

**Rural Maryland Council
FY 2008 Annual Report**



**A Collective
Voice for
Maryland's
Rural Counties
& Communities**

www.rural.state.md.us

A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland

Rural Maryland communities often appear to be pleasant, sparsely populated areas dotting idyllic landscapes of farms and forests. The reality, however, is that many rural communities face serious challenges from difficult economic conditions to inadequate access to quality health care to a deteriorating physical infrastructure. The Rural Maryland Council works to bring rural leaders together to identify specific challenges and craft solutions that work.

Who We Are: The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency that brings together government officials at all levels, representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, and interested citizens to identify and address the unique needs of rural communities. Ultimately, our mission is to improve the quality of life while preserving the pastoral heritage of Maryland's rural communities. The RMC is nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory and functions as the State Rural Development Council under the National Rural Development Partnership. Collaboration and consensus building are the principles behind everything we do.

Our Vision: In the Year 2020, Marylanders living in rural communities are achieving success in education and employment, have access to quality and affordable health care and other vital services, enjoy an environment where civic and business entrepreneurship thrives, and where natural and cultural resources are being sustained for future generations.

Maryland's Rural and Semi-Rural Regions:

Western: Allegany, Garrett, Washington
Midshore: Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
Southern: Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's

Lower Shore: Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester
Upper Shore: Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
North Central: Carroll, Frederick, Harford

Rural Maryland Council 2008 Executive Board

Chairman: **Charlie Ross**, President and CEO, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce
1st Vice Chair: **Michael Pennington**, Executive Director, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore
2nd Vice Chair: **Bonnie Braun**, Ph.D., Family Life Specialist, University of Maryland, Department of Family Sciences
Immediate Past President: **Phyllis Kilby**, Owner/Operator, Kilby Cream & Dairy Farm (Cecil County)



RMC Chair Charlie Ross (left) and Vice Chair Mike Pennington

Executive Board Members:

Robert Agee, Annapolis City Administrator
Linda Bambary, Berlin Town Administrator
Sam Boston, Somerset County Commissioner
Don William Bradley, Mayor, Hurlock
Kevin Brooks, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Development Corporation
Michelle Clark, Director, State Office of Rural Health, DHMH
Wayne Clark, Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
John Dillman, Executive Director, Upper Shore Regional Council
Marlene Elliott Brown, State Director (DE/MD), USDA Rural Development
Carol Gilbert, Assistant Secretary, Neighborhood Revitalization, DHCD
Rodney Giotfelty, Health Officer, Garrett County Health Department
Tim Hann, Coordinator, Western Maryland RC&D Council
Robert Hutcheson, Allegany County Commissioner
Carroll Jones, Mayor, Town of Brunswick
Dave Jordan, Executive Director, Washington County Community Action Council
Sharan Marshall, Administrator, Southern Maryland Regional Library Association
Erroll Mattox, Maryland Organic Food & Farming Association

Leanne Mazer, Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Western Maryland
Thomas McLoughlin, Maryland Rural Health Association
Patrick McMillan, Assistant Secretary, Marketing, Department of Agriculture
Dominick Murray, Assistant Secretary, Regional Development, DBED
Mike Phipps, President, Maryland Farm Bureau
Stanley Ruchlewicz, Economic Development Administrator, City of Westminster
Jack Russell, St. Mary's County Commissioner
Scott Warner, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Regional Council
Jeremy West, Coordinator, Southern Maryland RC&D Council
Dave Wilson, Coordinator, Eastern Shore RC&D Council
Emily Wilson, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Natural Resources
Senator Richard Colburn
Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton
Senator Alexander Mooney
Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Delegate Richard Weldon
Delegate John Wood

How We Operate:

Seeking Solutions Through Partnerships

The Rural Roundtables

As a collaborative partnership, the Rural Maryland Council's effectiveness comes from its ability to convene knowledgeable and committed leaders who are able to identify unique challenges and craft solutions that work. During FY 2008, the RMC instituted a series of Rural Roundtables to engage these leaders in tightly focused discussions about a specific issue and to identify barriers to, and opportunities for, success. These flexible one- or two-day events, conducted with partnering agencies and organizations, also help us identify rural leaders who are willing to serve on our working committees.

