



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, September 12, 2025 – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Zoom Teleconference
Minutes

Participants: Immediate Past Chair John Hartline, Daniel Rider, Scott Warner, Kurt Fuchs, Gregory Padgham, Matthew Tefteau

RMC Staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

Immediate Past Chair John Hartline called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Mr. Hartline requested for approval of the minutes from the RMC Executive Committee meeting held on March 21, 2025. Scott Warner motioned to approve the minutes; Dan Rider seconded the minutes. The minutes from March 21, 2025, were unanimously approved. Members also reviewed the minutes from the RMC Executive Board meeting held on April 4, 2025. The minutes were unanimously approved to move forward to the RMC Executive Board for final approval.

Executive Director Charlotte Davis reviewed the Financial Report. Discussion began with the FY2026 Budget. It was noted that, at the beginning of the quarter, no funds were available other than for salaries, and that staff were continuing to work on pending grant agreements.

The FY2027 Budget Letter and accompanying postcard and action alert were then reviewed. John requested that the verbiage be updated to reflect two-thirds. A motion to move the revised letter forward to the Executive Board was made by Gregory Padgham and seconded by Kurt Fuchs. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Towson University Regional Economic Impact Study was also discussed briefly.

The Committee reviewed several items, including the FY2026 Grant Awards Press Release, the FY2027 RMC Managing for Results (MFRs) report, the FY2021–2026 RMC Nonprofit Awardees list, and updates on grant extensions and outstanding awards.

Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs discussed the RMC Legislative Committee. The last meeting was held on July 29, 2025, and discussion focused on the upcoming 2026 Legislative Session and the Rural Capacity Enhancement Act of 2026. The next meeting date will be determined following a Doodle poll to be circulated after Thanksgiving.

President Dan Rider discussed the Rural Maryland Foundation. The Transfer of Wealth Committee last met on April 25, 2025, to discuss the Rural Trust draft. The next RMF meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025.

The RMC Health Committee last met on August 27, 2025, and reviewed the updated Maryland Rural Health Strategic Plan draft. The next meeting date will be determined within the coming weeks.

The Rural Housing Working Committee’s last meeting was held on May 29, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2025.

The RMC Agricultural Committee have been searching for a new GICA member. The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

The Joint Planning and Development Committee recently reviewed the draft of the Rural Maryland Resident Needs Survey. Members requested adding an “Other Issues” text box (250–500 characters) and including a new question focused on what respondents appreciate about their rural community. The JPD Committee also discussed the draft Strategic Plan. It was agreed to remove Goal 7 (“7 Tow”) and to explore possible partnerships with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Economic Strategy. A motion to move the revised Strategic Plan forward to the Board for review was made by Matt Tefteau and seconded by Scott Warner. The motion was unanimously approved. The next JPD meeting will be held on November 12, 2025.

The proposed 2026 Board Slate and Officers were reviewed. The next meeting date for the Nominating Committee will be determined.

Staff activity reports were presented and reviewed.

Under New Business, members reviewed the draft agenda for the Fall Executive Board Meeting, scheduled for September 19, 2025, which will feature a Local Business Spotlight. The Committee also discussed upcoming events, including the J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clambake on September 24, 2025, and the MEA Funding Opportunities Workshops.

The 2025 Rural Summit, themed "*Elevating Maryland through Stronger Rural Communities,*" was highlighted, along with a reminder that nominations for the Rural Impact Awards are due by October 17, 2025.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 7, 2025, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kurt Fuchs and seconded by Scott Warner. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.