

# FORVM FOR RURAL MARYLAND

Maryland's Rural Development Council

# THE ANNUAL REPORT

*Fiscal Year 2003*

## The Year in Review

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## **Chairman's Message:**

### **A Year of Transition in Maryland and the FORVM**

The Honorable William F. Eckman, Mayor, Town of La Plata

According to Webster's Dictionary, "transition" refers to the act of passing from one state, stage, subject, or place to another. Well, throughout FY 2003, the FORVM for Rural Maryland, as well as State and Federal governments experienced all of the above changes in one form or another. The most immediate changes for the FORVM will be our new name, the Rural Maryland Council, and our new address, with the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis. This will be a more accessible office location than our previous home with the Department of Business and Economic Development located in the Inner Harbor district of Baltimore City.



*Senator E.J. Pipkin and Delegates Mary Roe Walkup, Richard A. Sossi, Paul Stull and Joanne Parrott, and FORVM Executive Director, Stephen R. McHenry join Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., and House Speaker Michael E. Busch at the signing of Senate Bill 744.*

Authorized by the passage of SB 744/HB 1147 (which was sponsored by the Rural Caucus and Senator Mac Middleton and Delegate Norman Conway) the bill essentially performs five major tasks: 1) It changes our name; 2) it changes our address; 3) it changes our status from an independent executive agency to an agency under the umbrella of MDA (although we will keep our independent executive board structure); 4) it transfers full administrative responsibility for the Maryland Agricultural Education & Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant program from DBED to the FORVM; and 5) it expands our board roster to include more state agency representation.

*Chairman's Message continued on page 2*

## William F. Eckman FORVM Chairman



*Mayor Eckman is serving his fifth term as chair of the FORVM Executive Board. He has served 19 years as mayor of the Town of La Plata and 12 years as a council member. He has also served as president of the Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Rural Water Association. He retired after 31 years with A. T. & T. He has since founded his own independent fire protection consulting firm, which takes advantage of his twenty-five years experience in the volunteer fire service.*



*Above is the new logo we have adopted to reflect the FORVM's new name, the Rural Maryland Council.*

## Continued: Chairman's Message, from page 1

Transition also occurred in the ranks of State government this year as the first Republican Governor in nearly 40 years was elected to office in November. Also, we lost our long-time champion in the House of Delegates, as Speaker Casper Taylor, Jr., was unsuccessful in his bid for reelection. Because of the many newly elected legislators from all across the State, it was clear the FORVM would be working hard to establish new and productive relationships. Thus, the FORVM is constantly building connections with the new legislators, and for the first time, making sure the Governor is well aware that his Administration will have a key ally in the collaborative partnership network that the FORVM represents.

In the other capital city, Washington, DC, another related transition occurred this year as the National Rural Development Partnership (which is made up of the FORVM and its 39 other sister State Rural Development Councils from across the country) was officially authorized in the 2002 Farm/Rural Investment Bill. This will have a significant impact on the future of Rural Maryland because it gives federal recognition to a program that has not yet engaged all the federal agencies with rural responsibilities.

So after all of these changes, where does that leave us, the FORVM for Rural Maryland? It tells me, as the Chair of the Executive Board, that if the FORVM wants to accomplish its mission in improving the quality of life in Rural Maryland, it must continue to garner strength from the collaborative partnerships that it builds. It must continue to voice the many concerns of Maryland's rural communities on behalf of those who would otherwise not have a place to go or a table to sit at. It tells me that as the rural communities in the Appalachian Mountains of Western Maryland, the low-country region of the Eastern Shore, and the suburban-fringe area of Southern Maryland, compete for human and capital resources with the better-funded communities of Metropolitan Maryland, the FORVM must continue to craft creative solutions that are sound in principle and strategic in scope.

As we go forward, the FORVM must make itself known to both Rural Marylanders and Metropolitan Marylanders alike. We must add to our ranks and increase participation in FORVM activities. The FORVM must communicate our successes while we promote our partners successes as well. If the FORVM is to continue to win the fight for Rural Maryland, we must come together and speak with one voice.

During the last few years, we have successfully laid a foundation that has established a solid framework for our future. This year we have added significantly to that framework. The General Assembly has charged the State's executive agencies to add their representatives to the Board and declare to the people throughout the State that they too are concerned about the issues in Rural Maryland. By taking over MAERDAF we will be directly involved with funneling much needed resources to the communities that are in the most need. Finally, by moving our office to Annapolis the FORVM will be well-suited for more State House advocacy and visits from our Board members or rural constituents from across the State that were unhappy with our inaccessible Baltimore location.