The Western Maryland Small Town Symposium and Rural Roundtable

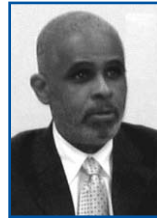
was held in April 2008 at the Allegany College of Maryland in Cumberland, in partnership with the Maryland Rural Development Corporation and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The event brought together nearly 60 community leaders, elected officials, and community development professionals from across Western Maryland for an important one-day discussion on critical housing and environmental challenges in the region. The symposium provided participants with information on topics such as financial tools available to communities and individuals on foreclosure mitigation.

The symposium was followed by a Rural Roundtable, in which housing professionals discussed the barriers they face when trying to help low income rural residents be more successful. On behalf of the Rural Maryland Council, the Roundtable was facilitated by: **Reginald Stanfield**, Director, DHCD Office of Community Programs; **David Jordan**, Executive Director, Washington County Community Action Council; and **Tim Hann**, Coordinator, Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council.

The overriding theme that surfaced consistently among the community developers in attendance was the desperate need for financial education among residents who are being overwhelmed by rising prices and mortgage defaults. **Courtney Thomas**, Executive Director of the Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission, summed it up best: "We didn't get here just because of what's happening (with the economy)," she said. "We got here because people are uneducated about finances."



Senator George Edwards addresses attendees.



"There is one answer, one solution, and that is for us to stand together as Marylanders and to lift other Marylanders up."

*-- Reginald Stanfield, Director,
DHCD Office of Community Programs.*

The Rural Maryland Council's Response

The Rural Families Program: For the past three years, the RMC has offered the Rural Families program in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The program provides direct service grants to nonprofit organizations which offer programs and services that help strengthen rural families. As a result of the Housing Roundtable, the RMC worked with its partners at the University of Maryland Department of Family Sciences and the Casey Foundation to fine-tune the focus of the Rural Families Program for FY 2009. Next year, the program will provide grants to organizations who are focused on financial asset building for low income rural families. The goal is to ensure that 350 Rural Families claim the Earned Income Tax Credit *and* develop a financial plan that uses those saved funds to eliminate or reduce any financial burden that prevents the family from achieving economic stability.

Because of the demonstrable need for this program, which receives **no public funding**, the Rural Maryland Foundation, a nonprofit organization which supports rural economic and community development efforts, voted in April 2008, at the request of the RMC staff, to undertake a fundraising campaign to help strengthen the Rural Families program. That campaign will wind up in September 2008, just prior to the FY 2009 grant cycle.

Western
Maryland
Small Town
Symposium
and
Rural Roundtable
2008



Maryland Delegate Wendell Beitzel at Housing Roundtable.

Common Cents Conference: The RMC is joining with the Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia CASH Campaigns to help plan and sponsor the first ever Common Cents Conference, to be held in September 2008. The conference will provide an opportunity for community developers to learn about the financial problems facing residents and the innovative program models available to help residents reach their financial goals. In addition to providing support for the conference, the RMC will work to ensure that the rural perspective is considered.

FY 2009 Roundtables:

By the end of FY 2008, planning for two more Roundtables were well underway. A Rural Funders Roundtable is scheduled for September 2008 in Baltimore and a Rural Health Roundtable is scheduled for October 2008 in Annapolis.



"All of us together are working to make our nation a place where everyone has access to opportunity and a decent quality of life."

*-- Don Mathis, President & CEO,
Community Action Partnership*

Improving Access to Rural Health Care

Maryland's rural communities have older populations, lower incomes, higher rates of poverty and higher rates of uninsured residents, all of which leads to more health problems, chronic illnesses and untreated diseases. At stake is the quality of life for rural residents and the economic progress of the State of Maryland.

Overall, Maryland is 16 percent below the national average for number of physicians available for clinical practice. The most severe problems occur in rural parts of the state and will get much worse by 2015.

-Maryland Physician Workforce Study, conducted by the Maryland Hospital Association & MedChi, January 2008.

Rural Maryland Council Working Committees are organized around specific topics and provide public policy makers with information, analysis, research, and suggested positions on issues that impact rural Maryland. Solutions usually involve recommending new or modified public policies or programs that more effectively serve rural constituencies.

