



RMC Youth Engagement Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Zoom Teleconference
Minutes

Participants: Jerry McLaurin, Scott Warner, Gregory Padgham, Brandon Rosario, John Hartline, Roseanna Vogt

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

Charlotte Davis welcomed the committee and initiated the meeting at 10:06 am.

Ms. Davis presented an overview of the committee's mission and outcomes. The committee also reviewed previous RMC projects, including the Upper Shore Youth Engagement and Assessment Initiative Final Report and Maryland 4-H ACTS and Youth Power.

RMC previously worked with the Upper Shore Regional Council to partner on a pilot youth engagement project in Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's County. This involved surveying students in grades 6 through 12 to assess their perceptions of their communities and help connect them to career enrichment programs and resources. The survey was later replicated in Allegany County.

The RMC also partnered to assist in Maryland 4-H Acts, which took place on February 20, 2023, in Annapolis. Maryland 4-H State Teen Council helped plan and host the event, which had speakers from the General Assembly, Department of Agriculture, UMD Extension, and the Farm Bureau. Youth and adults attended to engage with legislators and share their 4-H civic engagement work. This was intended to be a biennial event, focusing on encouraging students to be active within their communities.

For future projects, members stated that the committee should work to target 8th graders specifically, as this is a pivotal year for many students. Moreover, members want to find ways to retain youth in their communities, rather than seeing them move away from their hometowns.

Ms. Davis addressed meeting frequency among committee members. Ultimately, participants decided that it would be best to meet quarterly. Members will meet next on Thursday, August 7, 2025, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am via Zoom teleconference.

Ms. Davis opened the floor to members and requested ideas for the upcoming 2025 Rural Summit. Members are open to incorporating relevant issues from the committee to discuss during panels.

Members intend to look at the committee mission, the committee outcomes, and brainstorm ideas for upcoming meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.