Overall the FORVM has been strengthened by the events that occurred this year even in the face of a severe state budget crisis. But, make no mistake, there is much work to be done. That is why we need you to join us in our collective efforts to make Rural Maryland a better place to live and work. Remember the FORVM is your voice, use it!

## The Members of the 2003 Executive Board of the FORVM for Rural Maryland



### **Representing District 1 (Garrett, Allegany and Washington):**

Duane Yoder, President, Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

### **Representing District 2 (Frederick and Carroll):**

Edmund R. "Ned" Cueman, Planning Consultant, Mason/Dixon Circuit Rider

### **Representing District 3 (Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's):**

Hon. William F. Eckman, Mayor, Town of La Plata *Chair*

### **Representing District 4 (Cecil and Harford):**

Hon. John Bunnell, Mayor, Town of Cecilton

### **Representing District 5 (Kent, Caroline, Queen Anne's and Talbot):**

Jack M. Canan, Housing and Community Development Coordinator, Kent County

### **Representing District 6 (Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester & Somerset):**

Hon. Don William Bradley, Mayor, Town of Hurlock

### **Representing District 7 (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's):**

Robert Agee, City Administrator, City of Annapolis

### **Representing the State At-Large:**

William Daniel Mayer, Charles County Commissioner

### **Representing Nonprofit Organizations:**

R. Kevin Brooks, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Development Corporation

### **Representing For Profit Organizations:**

Charlie Ross, President/CEO, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce

### **Representing Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.:**

### **Representing the FORVM for Rural Maryland Foundation:**

Mary Mallery, President, FORVM Foundation

### **Representing the Maryland State Senate:**

The Honorable Thomas McLain Middleton

The Honorable Alexander X. Mooney

The Honorable J. Lowell Stoltzfus

### **Representing the Maryland House of Delegates:**

The Honorable K. Bennett Bozman

The Honorable Richard B. Weldon, Jr.

The Honorable John F. Wood, Jr.

### **Representing the Maryland Rural Health Association:**

Annie K. Kronk, private citizen

### **Representing the Maryland Municipal League:**

Hon. Jerry K. Hansen, Jr., Councilman, City of Aberdeen

Linda N. Bambarly, Town Administrator, Town of Berlin

### **Representing the Maryland Association of Counties:**

Hon. Robert E. Hutchison, Allegany County Commissioner

Hon. Phyllis E. Kilby, Cecil County Commissioner

### **Representing the Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.:**

Stephen Weber, President

### **Representing the Maryland Association of Community Action Agencies:**

Dave Jordan, Executive Director, Washington County Community Action Council

### **Representing the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators:**

Sharan D. Marshall, Director, Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, Inc.

### **Representing the Maryland Downtown Development Association:**

Stanley T. Ruchlewicz, President

### **Representing the Director of the Maryland Cooperative Extension:**

Bonnie Braun, Ph.D., University of Maryland at College Park

### **Representing the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland:**

David Jenkins, Executive Director

### **Representing Tri-County Council for Western Maryland:**

Leanne Mazer, Executive Director

### **Representing Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore:**

Mike Pennington, Executive Director

### **Representing the Mid-Shore Regional Council:**

Kevin Morse, Executive Director

### **Representing the Southern Maryland Resource, Conservation and Development Council:**

Mark Rose, RC & D Coordinator

### **Representing Western Maryland Resource, Conservation and Development Council:**

Timothy W. Hann, RC & D Coordinator

### **Representing the Eastern Shore Resource, Conservation and Development Council:**

Dave Wilson, RC & D Coordinator

### **Representing the Delmarva Advisory Council:**

Dale Maginnis, Director

### **Representing the Federal Government:**

Marlene Elliott, State Director, Delaware and Maryland, USDA Rural Development

## About the FORVM

The FORVM for Rural Maryland, the state's rural development council and an independent state agency, is the only state entity dedicated exclusively to addressing the policy concerns that impact *rural* Maryland.

With a full-time staff of just three people, the FORVM's activities are guided by a 38-member executive board and about 250 volunteer members, many of whom participate on our Working Committees.

Our purpose is to bring people together from all segments of the community and government to identify and address problems that significantly impact Rural Maryland. We work closely with State and federal agencies, the Maryland General Assembly, and local elected and appointed leaders, as well as nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, and academic institutions to develop policies and programs that have attainable and sustainable results. We are nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory and make decisions by reaching consensus.

