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*For Immediate Release: **May 24, 2007***  
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### **Jenkins Appointed Executive Director of Rural Maryland Council**

After a lengthy six-month search, the Rural Maryland Council Executive Board has named David Jenkins to be its new executive director.

Jenkins was the executive director of the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) for six years where he supervised a staff of 12 and a budget of \$800,000. David also holds a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Catholic University and a MBA from Loyola College in Baltimore. He is also a graduate of the Leadership Maryland Program (2002).

While with the TCCSMD, David worked with local elected and appointed officials from three counties, as well as local state representatives, to develop transportation plans and economic development policies while working to enhance intergovernmental cooperation between county governments and state agencies. There are five rural regional planning and economic development councils in Maryland, each serving three rural counties. The Southern Maryland council is the oldest in the state.

“David has been a friend to rural Maryland for many years and his experience and accomplishments with the Tri-County Council are well known to many of us who are concerned about the future of rural communities,” said RMC Chairman Charlie Ross, who is also president and CEO of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce. “We are very pleased to have someone who understands the pressures and challenges before us and who has the hands-on experience and ideas to help us confront them. The future indeed looks bright for the RMC.”

Prior to joining the Tri-County Council, David was a professional land use planner with extensive project management experience. He maintains his professional certification as a planner and is a member of the American Planning Association and American Institute of Certified Planners.

In addition, David is a current member of the National Guard since 1971 and holds the rank of Command Sergeant Major with the 29<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade in Aberdeen. He was deployed to Bosnia in 2000 for eight months.

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*The Rural Maryland Council brings together community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify and seek solutions to the unique needs of Rural Maryland communities. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner.*