In 2006, the RMC and its various working committees saw some of its long-term goals and initiatives realized. The Rural Maryland Prosperity Fund was authorized by the General Assembly and provided a potential new source for funding rural regional planning, infrastructure and entrepreneurial programs; the Rural Broadband Communication Services Act passed and provided long-term funding for the deployment of a statewide rural broadband network – an effort still staffed by the RMC; and the Maryland Agricultural and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO), which was created in 2004 and staffed by the RMC for two years, became a stand-alone organization with its own staff, budget and board. In addition, the RMC chaired the Interagency Technical Assistance Committee on Wastewater Systems in Maryland, which advised local jurisdictions on the efficient operation and financial management of wastewater treatments systems.

As a result of this success, the RMC Board in 2007 adopted a new strategic direction which focuses its limited resources on improving access to affordable, quality health care in rural communities.

Health Care Working Committee

Comprised of health care and rural development professionals from across the state, the Health Care Working Committee (HCWC) works to develop policy recommendations that can improve access to quality and affordable health care in rural communities. During FY 2008, the committee spent a great deal of time reviewing various studies related to health care work force shortages, and how the recommendations coming out of those studies address the special needs of rural communities. Other FY 2008 goals and activities include the following.

Implementation of the Maryland Rural Health Plan:

The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) released the Maryland Rural Health Plan in July 2007. Two RMC Board members sat on the Steering Committee and the Implementation Committee. Since the plan was released, the Council has strengthened its

The Rural Maryland Council will work to ensure that rural citizens have access to quality, affordable health care services and to consider quality health care as an essential component of meaningful rural and economic development.
-- RMC's 2007 Strategic Plan

partnership with SORH, which presented the plan at the Maryland Rural Summit and at four listening sessions held in rural regions of the state (and which were paid for, in part, with a grant from the Rural Maryland Council). The State Office is also the primary partner working with the HCWC to plan and host a two-day Rural Health Roundtable in October 2008 (FY2009), which is devoted to developing an action plan for addressing the rural work force shortages described in the plan.

Improving Oral Health in Rural Towns

DHMH Secretary John Colmers formed the Dental Action Committee (DAC) to develop recommendations to improve access to oral health care services across the state. The DAC released seven recommendations. The RMC's Health Care Working Committee studied those recommendations and the impact they would have on rural communities as well rural dental practices. Rural dentists and public health officials across the state as well as agency personnel were consulted. That research, both positive and negative, was shared with the Governor, members of the Legislative Rural Caucus, DHMH officials and others. (It is also available on the Publications page of the RMC website.) The RMC, a nonpartisan agency, strongly supported Governor O'Malley's efforts to implement the recommendations.

Legislative Recommendations: The RMC submitted testimony in support of two health bills which passed during the 2007 Legislative session.

The Public Health Dental Hygiene Act (SB 818 / HB 1280) – introduced as a result of the Dental Action Committee recommendations -- allows dental hygienist working in a public health setting to apply sealants or fluoride agents without a dentist present. The RMC's research found that dental hygienists working in rural public health settings were underutilized given their training. Now that their scope of practice has been expanded, they can more effectively help prevent oral diseases

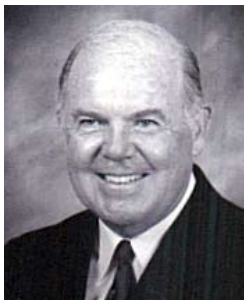
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while rural dentists, already in short supply, will be able to spend more time treating the specialized and dire needs of rural patients.

Task Force to Review Physician Shortages in Rural Areas (SB 459) will study the recruitment and retention of primary care physicians and the funding of programs which are designed to encourage physician practice in rural areas. Past task forces and commissions have been charged with studying work force shortages but this one takes the uncommon view of recognizing the particularly critical nature of rural shortages and the unique circumstances which contribute to that shortage. Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton, a long time champion of various rural issues, introduced the bill and now chairs the task force.

