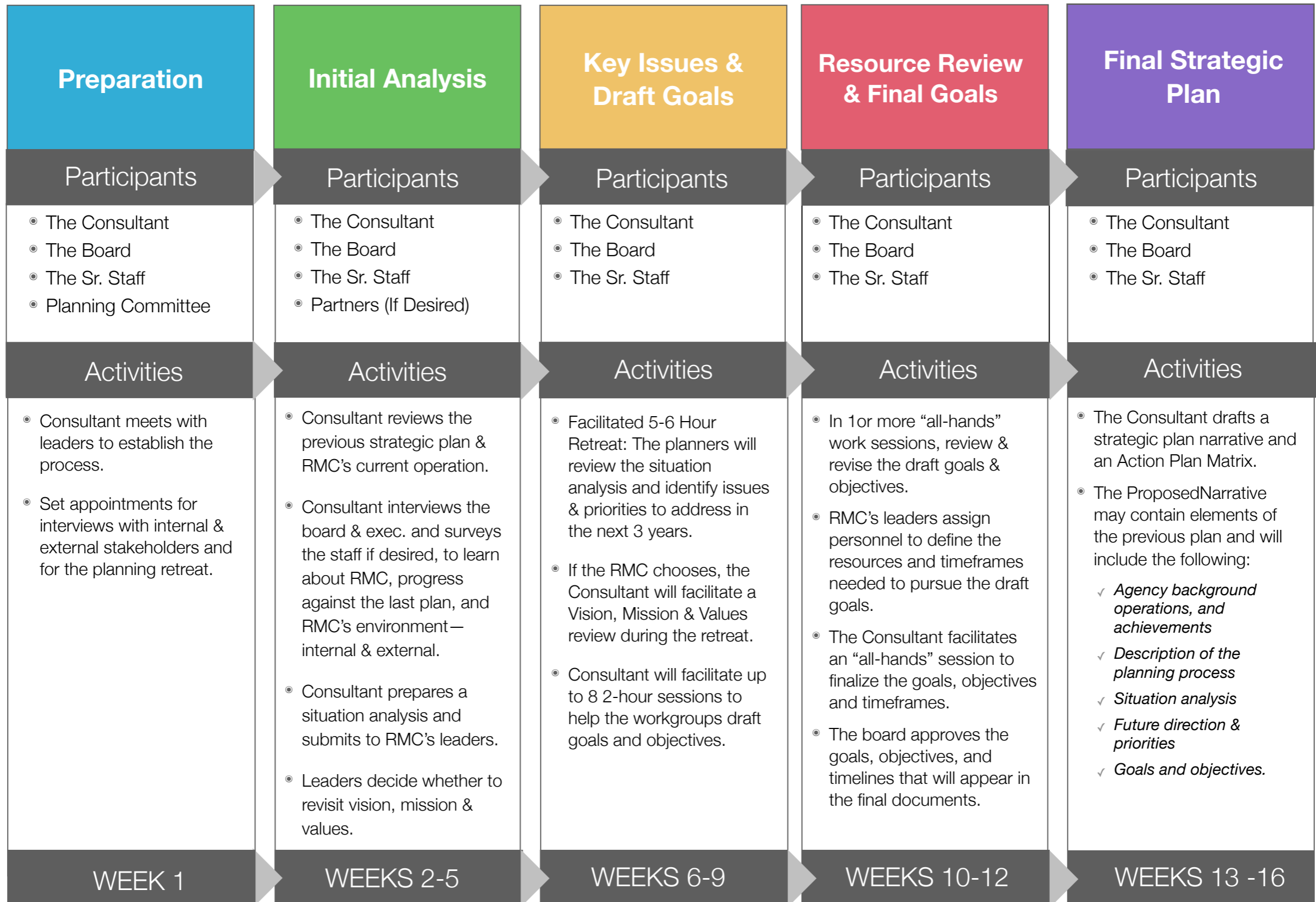
Lower Shore Land Trust

Snow Hill, MD

443.234.5587

kpaton@lowershorelandtrust.org

RMC Proposed Strategic Planning Process



RMC Officers and Executive Board - 2023/2024					10.30.2023		
Exec. Comm.	Position	Name	Member Organization	RMC Bylaws/Statutes	Term Expires		Replacing
1	Chair	Susan O'Neill	Upper Shore Regional Council	Statute	2023	East	
1	1st VC	Greg Padgham	Tri-County Council for LES	Statute	2023	East	
1	2nd VC	Dr. Heidi Anderson	UMES	ByLaws	2023	East	
1	Nom	Chris Benzing	MRDC	District 7: AA, Balt, Ho, Mont and PG Counties	2023	Center	
1	Legis	Lindsay Thompson	MD Grain Producers	Bylaw	2023	East	
1	Ag Com	Matt Tefteau	Choptank Electric Cooperative	ByLaw	2023	East	
1	RMPIF Chair	Scott Warner	MidShore Regional Council	Statute	2023	East	
NV	RMF	Dan Rider	Rural Maryland Foundation	Bylaw	2023	East	
Jt Planning and Dev							
1	Immediate Past Chair	John Hartline	Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Statute	2023	South	
		Leslie Hart	Wash Co Econ Dev	District 1 - Garr, All and Wash Co	2023	West	Machelle Dwyer
		Elizabeth Chung	Asian American Center of Frederick	District 2 - Carroll, Fred and Harf Co	2023	West	
		Chris Kaselemis	St. Mary's Co Office of Econ Dev	District 3 - Char, Calvert and SM Co	2023	South	
		Dawson Hunter	Housing and Transportation Coordinator for Kent County	District 4 - Cecil, Kent and QA Co	2023	East	Dan Schneckengerger
		Debbie Bowden	Caroline County Economic Development	District 5 - Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester	2023	East	
		Matt Holloway	Quantico Creek Sod Farm and Baywater Farms	District 6 - Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset	2023	East	
		Renee Sheehy	Delmarva Power	Forprofits	2023	East	D'Shaen Doughty
		Mike Thielke	E Shore Entrepreneurship Cntr	Nonprofits	2023	East	Chris Abell
		Bill Valentine	Retired, Allegany Co Commissioner	At-Large	2023	West	
		Mollie Byron	Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Governor's office	Governor Designee	2024	Center	
		Cassie Shirk	Assistant Secretary, MDA	MDA Designee	2023	Center	
		Lori Ratzburg	Sen. Dir., Commerce	Commerce Designee	2023	Center	
		Cindy Stone	Dir, CDBG, DHCD	DHCD Designee	2023	Center	
		Vacant		DNR Designee	2023	Center	Ltr to DNR/Anne Hairston-Strang
		Sara Seitz	Dir, Office of Rural Health	MDH Designee	2023	Center	
		Jinhee Kim	UMD Extension	Statute	2023	Center	
		Leanne Mazer	TCC for WMD	Statute	2023	West	
		Craig Hartsock	Western MD RC&D	Statute	2023	West	
		John Kinnard	MML	Statute	2023	West	
		Zack Tyndall	MML	Statute	2023	East	
		Jack Wilson	MACO	Statute	2022	East	
		Keasha Haythe	MACO	Statute	2024	East	
		Elizabeth Hulett	MD Assn of Public Library Admin	ByLaws	2023	East	
		Santo Grande	MD Assn of Community Action Agencies	ByLaws	2023	East	
		Ashton Shipley	MD Farm Bureau	ByLaws	2023	East	
		Holly Porter	Delmarva Chicken Association	ByLaws	2023	East	Grayson Middleton
		Beth Hill	MD Forest Assn	ByLaws	2023	East	
		Steve McHenry	MARBIDCO	ByLaws	2023	Center	
		Jerry McLaurin	People For Change	ByLaws	2023	South	
		David Baker	USDA Rural Development	Statute/Bylaws allows up to 3 fed reps	2023	East	
		Del Sheree Sample-Hughes	MD House of Delegates	Statute		East	
		Del Brian Crosby	MD House of Delegates	Statute		South	
		vacant	MD House of Delegates	Statute		West	Ltr to Speaker
		Vacant	MD Senate	Statute		South	Ltr to President
		Sen Katie Fry Hester	MD Senate	Statute		West	
		vacant	MD Senate	Statute		West	
		Vacant	House/Senate from Harford Co	Statute		North	
		NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chris Benzing, Greg Padgham, Josh Hastings, Scott Warner, John Hartline, Susan O'Neill, Charlotte Davis					

RMC Executive Director Activity Report September-October 2023

RMC staff continue to meet daily via zoom at 9:00am when not together in the office. Office is fully staffed during the week.

