

[(xvi)] (XXVI) [Eight] TWO at-large members, selected by the membership of the [Forvm] COUNCIL; AND

(XXVII) NO MORE THAN SIX MEMBERS REPRESENTING STATEWIDE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WITH A RURAL FOCUS, SELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BYLAWS OF THE COUNCIL.

(3) Members of the Executive Board shall be selected and serve in accordance with the bylaws of the [Forvm] COUNCIL.

(d) The [Forvm] COUNCIL may expand the membership of the Executive Board through the bylaws of the [Forvm] COUNCIL.

15-105.

(a) The Executive Board shall make recommendations on [policy] PROGRAMMATIC OR REGULATORY matters [to the Forvm and on implementation of policies that the Forvm adopts] OF CONCERN TO RURAL COMMUNITIES AFTER A CONSENSUS OF OPINION HAS EMERGED.

(b) With the consent of the Executive Board, the Chairman may establish subcommittees OR WORKING COMMITTEES consisting of members of the [Forvm] COUNCIL AND INTERESTED PARTIES to address or study specific issues.

15-106.

(a) The [Forvm] COUNCIL shall hire an Executive Director.

(b) The Executive Director shall:

(1) Be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the [Forvm] COUNCIL; and

(2) Assist in the development of policy recommendations for consideration by the [Forvm] COUNCIL or by the Executive Board.

(c) The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the [Forvm] EXECUTIVE BOARD.

15-107.

(a) The [Forvm] COUNCIL is an independent unit in the Executive Branch of State government [and may not be placed by the Governor in any principal department] THAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY PURPOSES SHALL BE PLACED UNDER THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

(b) The [Forvm] COUNCIL is exempt from the provisions of:

(1) Division I of the State Personnel and Pensions Article;

(2) Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article except as otherwise provided in § 11-203(b) of that article; and

(3) Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article.