RMC Appoints McLoughlin to Task Force

The Rural Maryland Council Executive Board appointed Easton resident **Tom McLoughlin**, a retired hospital administrator, to represent the RMC on the 18-member **Task Force to Review Physician Shortages in Rural Areas** (see above). Mr. McLoughlin has more than 40 years of experience in health care and is the former Director of Hospitals for the Archdiocese of New York and a former Hospital CEO. He has directed and managed several multi-million dollar organizations in expansion, construction, merger and reduction of services. Prior to his retirement in 2001, he chaired the Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania, an association of about 100 hospitals. Mr. McLoughlin also represents the Maryland Rural Health Association on the RMC's Executive Board. The task force is scheduled to make its recommendations to the governor in December 2008.



Maryland Delegates Addie Eckart (left) and Sue Kullen were among the state legislators who participated in the Rural Legislative Forum during the 2007 Maryland Rural Summit.

Roundtables to Replace Summit

For the past ten years, the Rural Maryland Council has hosted the Maryland Rural Summit, an annual statewide gathering of rural leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors who came together to discuss the major issues confronting rural and non-metropolitan communities. Summit sessions were designed to explore challenges and solutions while taking advantage of the experience and knowledge of all attendees.

During FY 2008, the RMC Board voted to replace the Summit with the Rural Roundtables, although a statewide event may be held next year to share the results of all the Roundtables with local leaders. Thus, the RMC hosted its last Maryland Rural Summit on Solomons Island in October 2007. Nearly 200 people attended the Summit, which used the theme: *Imagine Rural Maryland: Make the Vision a Reality*.

The Rural Maryland Council worked with several partners to host the Summit. It intends to maintain those partnerships as we replace the Summit with the Rural Roundtables. Partners include: the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Upper Shore Regional Council, the Midshore Regional Council, the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore, and the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland. Also the Maryland Rural Health Association, the State Office of Rural Health and other state agencies.

RMC Honors Rural Leaders



Maryland Delegate **Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio** (left) and Maryland Comptroller **Peter Franchot** (right) join Habitat for Humanity Director **Susan Devlin** in presenting **Miles Circo** with the 2008 Outstanding Rural Volunteer Award during the Rural Impact Awards Luncheon, which the RMC sponsored in October 2007. Six outstanding rural leaders, nominated by their colleagues, were honored for their outstanding efforts in rural economic and community development and rural health. Awards were presented during an Awards Luncheon which featured remarks by **Senate President Mike Miller** and Mr. Franchot. For a complete description of awards, see the "news" page of our website at: www.rural.state.md.us



Governor Martin O'Malley talks with Wayne Clark, Executive Director, Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, and David Jenkins, RMC Executive Director, at the 2007 Charles County Economic Development Summit in Waldorf.



Rural Maryland Council Initiatives:

Grant Programs Help Rural Nonprofits

Six Nonprofits Help Rural Families Develop Financial Skills

The Rural Maryland Families program, initiated in FY 2006 by the Rural Maryland Council, provides direct service grants to rural-serving nonprofit organizations which help families obtain the skills they need to move toward economic stability. This year, 14 organizations applied for \$269,000 in assistance; however, only \$100,000 in grants was available and distributed to six organizations, listed below. This level of request is an indication of the growing need for more resources in Maryland's rural areas. This program is completely underwritten by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. No public dollars have ever been used for grants or administration. FY 2008 Grantees were:

Angel's Watch Regional Women's Shelter

Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's
Grant Amount: \$19,980

Carver Community Center

Cumberland (Allegany)
Grant Amount: \$20,000

Garrett County Community Action Agency

Western Maryland
Grant Amount: \$8,740

Maryland Cooperative Extension

Worcester County (Lower Shore)
Grant Amount: \$20,000

Maryland Rural Development Corporation

Caroline, Kent, Talbot, Dorchester
Grant Amount: \$12,780

Shared Opportunity Services, Inc.

Kent County (Upper Shore)
Grant Amount: \$18,500

MAERDAF Supports 18 Rural-Serving Nonprofits in FY08

MAERDAF has awarded nearly \$2 million to 43 rural nonprofits since 2001.

The Maryland **Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)** was established in 2000 to offer financial support to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. MAERDAF also offers financial assistance to community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses with enhanced training and technical assistance.

The Rural Maryland Council administers this grant program in partnership with the Maryland Department of Agriculture; Department of Business and Economic Development; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Housing and Community Development; and Department of Natural Resources. A Grants Review Board, made up of one representative from each agency, makes binding grant decisions. The average grant over the life of the program has been \$17,849.