Legislative Committee

- Hosted committee meeting on Oct 4 via zoom
 - Updated 2024 Legislative Priorities document
 - Drafted letter to Secretary Wiedefeld re HB596/SB511 implementation
- Partners for Open Space
 - Attended Steering Committee meeting on Oct 26 via zoom. Was asked to present to Joint Committee on Program Open Space via zoom on Nov 1st.
 - Attended Steering committee meeting on Oct 16 via zoom
- Attended Task Force on Solar Siting virtual meeting on Oct 26

MAERDAF/RMPIF

- Reviewed scopes of work and deliverables for FY2024 grant agreements
- FY2025
 - Met with Patty Shreves via Zoom on Oct 30. Patty recently joined the MD Rural Water Association as its Apprenticeship Program Manager.
 - Met with Shore Rivers via zoom on Oct 20
 - Met with Town of St. Michael's via zoom on Sept 28
- Attended groundbreaking of Habitat for Humanity Wicomico headquarters in Fruitland Oct 23
- Attended photo op with Asian American Center for Frederick AmeriCorps members in Hagerstown on Oct 20

Agriculture Committee

- Hosted Committee meeting on Oct 16 via zoom
 - Drafted letter to Gov re appointments to GICA and MD Ag Commission

Health Committee

- Attended Statewide Telehealth Group zoom mtg on Oct 6
- Hosted committee meeting via zoom on Sept 25

Rural Housing Committee

- Hosted committee meeting on Oct 6

Nominating and Membership Committee

- Hosted committee meeting on Friday October 27 via zoom
- Surveyed Board members on RMC and sent emails regarding renewing membership on Board

RMC Admin

- Hosted Executive Board meeting at MDA on Sept 22
- Drafted financial report and other Executive Committee materials for Nov 3rd meeting

- Rural Summit
 - Walked through Crowne Plaza on Oct 25 in Annapolis
 - Participated in breakout session conference calls on Oct 26, Oct 24 and Oct 19
 - Hosted planning committee meetings on Oct 24, Oct 10, Oct 3
- Met with Secretary Atticks in Annapolis on Oct 2nd. Also attending: Susan O’Neill, Greg Padgham, Scott Warner and John Hartline.
- Hosted tent and bus trip to Tawes Crab and Clam bake on Sept 27. Distributed

Rural Maryland Foundation

- Hosted Trustee meeting via zoom on Oct 12.
- Drafted meeting minutes from June 23rd mtg

Regional Councils

- Attended TCC of Southern Maryland Full Council meeting via Teams on October 26
- Attended Mid-Shore Regional Council CEDS meeting at the Easton Vol Fire Dept on Oct 11
- Attended Upper Shore Regional Council 20th Anniversary celebration in Chestertown on Oct 11

Partners for Rural America

- Attended Board meeting via zoom on Oct 2
 - Drafted financial report/cut checks for member reimbursement

CDN

- Attended CD week event at USM in Hagerstown re manufactured housing on Oct 20
- Attended CD week event at MRDC in Greensboro re Head Start on Oct 19
- Participated in Home Ownership workgroup meeting via zoom on Oct 20
- Participated in awards committee meeting via zoom on Oct 5

Keystone Development Center

- Attended Finance Committee meeting via zoom on Oct 27
- Drafted Executive Director self evaluation and board survey; sent to Board
- Participated in staff checkin meetings on Oct 30, Oct 23, Oct 16, Oct 9, Sept 25
- Attended check in with Dir of Operations on Oct 10 Sept 26
- Hosted nominating committee meeting on Oct 18 via zoom
- Participated in staff performance evaluations on Oct 18 and 17
- Attended staff dinner at Cooperation Works conference in Washington DC on Oct 3
- Executive Director hiring
 - Attended 2nd interview with Jason Pampena via zoom on Oct 23
 - Attended staff meet and greet with ED candidate Noemi Giszpenc
 - Attended 3rd interview with Noemi Giszpenc via zoom on Oct 12
 - Participated in 2nd interview with Noemi Giszpenc via zoom on Oct 2
 - Met with Hiring Committee via zoom on Sept 28

Misc

- Met with Paul Goeringer with UM Ag Law via zoom on Oct 27th. UM Ag Law is putting together a US Dept of Energy grant application to create a renewable energy siting technical assistance hub. They asked if RMC could help with outreach and working with local governments should they receive the award.

- Attended Future of Maryland Agriculture: Cybersecurity Forum at Chesapeake College on Oct 25
- Participated in Tawes debrief with Danny Thompson, Greg Padgham and Wayne Howard via zoom on Oct 24.
- Spoke on Ag/Rural Energy panel at Maryland Clean Energy Summit in College Park on Oct 17
- Attended MD land Conservation Conference on Oct 5 in Annapolis
- Attended Chesapeake Conservation Partnership meeting in Annapolis on Oct 3

September

Meetings Attended

- RMC daily 9:00am staff call
- Partners for Rural America Conference, 9/6-9/9
- LEAD Maryland, Baltimore City Seminar, 9/12-9/14
- Maryland Environmental Trust Executive Committee and Board Meetings, 9/11
- Easton Utility Event, Cordova, MD 9/20
- RMC Executive Board Meeting, MDA, 9/22
- RMC Health Committee Meeting, Zoom 9/25
- Tawes Crab & Clam Bake, 9/27

Summit Planning

- Worked closely with RMC staff and Summit Planning Committee members to develop a great 2023 summit. Items include attended bi-monthly planning meeting, reviewed speaker proposals, developed agenda and session description, marketing materials.

Tawes Planning

- Assisted with planning and implementing Tawes Crab & Clam Bake event, 8/27

Grant Related

- Prepared the FY23 MAERDAF and FY23 RMPPIF annual reports
- FY24 grant management-database processing; outreach & grant award notifications were sent to 128 applicants
- FY2025 grant interest meeting held w/ CD with the Town of St. Michaels on their coastal resilience challenges pertaining to maintaining the Town’s harbor and infrastructure and the tourist economy, 9/28

Administrative

- Meeting planning and preparation
- Organized new office and internal move logistics (furniture move, painting, etc.)

