



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, September 12, 2025 – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Zoom Teleconference

Meeting Minutes

Participants: Chair Susan O’Neill, Immediate Past Chair John Hartline, Gregory Padgham, Jamie Williams, Scott Warner, Kurt Fuchs, Dr. Heidi Anderson, Matthew Tefteau, Daniel Rider
RMC Staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chair Susan O’Neill, who welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the agenda.

The committee reviewed prior meeting minutes, including the RMC Executive Committee Meeting held on September 12, 2025. Dr. Heidi Anderson motioned to approve the minutes; John Hartline seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved. The minutes from the RMC Executive Board Meeting held on September 19, 2025, were also reviewed. Jamie Williams motioned to move the minutes forward to the Executive Board for final approval; John Hartline seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

The Board then reviewed and decided upon the 2025 Rural Impact Awards. Award recipients include Delegate Steven Arentz as the Rural Champion; Delegate Charles Otto (posthumously) as the Rural Legacy award recipient; Building African American Minds (BAAM) and Community Behavioral Health for the Rural Community Development Award; John and Ann Richards for the Rural Community Volunteer Award; the Frederick County Agricultural Innovation Grant Program for the Rural Economic Development Award; and Cindy Stone as the recipient of the Chairman’s Award.

The Board and committee reports followed. The Financial Report included discussion of the FY2026 budget, presented by Executive Director Charlotte Davis. Jamie Williams motioned to approve the budget as presented; John Hartline seconded the motion. The FY2026 budget was unanimously approved.

Scott Warner, Chair of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Committee, provided updates on the FY2026 MAERDAF/RMPIF, the FY2027 budget request, and review of the FY2027 budget letter and postcard.

Kurt Fuchs, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, reported on the committee’s last meeting held on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, and discussed preparations for the 2026 Legislative Session and the Rural Readiness Program, with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2025.

Members discussed the Rural Maryland Foundation. The last meeting was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2025, via Zoom teleconference.

Members also discussed the Health Committee, with updates on the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program and the SCCHHST Report. The next meeting date to be determined.

The Rural Housing Working Committee held their last meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2025, and announced the next meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025, via Zoom teleconference.

The Agriculture Committee has been working to fill a vacancy within GICA. Ms. Kelsey Keadle, Business Specialist of Agriculture at Washington County Government, will fill this vacancy. The next Agriculture Committee meeting date to be determined.

John Hartline, Chair of the Joint Planning and Development Committee, discussed the Rural Maryland Resident Needs Survey and announced the next meeting for Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

Jamie Williams, Chair of Nominating Committee, briefly reviewed the proposed 2026 Board Slate and Officers, and scheduled a meeting for Monday, November 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

The Executive Director's Report concluded the section with a review of staff activity reports.

Under new business, the Board reviewed the draft agenda for the Annual Meeting scheduled for November 19, 2025, discussed the RMC Annual Calendar, and received an update on the 2025 Rural Summit, titled "*Elevating Maryland through Stronger Rural Communities.*"

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:12 p.m. following a motion by John Hartline and seconded by Jamie Williams.