During FY 2008, the Grants Review Board received 29 applications requesting \$764,073; however, only \$288,739 in grant funds was available. The Board subsequently awarded grants to 18 rural nonprofits. The average grant was \$16,041.

FY 2008 MAERDAF Grantees

MAERDAF Grantee	Grant
Delmarva Education Foundation	\$12,869
Friends of the Grape	\$20,000
Future Harvest	\$2,330
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake	\$5,000
Habitat for Humanity of Talbot Co.	\$21,500
Lead Maryland	\$32,000
Lower Shore Broadband Coop	\$20,000
MAC Inc.	\$13,105
MD Assn of Soil Conservation Dist	\$9,800
MD Capital Enterprises	\$21,625
MD FFA Foundation Inc.	\$8,000
MD Forest Assn. Inc.	\$5,000
MD Rural Development Corp.	\$22,510
Microenterprise Council of MD	\$12,000
MidShore Regional Council	\$24,000
Mountain Laurel Medical Center	\$44,000
Tri-County Council Western MD	\$10,000
Upper Shore Regional Council	\$5,000

GRAND TOTAL **\$288,739**

RMC Helps Select Arts & Entertainment Districts

The Rural Maryland Council maintains a seat on the Arts and Entertainment Review Committee, which evaluates applications for Arts and Entertainment District Designations. Administered by the Department of Business and Economic Development through the Maryland State Arts Council, the designation provides local and county governments with myriad tax benefits designed to stimulate economic development and enhance and increase the number of artists and cultural enterprises clustered in designated areas. Of the state's 17 A&E districts, ten are in rural areas. (i.e., Cambridge, Salisbury, Cumberland, Frederick, Hagerstown, Denton, Berlin, Elkton, Snow Hill and Havre de Grace.)

The General Assembly created the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund in 2006 to provide grants to rural nonprofit and educational entities undertaking economic and community development projects. All monies in the Fund must be distributed equally among four areas: (1) Rural Regional Planning and Development; (2) Regional Infrastructure; (3) Rural Entrepreneurship; and (4) Rural Community Development.

No funding has ever been appropriated for Rural Prosperity.



Maintaining Good Stewardship of the land

The declining health of the Chesapeake Bay, the loss of forests and wetlands, and the encroachment of development into our rural lands are signs that we must grow smarter.

-- Planning Secretary Rich Hall



RMC, DNR Provide Tree-Mendous Trees to Towns

A pilot project undertaken by the Rural Maryland Council and the TREE-mendous Maryland Program of the Department of Natural Resources Forest Service during FY 2008 provided free trees to 11 rural communities working to preserve and/or expand their community forests. Trees could be used to provide shade in a public parking lot, add greenery and shade along a town street, re-green a local park or the like. Trees, which had to be planted on public property, were provided by DNR's Maryland Gift of Trees Program. RMC and DNR expect to offer the program again FY 2009. For a list of selected communities, see:

www.rural.state.md.us/News.



"This (Tree-mendous) partnership is a prime example of how we are working in a more sustainable way to preserve and protect our natural resources and the quality of life that we enjoy as Marylanders."

- Governor Martin O'Malley

RMC Helps GICA Support Sustainable Agriculture

In FY 2008, the Rural Maryland Council partnered with the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA) to offer "Barriers to Sustainable Agriculture," a four-hour seminar open to both GICA members and those participating in the annual Maryland Rural Summit. Agriculture Deputy Secretary Buddy Hance, a former RMC Board member, moderated the morning-long session which included tracks on Health Regulations and Agriculture, Right to Farm Laws and the Impact of Local Zoning Regulations on Sustainability. GICA was created in 2006 to promote the economic profitability of Maryland agriculture 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. Members are appointed by the Governor with recommendations from the Secretary of Agriculture. The RMC's executive director sits on the Commission.