October

Meetings Attended

- RMC daily 9:00 staff calls
- Forever Maryland Conference, Tabling Event, 10/4-10/5
- Community Development Network, MRDC event, Greensboro, 10/19
- Maryland Environmental Trust, Lands Committee Meeting, 10/25

Committee Related

- RMC Housing Committee Meeting, 10/6
- RMC Agriculture Committee Meeting, 10/16

Rural Summit

- Continued to work closely with RMC staff and Summit Planning Committee members to develop a great 2023 summit.
- Planning Committee Meetings attended on 10/10, 10/24
- Met with Tricia Clark, Crave Culture to discuss Summit event management, 10/10; Met with Platinum PR (PPR) on 10/13. Follow up work to PPR to assist with Summit marketing.
- AV Needs-3 Invoice quotes obtained and meetings held with each company on 10/13; 10/18; 10/20.
- Speaker panel meeting, 10/19
- Annual awards place card and award engravings developed and sent for printing and gift engraving
- Crowne Plaza site visit on 10/25; Catering order submitted 10/20
- Instructions finalized for exhibitors, facilitators, and moderators
- Merchandise order finalized and submitted (umbrellas and lunch totes)

Grant Management

- Final edits made to FY23 annual grant reporting and submitted to the Department of Legislative Services.
- Updated grant agreement text to reflect FY2024 grant year; completed scope-of-work and deliverables for grant agreements; 98 grant agreements sent to awardees for review and signing.
- Processing FY2024 grant agreements
- FY2025 Grant Interest meeting with Shore Rivers, 10/20; Maryland Rural Water

Administrative

- Meeting planning and preparation

November (Partial)

Meetings Attended/Presented via Teleconference

- RMC daily 9:00am staff call
- Federal Reserve, Rural Investment Collaborative, Charlotte, NC 11/1-11/2
- RMC Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, 11/13

Rural Summit

- Finalize Summit materials
- Implement Summit, 11/14 and associated post work

Grant Related

- Process FY2024 grant agreements
- Schedule grantee site visits with staff

Administrative

- Complete FY2023 Annual Report text

September

Meetings Presented/ Attended

- RMC Daily 9:00 Meeting
- Rural Summit Planning (09/19)
- Executive Board Meeting (09/22)
- Health Committee Meeting (09/25)
- Tawes Clam and Crab Cake (09/27)

Tawes Clam and Crab Cake

- Maintaining a list of attendees for Tawes
- Sending out relevant information regarding ticket pickup, transportation via bus
- Networking and helping guests on the day of the event.
- Will call for tickets at the event with the Program Administrator

Rural Summit

- Inviting elected officials to the 2023 Rural Summit
- Maintaining a list of sponsors
- Reaching out to potential sponsors
- Save the date material sent to elected officials.
- Working with the Executive Director to organize panels and potential panelists/moderators.
- Beginning to organize information for the bus tour the day before the summit.
- Working on session descriptions and expected outcomes to achieve.
- Beginning to contact panelists and request information for their panels.

Administrative

- Drafting a housing survey for the Housing Committee to work from
- Continuing research on regional housing authorities throughout the country
- Organizing and finding dates for the Legislative Committee to meet
- Organizing and finding dates for the Agriculture Committee to meet
- General help during the Executive Board Meeting held at MDA

October

Meetings Presented/ Attended

- RMC Daily 9:00 Meeting
- Rural Summit Planning (10/03)
- Legislative Committee (10/04)
- Agriculture Committee (10/16)
- Summit Panel Meeting (10/19)
- Summit Panel Meeting (10/20)

- Summit Panel Meeting (10/23)
- Rural Summit Planning Meeting (10/24)
- Summit Panel Meeting (10/24)
- Summit Panel Meeting (10/25)
- Summit Panel Meeting (10/26)

Rural Summit

- Meeting with panelists to discuss their specific panel needs.
- Working on session descriptions
- Drafting program for the summit
- Continuing to gather summit sponsors.
- Sending out correspondence regarding registration codes for sponsors and panelists
- Sending out correspondence regarding sponsor needs day of the event.
- Correspondence with elected officials and their offices regarding attendance of upcoming summit.
- Updating panelists on changes to their specific panel

Administrative

- Revising the housing survey draft for the Housing committee to continue working on
- Coordinating agenda and discussion topics for the agriculture committee
- Helping draft follow up email thanking those that attended Tawes with us

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RMC Administrative Assistant Activity Log

August 28, 2023– October 27, 2023

August

Meetings and Events

- Daily RMC 9 am Staff Meetings
- RMC Executive Committee Meeting (8/28)
- Rural Summit Planning Committee Meeting (8/29)
- RMC Rural Housing Working Committee Meeting (8/30)
- RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting (8/31)

Tasks

- Drafted agendas for all RMC meetings and took the minutes for each meeting.
- Create and send out 2023 Rural Summit Sponsorships eblast to RMC constant contact list.
- Updated RMC website to include RMC FY24 Grant press release and upcoming events.
- Updated the RMC Quarterly newsletter.
- Filled out and submitted the RMC Credit Card log for August to MDA fiscal services.
- Maintained the RMC Outreach event calendar.
- Updated the RMC Working Committees list.

September

Meetings and Events

- Daily 9 am RMC Staff meetings
- Southern Maryland Sunflower Festival (9/2-9/3)
- Maryland State Fair (9/9)
- MDA General Staff Meeting (9/13)
- Rural Summit Planning Committee Meeting (9/19)
- RMC Executive Board Meeting (9/22)
- RMC Health Committee Meeting (9/25)
- Tawes Crab and Clam Bake (9/27)

Tasks

- Created and sent out an Eblast for the RMC September Executive Board Meeting to the RMC Constant Contact list.
- Updated the Rural Summit section of the RMC website to include logos for sponsors and registration information.
- Updated the RMC Quarterly Newsletter.
- Created and sent out an Eblast for the 2023 Rural Impact Awards to the RMC Constant Contact list.
- Updated the RMC Executive Board contact list.
- Prepared meeting materials for the RMC September Executive Board Meeting.
- Created and sent out an Eblast for the 2023 Rural Summit to the RMC Constant Contact list.
- Created mailing labels for RMC FY23 MAERDAF/RMPIF grant reporting.

- Drafted agendas for all RMC meetings and took the minutes for each meeting.
- Assisted with RMC Summit planning.
- Assisted with Tawes Crab and Clam Bake planning.

October

Meetings and Events

- Daily 9 am Staff Meetings
- Rural Summit Planning Committee Meeting (10/3)
- RMC Legislative Committee Meeting (10/4)
- Maryland Military Coalition Legislative Listening Session (10/5)
- RMC Rural Housing Working Committee Meeting (10/6)
- Rural Maryland Foundation Meeting (10/12)
- Autumn Glory (10/13-10/14)
- Community Development Network Annual Meeting (10/16)
- Maryland Rural Health Association Conference (10/22-10/24)

Tasks

- Filled out and submitted the RMC Credit Card log for August to MDA fiscal services.
- Updated the RMC Quarterly Newsletter.
- Assisted with Rural Summit planning.
- Drafted agendas for all RMC meetings and took the minutes for each meeting.
- Updated the RMC website with upcoming events.
- Notified 2023 Rural Impact Award Winners
- Created board member packets for new RMC board members
- Created and sent out an Eblast for the RMC Annual Meeting to the RMC Constant Contact list.
- Updated RMC Calendar for upcoming 2024 events.
- Maintained the RMC Executive Board and Working Committees contact lists
- Updated the Partners for Open Space website
- Maintained RMC Outreach Calendar
- Drafted an annual report page for the Partners for Rural America 2022 Annual Report



2023 Rural Summit: DRAFT AGENDA

Theme: Pathways to Prosperity

Dates: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Location: Crowne Plaza, Annapolis 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, Maryland

This is a draft agenda for the upcoming 2023 Rural Summit – Breakout session titles and content are still being developed as staff work with the speakers. Updated agendas (as available) will be found on the RMC website and/or reach out to staff.

Monday, November 13, 2023

Optional Bus Tour	
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Forestry Focused Bus Tour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Garman Brothers, Inc. Small Family-Owned Sawmill, Crownsville, MD Home Innovations Lab-Full Research Campus, Upper Marlboro, MD (Bus Leaving & Returning from the Crowne Plaza, Annapolis, MD)</p>
RMC Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony	
6:00 pm– 8:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">[Insert Room Location] Crowne Plaza, Annapolis Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony</p>

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Opening 2023 Rural Summit	
7:30 am– 8:30 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Main Concourse Exhibitor Set-Up</p>
8:00 am– 9:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Main Concourse Participant Registration/Visit Exhibitors Continental Breakfast Available Registration Table sponsored by _____</p>
9:00 am – 10:15 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Arundel Ballroom Welcome (RMC Chair Susan O’Neill)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction of Keynote: _____ Keynote Speaker: Becky McCray</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">[Insert Elected Officials Invited and Topic of Discussion]</p>
<p><i>15 Minute Transition/Visit Exhibitors - Coffee Break Sponsored by: Caroline County Economic Development & Tourism</i></p>	

10:30am – 11:45am Breakout Session A	Agriculture Track 1: Value-Added Agriculture in Maryland	Community Development Track 2: Preserving Local Housing Quality and Affordability: Empowering Seniors “Age in Place”	Economic Development Track 3: Empowering Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses: Unleashing the Potential of Available Resources	Health Care Track 4: Innovation in Action: Open Mental Healthcare in Rural Maryland
11:45am-12:00pm <i>Pick up lunch in the Prince George Room and Return to the Ballroom</i>				
12:00pm-12:30pm	Guest Speaker: Secretary Kevin Atticks, Maryland Department of Agriculture (10 Minutes) Deputy Director Ronnie Hammond, Office of Statewide Broadband Arundel Ballroom (Networking Lunch) Lunch Sponsored by _____			
12:30pm-12:45pm	Plenary: Andy Bauer, Economist, Federal Reserve, Bank of Richmond (15 Minutes)			
12:45pm-1:30pm	Plenary: Maryland Legislative Panel Arundel Ballroom			
<i>15 Minute Transition/Visit Exhibitors - Coffee Break Sponsored by: Caroline County Economic Development & Tourism</i>				
1:45pm – 3:00pm Breakout Session B	Agriculture Track 1: Opening Doors Through Agriculture Education: Formal and Informal Pathways and Resources for Individuals and Community Success	Community Development Track 2: Addressing Rural Homelessness: What are the best practices in helping people experiencing homelessness in rural communities?	Economic Development Track 3: Making It Matter! Impact of Heritage Tourism on Rural Communities	Health Care Track 4: Empowering Community Health Workers for Improved Public Health
<i>15 min. transition/Visit Exhibitors</i>				
3:15pm-4:30pm Breakout Session C	Agriculture Track 1: More Trees Please! How Agriculture Can Fit into Maryland’s Climate and Environmental Goals	Community Development Track 2: From Visual to Reality: Accelerating Housing Unit Creation for All	Economic Development Track 3: Innovations in Rural Economic Development: Transforming Communities through Technology and Collaboration	Health Care Track 4: Addressing the Healthcare Workforce Shortages: Strategies for Sustainable Solutions
<i>15 min. transition/Visit Exhibitors</i>				
4:45pm-5:00pm	Closing Remarks			
5:00pm	2023 Rural Summit Concludes Guest Speaker: Comptroller of Maryland Brooke Lierman			

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

Indicates Speaker Confirmed
Indicates Not Available

Agriculture						
Topic/Potential Time/Equipment	Track	Objectives	Desired Outcome/Action	Potential Speakers	Outreach	State or Regional Representation
<p>Presentation Title:</p> <p>Value-Added Agriculture in Maryland</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>10:30 – 11:45</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>Educate audience on different strategies of value-added</p> <p>Highlight success stories</p> <p>Future opportunities</p>	<p>Educate on SMADC</p> <p style="background-color: #FF0000; color: white;">Lothian Grain Elevator</p> <p>Slaughter Facility - St. Mary's</p> <p>State/MDA - future plans</p> <p>Legislation - regulatory hurdles</p> <p>Identification of available resources</p>	<p style="background-color: #90EE90;">Craig Sewell, Program Director, Southern Maryland Ag Development Commission</p> <p style="background-color: #90EE90;">Martin Proulx, Value Added Agriculture Specialist, MDA</p> <p style="background-color: #90EE90;">Kelly Dudeck, Grow & Fortify</p>	<p>Meeting 10/19</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p style="background-color: #FF0000; color: white;">Del. Charkoudian</p> <p>Sen. Hester</p> <p>Facilitator:</p> <p style="background-color: #90EE90;">Emiliano Espinosa, Chesapeake Agriculture Innovation Center</p>

Session Description:

Value-Added definition - Grow and Fortify - Transforming raw products into goods to enhance their social value, shelf-stability, and profitability is the very essence of “value-added agriculture.”

Farmers need to consider value-added to improve profitability, but it is not without challenges.

Sewell’s Description: Regions across the US now face the problem of "the Missing Middle"--the critical infrastructure between producer and buyer and midscale operations that are appropriate fits for local and regional economies -- livestock producers are traveling hours to processors increasing their operating costs and

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

the quality of their product. Grain producers stand to lose a sales outlet sorely needed for the small farmer -- Two Southern Maryland counties in association with SMADC have made bold moves to invest financially in the building and maintenance of badly needed infrastructure to support the local farmer, create new jobs, open new markets, and allow for regional branding identities. These mid-supply chain investments are there to "set the table" for private enterprises to enter a niche in the supply chain to enable stability, growth, and resiliency.

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

<p>Presentation Title Opening Doors Through Agriculture Education: Formal and Informal Pathways and Resources for Individuals and Community Success</p> <p>Time: 1:45 – 3:00</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>Increasing awareness and understanding of formal and non-formal agriculture educational opportunities in Maryland.</p> <p>Creating opportunities for developing agriculture education into new or strengthened agriculture businesses.</p> <p>Building awareness of post-secondary degrees, certificates and learning opportunities in agriculture.</p>		<p>Susanne Richards, MAEF</p> <p>Dr. Melisa Welsh, UMD</p> <p>(Drone Company - Mel Litter? John Hartline? People for Change?)</p>	<p>Meeting 10/20</p>	<p>Moderator: Sen. Gallion</p> <p>Facilitator:</p>
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Session Description:

Bringing Ag Education curriculum through the Blueprint

Targeting Ag workforce development

Richard's Description: Agriculture is the largest commercial industry in Maryland, with one in three jobs tied to agriculture. Jobs in agriculture include education; research; biotechnology; food and beverage production; environmental services; energy; crop protection; animal care; finance; marketing and communications; sales; national and international trade; management; food services and eating and drinking places; textiles, apparel, and leather products; and forestry and fishing. Agriculture is also home to a great number of entrepreneurs.

Join us in navigating Maryland's array of opportunities for formal and non-formal education supporting careers in agriculture. From simple educational workshops to certifications to formal degree programs and everything in between, Marylanders can find an educational niche to support their career interests and academic needs.

The agriculture industry is hiring: Each year agriculture needs more skilled workers than graduates from our schools. Precision agriculture is rising; high-tech, high-wage, and in-demand jobs drive innovation in Maryland businesses. Advancements in drone technology and indoor atmospheric controlled growth continue to drive entrepreneurial endeavors across the state.

Participants will walk away with a better understanding of the resources available in-state to get youth and adult learners trained to work in this diverse field.