RMC Participates on Smart Growth Task Forces

Many rural communities continue to be affected by sprawl and development, especially those within the Baltimore-Washington commuting area. Smart Growth initiatives can often have enormous impact, both positive and negative, on the way those communities develop. The Rural Maryland Council maintains an active presence on state task forces and commissions and is

represented on the 21-member **Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development**, which was created by legislation in 2006 to study current land use policies and their impact on growth in the state, as well as the current trends and challenges for municipalities and counties. In 2008, the scope of the task force was expanded to include, among other tasks, determining the parameters for a state development plan, state transportation plan, and state housing plan and how they work together with local land use plans. The task force is to report its findings and recommendations by December 2008; however, the task force term extends through 2010, serving as an advisory board to the Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet. RMC is also represented on the **Smart Growth Inter-Agency Coordination Committee** and chair's its Rural Development Action Team, which is developing Smart Growth policies and programs for rural counties and towns.

RMC Supports Next Generation of Farmers

During the 2008 Legislative Session, the RMC joined other rural, agricultural and land preservation organizations to support MARBIDCO's successful efforts to pass SB 662 -- Agricultural Land Transfer Tax - Rates and Distribution of Revenue. The bill imposes a 25 percent surcharge on the existing agricultural land transfer tax, which is only paid when farmland is taken out of agricultural use and is typically paid by the buyer/developer. All new revenues generated by this surcharge -- between \$2 million and \$6 million a year -- will support the Next Generation Program. MARBIDCO estimates that, over the next ten years, the program will help 50 to 75 farmers acquire their first farm properties with just the new resources authorized by this bill. These new farmers are expected to support rural economies, retain rural working landscapes and preserve considerable amounts of agricultural land from future development. The RMC maintains a seat on the MARBIDCO Board of Directors.



Agricultural and rural advocates join (from left, sitting) Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, Senate President Mike Miller, Gov. Martin O'Malley and House Speaker Michael Busch for the signing of SB 662.



Lighting Up Rural Maryland

The state's Sailor network hosts the RMC website and provides a variety of statistics each month. The percentage increase of distinct hosts – i.e, the distinct number of computers accessing the site – increased each month during FY 2008 over the same month in the previous year. Increases ranged from 11 percent in December to 108 percent in March.

The Rural Maryland Broadband Coordination Board, created by the General Assembly in 2006, is responsible for coordinating efforts to deploy broadband infrastructure in rural and underserved areas and for reviewing and approving all disbursements from the Broadband Assistance Fund, which is administered by the Department of Business and Economic Development. Legislation also requires the Rural Maryland Council to provide staff support to the Board.

Overall implementation of broadband services into rural and underserved areas consists of three immediate phases:

- **Phase One** includes laying fiber from Wallops to Salisbury, both spans of the Bay Bridge, the Cecil County resource sharing project and the Harry Nice Bridge in Southern Maryland.
- **Phase Two** includes laying fiber from Salisbury to the Bay Bridge; and Wallops Island to the Main Gain.
- **Phase Three** includes laying fiber from Pocomoke City to Salisbury, Ridgley to Chestertown, and Bridgetown to Centerville.

Phases 1 and 2 will be complete by fall 2008. Expanding the network throughout southern Maryland and into western Maryland – that is, essentially completing the network -- could be realized by 2012 with adequate appropriations.

Rural Maryland Broadband Assistance Fund, FY 2007 and FY 2008

FY 2007 Federal:	\$1,839,383
FY 2007 State:	\$4,000,000
FY 2007 Total	\$5,839,383
FY 2008 Federal:	\$3,600,000
FY 2008 State:	\$4,000,000
FY 2008 Total:	\$7,600,000
Grand Total, To Date	\$13,439,383

FY 2008 Rural Broadband Coordination Board

- **Chairman: Virgil Shockley***, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore;
- **Charlie Ross***, Chairman, Rural Maryland Council; and President/CEO, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce;
- **John Contestabile**, Director, of Administration, Maryland Department of Transportation
- **Ellen Flowers-Fields**, Director, Regional Economic Development, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland;
- **Dominick Murray**, Assistant Secretary for Regional Development, Department of Business & Economic Development;
- **Gale Nashold**, Second Vice Chair, Mid-Shore Regional Council;
- **Elliot H. Schlanger**, Chief of Information Technology, Department of Budget & Management;
- **James Stakem**, Chairman, Tri-County Council for Western Maryland; and
- **Eric Wartgotz**, Chairman, Upper Shore Regional Council.

**Mr. Shockley chaired the Board in FY 2007 & FY 2008. Mr. Ross will chair in FY 2009.*



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