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

<p>Presentation Title:</p> <p>Forestry and Climate Focus - Combining Proposals More Trees, Please and How Agriculture Can Fit Into Maryland's Climate and Environmental Goals</p> <p>Time: 3:15 – 4:30</p> <p>Equipment: PPT capabilities</p>	<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>Understand the status of forest cover and tree canopy in your community</p> <p>Learn how to capitalize on the benefits of forest cover and tree canopy</p> <p>Discover how you can protect and expand your forest cover and tree canopy</p>	<p>Dr. Rachel Lamb, MDE</p> <p>Terry Nuwer, MCSAP</p> <p>Shannon Moore, Frederick County</p> <p>Hans - MDA</p> <p>(Beth Hill, MD Forest Association)</p>	<p>Meeting 10/23</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Anne Hairston-Strang</p> <p>Facilitator:</p> <p>Josh Bollinger</p>
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Session Description:

Bollinger's Proposal: Trees keep our communities cool, attract businesses and residents, protect streams from erosion, reduce flooding and more. But how is your county doing on protecting and expanding this important resource? The General Assembly recently commissioned a Technical Study of Changes in Maryland's Forest Cover and Tree Canopy and online story map that used new hyper-resolution land use data to help you understand how your tree resources have changed over time and new county-level fact sheets break down these results in an easy-to-understand way. Hear from the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology about the results of the study, and then hear from two counties about how they bring multiple health, environmental, and economic benefits to their community using the cost-effective approach of conserving and expanding forests and tree canopy.

Nuwer's Proposal: Agriculture is Maryland's top commercial industry and the backbone of its rural economies. This industry is expected to be more overwhelmed by climate change than most industries, potentially damaging Maryland's food system and the agricultural economy if climate-adaptive and resilient practices and strategies are not adopted.

The Maryland Climate-Smart Agriculture Project, organized by the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, will identify current and future climate-related issues farmers are expected to face while simultaneously performing research that frames how science can help increase resiliency. A team of scientists with diverse expertise is developing models to forecast specific impacts on agricultural production systems throughout the state.

This presentation will review preliminary findings on how Maryland's agriculture industry can become more resilient in the face of a changing climate and help meet various statewide goals, such as those related to greenhouse gas reductions, renewable energy, nutrient management, and land preservation.

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

Community Development						
Topic/Potential Time/Equipment	Track	Objectives	Desired Outcome/Action	Potential Speakers	Outreach	State or Regional Representation
<p>Presentation Title:</p> <p>Preserving Local Housing Quality and Affordability: Empowering Seniors “Age in Place”</p> <p>Time: 10:30 - 11:45</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	Community Development	<p>Identify models of aging in place programs - successful</p> <p>Identify resources available - funding</p> <p>Economic impact - case study - community impact</p> <p>Challenge in rural - aging housing stock</p>	<p>Legislation</p> <p>Taking information back to their local governments</p> <p>Highlighting best practices</p>	<p>-Shanna Humphrey Garrett County Community Action re: CAPABLE - Community Aging in Place Project</p> <p>-Susan Brown - Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence</p> <p>-Jack Daniels - MD DHCD Special Loans Programs</p> <p>Molly Hilligoss, Habitat for Humanity of Wicomico</p>		<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Mike McKay Cindy Stone</p> <p>Facilitator:</p>
<p>Session Description:</p> <p>This conference session will explore strategies and solutions to preserve and enhance local housing quality, with a specific focus on empowering seniors to age in place. With the aging population on the rise, it has become increasingly important to ensure that seniors can continue living in their homes comfortably and safely. This session will discuss various approaches to maintaining and improving housing standards, considering factors such as accessibility, safety measures, and community support services. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from a variety of stakeholders in the field, share best practices, and gain valuable insights on how to create an environment that supports seniors in aging in place successfully.</p>						

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

<p>Presentation Title:</p> <p>Addressing Rural Homelessness: What are the Best Practices for Helping People Experiencing Homelessness in Rural Communities?</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>1:45 – 3:00</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	<p>Community Development</p>	<p>Identify solutions for those experiencing homelessness</p> <p>Identify unique challenges</p> <p>Learn how to develop tailored support services</p> <p>Community services and partnerships</p>	<p>Carolyn Curry, Maryland Balance of State CoC Lead</p> <p>Mark Sewell, Ph.D., Director of Grants Manager, CoC Lead, Washington County Community Action Council</p> <p>Sandy Washington, Lifestyles (Southern Maryland)</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Danielle Meister, DHCD</p> <p>Facilitator:</p>
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Alternate Title: Addressing Rural Homelessness: Strategies for Supporting Vulnerable Communities

Session Description:

In this conference session of rural homelessness, we will delve into the unique challenges faced by vulnerable communities in rural areas. We will explore effective strategies for addressing rural homelessness, including the development of tailored support services and community partnerships. Join us to learn from industry experts and gain insights on how to make a positive impact and create sustainable solutions for those experiencing homelessness in rural areas.

What are the best practices for helping people experiencing homelessness in rural communities? This panel will let you know what is happening statewide and how you can connect with local providers serving this community.

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

<p>Presentation Title: Strategies to Promote Unit Creation</p> <p>Time: 3:15 – 4:30</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	<p>Community Development</p>	<p>Permitting and planning issues - identifying challenges to affordable housing creation</p> <p>Economic reasons why we need affordable housing</p> <p>Case study - talk about current project and challenges they have - leveraging finances</p> <p>Not affordable specifically - for all housing</p>	<p>Incentives that are out there to support projects</p> <p>State regulatory measures that can be recommended</p> <p>Strategies to promote infill development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse</p>	<p>Deborah Carpenter, Frederick County</p> <p>Peter Dolkart, Federal Reserve</p> <p>Luke Patton (OUT OF OFFICE UNTIL 10/23)</p>		<p>Moderator: Dominic Butchko</p> <p>Facilitator:</p>
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Alternate Title(s): From Visual to Reality: Accelerating Housing Unit Creation for All

Session Description:

From streamlining the development process to fostering public-private partnerships, this session aims to provide attendees with actionable insights on how to effectively and efficiently promote the creation of housing units. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and expert presentations, participants will gain valuable knowledge on overcoming challenges, leveraging resources, and maximizing community involvement to address the pressing need for affordable housing.

Ways to help state and local governments to focus on unit creation

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

Economic Development						
Topic/Potential Time/Equipment	Track	Objectives	Desired Outcome/Action	Potential Speakers	Outreach	State or Regional Representation
<p>Presentation Title:</p> <p>Pathways for Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses to Succeed - Encourage Access and Absorption of Capital in Underserved Communities</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>10:30 – 11:45</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	Economic Development	<p>Resources available for entrepreneurship and small business</p> <p>Government support and programs</p> <p>Providing information on how entrepreneurs can find and apply to programs</p>	<p>Highlighting resources available for small business and entrepreneurs</p>	<p>Frank Dickson, DHCD</p> <p>Michael Collins, US SBA</p> <p>Karen Zuccardi - MD Rural Business Initiative for TEDCO</p>		<p>Moderator: Sen. Augustine</p> <p>Facilitator:</p>

Alternate Title: Empowering Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses: Unleashing the Potential of Available Resources

Session Description:

In this conference session, we will explore the vast array of resources available to entrepreneurs and small business. From financial support to mentorship programs, participants will gain insights on how to leverage these resources effectively to fuel their growth and success.

"Maryland was the first state in the nation to submit its State Small Business Credit Initiative deployment plan to the United States Treasury Department and was one of the first five states to be approved. The State Small Business Credit Initiative is actively awarding funds to support businesses with limited opportunities for growth. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has been designated as the lead agency to administer Maryland's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) funds in partnership with the Maryland Department of Commerce and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation. Maryland's statewide SSBCI initiatives target communities and areas with a high concentration of small, micro, and Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individual (SEDI) businesses.

Rural Summit Planning Worksheet

10/23/2023

<p>Presentation Title:</p> <p>Making it Matter! Impact of Heritage Tourism on Rural Communities</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>1:45 – 3:00</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Understanding what a heritage area is, what it means (on both the national and state level), and why it matters. Learning how to get involved with a national or state heritage area, from an economic, social, cultural, or conservation perspective.</p> <p>Learning how your community, business, or organization might benefit from involvement within a heritage area. Learning how the heritage area program is especially important for rural communities. Learning how to bring a heritage area to your region.</p> <p>Hearing the history and heritage from people who have lived it, especially in regards to those who have been underrepresented, especially African American and Indigenous communities. Learning how to connect with that heritage.</p>		<p>Lucille Walker, Southern Maryland National Heritage Area</p> <p>Francis Gray, Tribal Chair, Piscataway Conoy</p> <p>Joann Dawson, Fairwinds</p> <p>Gwen Bankins - Descendant and Board Member of Historic Sotterley</p>	<p>Meeting 10/24</p>	<p>Moderator: Lucille Walker Mark, McHenry</p>
<p>Session Description:</p>						

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Walker's Description: This session will explore the economic, social, cultural, and conservation impact that heritage tourism can have in, and for, your community. Find out how Southern Maryland became a new National Heritage Area and what this means from the state and national perspective. Hear from the Tribal Chair of the Piscataway Conoy and from a Descendant from Historic Sotterley about the importance of heritage areas in elevating diverse voices. Learn how state and national heritage areas explore our past in order to connect to our future, and why that matters now more than ever.

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<p>Presentation Title: Innovations in Rural Economic Development</p> <p>Time: 3:15 – 4:30</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Digital infrastructure advancements and their impact on rural communities</p> <p>best practices</p> <p>Collaborative Efforts for Sustainable Rural Development</p> <p>Overcoming Challenges in Rural Economic Development</p> <p>Jones Act</p>	<p>Matt Scassero, UMD</p> <p>Chris Kaselemis</p> <p>Heather Tinelli, Queen Anne’s County Economic & Tourist Development</p> <p>Colin Grabow, Cato Institute</p>	<p>Meeting 10/25</p>	<p>Moderator: Del. Rose</p> <p>Facilitator:</p>
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Alternate Title: Innovations in Rural Economic Development: Transforming Communities through Technology and Collaboration

Session Description:

This conference session will explore the powerful impact of innovative approaches in rural economic development. With a focus on leveraging technology and fostering collaboration, this session will highlight successful examples, address challenges, and provide actionable steps to drive sustainable growth in rural communities. Participants will gain valuable insights into how advancements in various sectors can be harnessed to unlock the full potential of rural areas.

Scassero’s Proposal: Saint Mary’s County has a rich history, but an even brighter future. This is being created and supported through a unique collaboration among all the various members of the community, and the state and region beyond. It is one thing to talk about collaboration...it is another entirely to see it to fruition. This is a complex but complementary ecosystem from agriculture and aquaculture to military research and development, from aerospace to underground robots, across education, industry, and government policies. How do you make yours work?

Tinelli’s Proposal: This session will highlight examples of rural community economic data, relevant resources for data collection, regional collaboration and best practices in data collection, evaluation of outcomes, and an overview of strategies to improve future economic outcomes.

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Health Care						
Topic/Potential Time/Equipment	Track	Objectives	Desired Outcome/Action	Potential Speakers	Outreach	State or Regional Representation
<p>Presentation Title: Innovation in Action: Open Mental Healthcare in Rural Maryland</p> <p>Time: 10:30 – 11:45</p> <p>Equipment:</p>	Health Care	<p>insight into how mental health affects all aspects of rural prosperity, including individual wellness, community resilience, and business efficacy</p> <p>understand the urgent challenges facing the mental healthcare industry, such as workforce shortages and escalating demand, and why all Marylanders should be concerned.</p> <p>learn about creative, collaborative solutions to these challenges, with a particular focus on supporting Maryland workers in every industry experiencing burnout in record numbers.</p>		<p>Beth Anne Dorman, For All Seasons</p>		<p>Moderator</p> <p>Facilitator: Susan O'Neill</p>

Session Description:

This session is a deep dive into the intricacies of mental health care in rural communities, illustrating its significance in the region’s broader economic and social prosperity. Unveiling the profound correlation between mental health and prosperity, Beth Anne Dorman, President & CEO of For All Seasons, will explore how mental wellness is the lever for personal, community, and business success. Highlighting the unique pressures experienced by rural Maryland, she will offer an in-depth review of the current state of mental healthcare, exposing key issues like workforce shortages, increased demand, and other daunting challenges. Beth Anne will encourage attendees to think creatively, innovatively, and collaboratively about addressing these challenges, advocating for a human-centered approach that focuses on the well-being of Maryland’s hardworking community.

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Presentation Title: Community Health Worker Focus Time: 1:45 – 3:00 Equipment:	Health Care 	Defining the role and scope of CHWs in healthcare delivery Strengthening training and education for community health workers Harnessing technology and innovation for community health work Collaborations and partnerships in community health Addressing challenges and discussing sustainability		Kat Rodgers, TidalHealth Elizabeth Chung, Asian American Center of Frederick Tina Backe Coordinator Community Health Worker Program	Moderator: Del. Cullison Facilitator:
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Alternate Title: Empowering Community Health Workers for Improved Public Health
 Data driven community health worker
 Advancing Chws in a data driven world

Session Description:

This conference aims to explore the vital role of community health workers (CHWs) in promoting and improving public health outcomes. It will delve into the importance of CHWs in bridging gaps in healthcare access, delivering culturally sensitive care, and addressing social determinants of health. Through case studies, best practices, and interactive discussions, attendees will gain insights on how to empower and support CHWs to create a positive impact within their communities.

Description: The Community Health Worker Model for Care Coordination was adopted by TidalHealth to improve patient experience, health status, and outcomes and reduce total cost of care. TidalHealth adapted a model for CHW-based chronic care management for patients with high healthcare costs, showing promising success in rural Appalachia. Leadership consulted with Dr. R. Crespo to assist with initial implementation and model design. This NP-led team includes a social worker, an RN, and three CHWs. The team supports patients who are at high risk for readmissions related to the impact of chronic illness and social determinants of health. Demonstrate success.

Chung Proposal: The presentation will highlight AACF's work to develop a workforce in Frederick, Carroll, and Washington Counties. The project includes conducting a mapping of community assets and deficits to determine the population to be served. AACF is a state-accredited CHW Training Program and a registered Apprenticeship Program with DLLR. The project goal is to build at least 20 stakeholders/employers for the 25 newly trained community healthcare workers in a wide range of careers reaching vulnerable clients.

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Presentation Title: Health Care Workforce Time: 3:15 – 4:30 Equipment:	Health Care 	Brief overview of current strategies Understanding the causes of the shortage Highlight best practices Attracting and retaining healthcare professionals Government support and policies	Potential collabs between government and healthcare stakeholders Policies and incentives that can be introduced	Sara Seitz State Office of Rural Health Dr. Richard Colgan - AHEC West AHEC East Director	Moderator: Pena-Melnyk Lopez Kerr Facilitator:
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Alternate Title: Addressing the Healthcare Workforce Shortages: Strategies for Sustainable Solutions

Session Description:

The State has a serious shortage of healthcare workers and we need to identify steps to address shortages through 1) a loan incentive program and 2) successful pipeline programs.

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Plenary/Legislative Panel/Keynote					
Topic/Potential Time/Equipment	Track	Objectives	Desired Outcome/Action	Potential Speakers	Outreach
Morning Plenary Time: Equipment:					
Afternoon Plenary Time: 12:30 - 12:45 Equipment:	Plenary			Kevin Atticks (Ronnie Hammond (Andy Bauer, Federal Reserve (1230-1245)	
Legislative Panel Time: Equipment:		Understanding the role of the legislature Legislative priorities and policy development Impact on Public Health and healthcare systems Addressing social and economic challenges Ensuring accountability and transparency		Del. Buckel Del. Sample-Hughes Del. Patterson Del. Korman Sen. Ready Del. Boyce	
Keynote Speaker Time: 9:00 - 10:15				Becky McCray	

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Equipment:					
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Legislative Plenary Description: In this conference plenary, we will delve into the critical topic of state legislative initiatives and their impact on various aspects of society. Our esteemed panel of state legislators will engage in a thought-provoking discussion on key issues and opportunities related to state legislation.

Conference description: In this keynote address, we will explore the various pathways to prosperity and discuss strategies for achieving economic growth, promoting social equity, and ensuring sustainable development. The keynote speaker will present valuable insights and practical solutions aimed at addressing the challenges and opportunities in today's rapidly changing global landscape.

2023 Rural Summit Sponsorships				
Organization	Contact	e-mail	Additional Contact	Sponsorship
			Greater Cumberland Commission,	
Frostburg State University	Al Delia	aadelia@frostburg.edu	jennifer@greatercc.org	Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
Grow & Fortify	Kelly Dudeck	kelly@growandfortify.com		Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corpor	Jill Kubatko	jkubatko@marbidco.org		Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association	Vanessa Finney	vanessa@mnlga.org		Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
MD Horse Breeders Association & MD Horse Industry Board	Becky Remsberg	bremberg@marylandthoroughbred.com		Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
Tri-County Council for Western Maryland	Amy Jacobs	ajacobs@tccwmd.org		Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
University of Maryland - Extension	Ryan Salsman	rsalsman@umd.edu		Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
Upper Shore Regional Council				Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
Maryland Department of Commerce	Heather Graham			Rural Advocate (\$1,000)
Delmarva Chicken Association	Holly Porter	porter@DCAchicken.com		Rural Associate (\$500)
Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative	Casey Wood	cxwood@salisbury.edu		Rural Associate (\$500)
FEWSS Project	Rebecca Rush	energy@fewss.org		Rural Associate (\$500)
Mid-Shore Regional Council				Rural Associate (\$500)
Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS)	Seth Hanley	shanleym@umd.edu		Rural Associate (\$500)
Southern Maryland National Heritage Area	Lucille Walker	lwalker@tccsmd.org		Rural Associate (\$500)
Chesapeake Agriculture Innovation Center	Emiliano			Rural Associate (\$500)
Choptank Electric Cooperative	Matt Tefteau	matthewt@choptankelectric.coop		Rural Associate (\$500)
Maryland Department of Agriculture	Automatic Sponsor			Rural Associate (\$500)
Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore				Rural Associate (\$500)
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development	Kelly Vaughn	Kelly Vaughn -DHCD-		Rural Champion (\$5,000)
Caroline County Economic Development & Tourism	Kendall Teague	kteague@carolinemd.org		Rural Contributor (\$750)
For All Seasons	Beth Anne Langrell	blangrell@forallseasonsinc.org		Rural Contributor (\$750)
The Arc of Central Chesapeake	Gregory Snyder	gsnyder@thearcccr.org		Rural Contributor (\$750)
Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Amber Fabricante	afabricante@tccsmd.org		Rural Contributor (\$750)
Kent County Economic and Tourist Development	Jamie Williams	jlwilliams@kentgov.org		Rural Friend (\$250)
Horizon Farm Credit	Lisa Bicking	lbicking@horizonfc.com		Rural Supporter (\$2,500)
The Keith Campbell Foundation	Samantha Campbell	scampbell@campbellfoundation.org		Rural Supporter (\$2,500)
UMES	Chenita Reddick	creddick@umes.edu		Rural Supporter (\$2,500)

2023 Tawes Participant List						
Name	Organization	# of tickets	Bus?	Tickets Pick	Additional Notes	e-mail
Brian Jone	Worcester County			YES		bjones@co.worcester.md.us
Frank Bartz	Caroline County			YES		
Jay Jacobs	Delegate - MGA	2		YES		jay.jacobs@house.state.md.us
Jeff Ghrist	Delegate - MGA			YES		Jeff.Ghrist@house.state.md.us
Jennifer L. Williams	Law Office of Jennifer L. Williams	1		YES		jwilliamslaw@goeaston.net
Jess Iacona	BEACON			YES		jxiacona@salisbury.edu
John Hickmans	BEACON			YES		jnhickman@salisbury.edu
John Miller	Town of Middleton			YES		burgess@ci.middleton.md.us
Karen Miller	Town of Middleton			YES		
Ken Kerr	Delegate - MGA		YES	YES		ken.kerr@house.state.md.us
Lance Thomas	Worcester County			YES		lthomas@co.worcester.md.us
Larry Porter				YES		
Laurie-Anne Sayles	Montgomery County		YES	YES		councilmember.Sayles@montgomerycountymd.gov
Paul Manfielo	Town of Middleton			YES		
Rick Blair and Rick Hemphill		2		YES		rickframb@aol.com
Ron Engle				YES		
Ruth Toomey	Maryland Tourism Coalition	1		YES		ruth@mdtourism.org
Susan McMichen	Worcester County			YES		
Susie Hayward	Director of Midshore Realtors			YES		shaynerd@mishoreboard
Terry Fearins	USDA	3		YES	MACO, needs to	terry.fearins@usda.gov
Thomas Hutchinson	Delegate - MGA			YES		
Tim Bozeman	Wicomico County	1		YES		tbozman@wicomicocounty.org
Tim Palmer	Wicomico County	1		YES		
Todd Smith	Fire Association			YES		
Travis Breedey				YES		
Bob Zimberoff	Labor	2		YES		rzimberoff@chesapeake.edu
Dan Rider		3		YES		
Jerry McLaurin		2		YES		jerry@pfcblackchamber.org
Kevin Atticks	MDA	1		YES		kevin.atticks@maryland.gov
Mike McKay	MGA	1	YES	YES	STATEHOUSE	mike.mckay@senate.state.md.us
RMC Staff		4		YES		
Ryan Snow	Talbot County	1		YES		RSnow@talbotcountymd.gov
Susan O'Neill			YES	YES		sonell@kentgov.org
Scott Warner		4		YES		swamer@midshore.org
Cassandra Vanhooser	Talbot County	1				cvanhooser@talbotcountymd.gov
John Hickman	Salisbury	2				
Kerrie Bunting	Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce	1			PICKING UP AT GATE	kerrie@oceanpineschamber.org
Lisa Challenger	Beach to Bay Heritage Area	1				info@beachesbaywaterways.org
Nadine Burton	UMES	1				nmburton@umes.edu
Nicholas Redding	Preservation Maryland	5			GATE	rcrutchfield@presmd.org
Phil Thompson	Worcester County	2	No			pthompson@co.worcester.md.us
Starr Mister	Somerset County Sanitary District	2			PICKING UP AT GATE	smister@somersetmd.us
Susan Runnells	Caroline Human Services Council	1			PICKING UP AT GATE	carolinehumanservicescouncil@gmail.com
John Hartline						jhartline@tccsmd.org
Jim Gilchrist						
NOT ATTENDING						
Cristy Morrell	Critchlow Adkins	2				
Cynthia DuRant	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	1				cdurant@fdic.gov
Demetria Leonard		1				
Heather Tinelli	Queen Anne's County	1				HTinelli@gac.org
James Hunter	Garrett County	2				jimhunteribew@gmail.com
Jasmine Henry	USDA RD	1				
Jean Fabi	USDA RD	1				
Letitia Nichols	USDA RD	1				
Lucille Walker	TCCSMD	1				lwalker@tccsmd.org
Marc Knapp		2				mknapp@hotmail.com
McNeal Brown	HCDCC	1				mcnealforhowardcounty@gmail.com
Nancy Shockley	Moving Dorchester Forward	1				
Nichole Roop	Easton Utilities	2			requested for Hugh Grunden and John Horner	nroop@eucomail.com
Tina-Marie Brown		2				
Tyler Patton		1				



Upcoming Meetings for Calendar Year 2024*

* Meeting dates are tentative. Leadership reserves the option to change or add meetings as needed to address issues that arise during the course of business. Visit rural.maryland.gov to view current announcements and events.

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

Friday, January 26	Annapolis, Maryland (Sponsored by TBD)
Friday, April 5	Annapolis, Maryland (Sponsored by TBD)
Friday, September 27	Location TBD
Wednesday, December 4	Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony, Location TBD

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

Friday, January 12	Location, TBD
Friday, March 15	Location, TBD
Friday, September 27	Location, TBD
Friday, November 1	Location, TBD

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

Monday, January 8	Conference Call <i>General Assembly Convenes – January 10</i>
<u>Welcome Breakfast for Legislators, Friday, January 12, 7:30am – 9am – Maryland Inn, Annapolis</u> <i>10th Day of Session – January 19 – Senate and House Bill Request Guarantee Date</i>	
Wednesday, January 22	Budget introduction
Monday, February 5	Conference Call <i>27th Day of Session – February 5 – Senate Bill Introduction Date</i>
<u>Rural Maryland Day, Thursday, February 8, 8:30am – 1:00pm – Maryland General Assembly</u> <i>31st Day of Session – February 9 – House Bill Introduction Date</i>	
Monday, March 4	Conference Call <i>55th Day of Session – March 4 – Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules</i> <i>63rd Day of Session – March 12 – Committee Reporting Courtesy Date</i> <i>69th Day of Session – March 18 – Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date</i>
<u>Friday, Maryland Day, March 22, 11:00am – 1:00pm – Lawyer’s Mall, Annapolis</u>	
Monday, April 8	Conference Call <i>83rd Day of Session – April 1 – Budget bill to be passed by both chambers</i> <i>Sine Die – April 8 – 2024 Legislative Session End</i>
Monday, April 15	Conference Call – Session Review

RMPIF Committee

Tuesday, March 19	RMPIF Committee Meeting
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MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board

Thursday, March 28	Review board to meet prior to MAERDAF/RMPIF application announcement, 1pm- 2pm, Conference Call <i>FY24 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Proposal Phase One Application Available – Monday, April 22</i> <i>FY24 MAERDAF/RMPIF Phase One Proposal Due – Friday, May 17</i>
Tuesday, May 21	FY24 MAERDAF/RMPIF Applications available for Board review

Rural Maryland Council 2024 Calendar

Applications

FY24 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Proposal Phase Two Applicants Notified – Week of June 17

FY24 MAERDAF/RMPIF Phase Two Proposal Due – Friday, July 19

Tuesday, July 23	FY24 MAERDAF/RMPIF Applications available for Board review
August 5, 6 and 7	FY24 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Review Board Meets to Consider Phase Two Applications
Monday, August 12	FY24 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grantees Announced

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

Thursday, March 7	Conference Call
Thursday, June 6	Conference Call
Thursday, August 29	Conference Call
Thursday, November 14	Conference Call

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

Thursday, March 14	Conference Call
Thursday, June 13	Conference Call
Thursday, October 3	Conference Call
Thursday, December 12	Conference Call

Health Committee – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 21	Conference Call
Wednesday, May 22	Conference Call
Wednesday, August 21	Conference Call
Wednesday, November 27	Conference Call

Rural Housing Working Committee– 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 22	Conference Call
Thursday, May 23	Conference Call
Thursday, August 22	Conference Call
Thursday, November 14	Conference Call

Other dates of interest:

Maryland's Best Expo – January 9, 2024
Winter MEDA Conference – January 11, 2024
PACE Conference – January 25-26, 2024
Taste of Maryland Agriculture Dinner – February 1, 2024
Taste of the Eastern Shore – February 8, 2024
Taste of Southern Maryland – February 29, 2024
Maryland Community Action Partnership Conference – May 7-10, 2024
Delfest – May 23-26, 2024
Maryland Municipal League Conference – June 23-26, 2024
Summer MACo Conference – August 14-17, 2024
Maryland State Fair – August 22-25, August 29 - September 2, September 5-8, 2024
J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake – September 25, 2024
Autumn Glory – October 9-13, 2024
Maryland Farm Bureau Convention – December 2024
Winter MACo Conference – December 11-13, 2024



RMC Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner
November 13, 2023- 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm
Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Agenda

Participants: RMC Executive Board Members, RMC Staff, and Guests

- a. Welcome and Agenda Overview Susan O’Neill, Chair
- b. Nominating Committee Chris Benzing, Chair
 - i. 2023/2024 RMC Executive Board and Officers

Awards Ceremony

- c. Rural Impact Awards
 - i. Rural Community Volunteer
 - ii. Outstanding Rural Community Development
 - iii. Outstanding Rural Economic Development
 - iv. Rural Champion
 - v. Rural Legacy

Business Meeting

- 1) Approval of September 22, 2023, minutes

Board and Committee Reports

- 2) Financial Charlotte Davis
 - a. FY2024 Budget
- 3) Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Scott Warner, Chair
- 4) Legislative Committee Lindsay Thompson and Chris Benzing, Co-Chairs
 - a. 2024 Legislative Session
 - b. 2024 Legislative Priorities
- 5) Agriculture Committee Matthew Teffeau, Chair
- 6) Joint Planning and Development Committee
- 7) Rural Maryland Foundation Dan Rider, President
 - a. Think Tank Rural Research Project
 - b. Transfer of Wealth Project Update
- 8) Health Committee
- 9) Rural Housing Working Committee
- 10) Nominating Committee Chris Benzing, Chair
- 11) Executive Director’s Report Charlotte Davis
 - a. Staff Activity Reports
 - b. 2024 RMC Calendar
 - c. FY2023 RMC Annual Report
- 12) New Business
- 13) Adjourn

Next Meeting: Friday, January 26, 2024, 12 pm – 2pm
Location: To Be Determined



2023 Annual Meeting

2023 Rural Impact Awards Ceremony

Monday, November 13, 2023

Crowne Plaza, Annapolis, Maryland

Rural Legacy Award

Duane Yoder

For his extraordinary efforts in combating the causes and effects of poverty by supporting families and individuals, allowing them to gain economic security and a better-quality of life throughout his work in rural Maryland

Outstanding Rural Community Volunteer

Walter Chase

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

Outstanding Rural Community Development

Caroline School House's Culinary Arts Center

Shore Gourmet Curbside Market

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

Outstanding Rural Economic Development

Hardwire, LLC

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

Rural Champion

Delegate Kenneth Kerr

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