Financial resources are provided primarily by the State and through the National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP), a collaborative program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies.



*Organizational Consultant and Wyoming Rural Development Council Board Member, Deb Hinkley, facilitates a strategic planning session at the FORVM Executive Board planning retreat in November 2002.*

## Stephen R. McHenry Executive Director



*Mr. McHenry, a lifelong Marylander, has been on the FORVM staff since 1998. Prior to that he worked for many years with small communities across the State on a variety of challenging public policy issues. He has served on numerous State task forces and other study groups that have focused on such wide-ranging issues as land use, wastewater infrastructure improvement, regional intergovernmental cooperation, agriculture and resource based industry development, and rural economic development. In his FORVM capacity he also serves on several statewide and regional advisory bodies representing the rural perspective. He is a founder and past chair of the Microenterprise Council of Maryland, which was initiated by the FORVM and several other entities interested in promoting community economic development. He also serves as immediate past chair of the Partners for Rural America, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting collaborative rural development efforts across the country. He is a "graduate" of both LEAD Maryland (the agricultural and rural leadership program) and Leadership Maryland, and he holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from St. Mary's College of Maryland and the University of Maryland (UMUC).*

## The Executive Director's Report

The recently concluded FORVM year has been both busy and filled with change. Mid-way through the year we were pleased to welcome a new State Administration to Annapolis one that was elected with a strong vote of support from Rural Marylanders. (And thus far the entire Erlich Team as been very responsive to our concerns!) Moreover, as Chairman Eckman noted earlier in this report, legislation was enacted during the 2003 Legislative Session to change the name of our organization and move our offices to Annapolis. Hopefully our new organizational moniker, our new board members from several state agencies, and our new and more accessible digs in the State Capital, will allow the "**Rural Maryland Council**" to become an even more effective catalyst for providing support to Rural Maryland communities going forward.

With the leadership of the FORVM's Executive Board, and the active involvement of members of our working committees, we again worked very hard to address the particular needs of rural Marylanders. With the downturn in the national economy enduring, this continued to be a time of serious fiscal retrenchment in State government. However, while most rural-serving programs shared in the budget-cutting pain this year, the most important were reasonably well funded thanks to the efforts of many in the Erlich Administration as well as in the Maryland General Assembly (especially the members of the Rural Caucus).

Although the **Maryland Agricultural Educational and Rural Development Assistance Fund** is in just its third year of existence, already some 25 rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges have shared in 46 grant awards totaling \$1,110,820. This Fund was created especially to meet the special needs of rural-serving entities. The FORVM initiated the establishment of the MAERDAF program, and we are pleased to continue coordinating the application and selection process. Thanks also go to our partners with the Department of Business and Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Natural Resources which help select and administer the grants.

At the national level, the **National Rural Development Partnership** has begun the formal process of implementing the new authorization requirements of the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act. USDA has established a new certification process for State Rural Development Councils in order for them to receive federal recognition for funding eligibility. We are proud to report that Maryland has been cited as being an excellent model by those officials that are drafting new standards. The FORVM has submitted its formal application to USDA and we expect to receive full federal certification shortly. The 2002 Farm/Rural Bill also establishes the National Rural Development Coordinating Committee which should be of great assistance in helping rural communities deal with burdensome regulations and other federal issues.

Closer to home at the State level, the General Assembly authorized the establishment of a new regional planning and development council this past year on Maryland's Eastern Shore, the **Upper Shore Regional Council**. This fifth rural regional council will serve Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties (and the municipalities therein). The FORVM, DBED, and the Eastern Shore Delegation strongly supported the passage of legislation establishing this council, which was sponsored by Senator E.J. Pipkin and Delegate Mary Roe Walkup. The Upper Shore Regional Council will operate as a cooperative planning and development agency within the region to foster physical, economic, and social development. The FORVM will offer start-up assistance to this new council as it did previously for the other newly forming rural regional development councils. Fifteen of 18 rural counties in Maryland are now served by a rural regional council.

There is no more critical economic development issue facing Rural Maryland today than the deployment of affordable broadband communications service. In response, the General Assembly established a **Task Force on Broadband Communications Deployment in Underserved Rural Areas**. Sponsored by Senator Pipkin and Delegate Walkup, and with the support of the FORVM, TEDCO, DBM, and the rural regional councils not to mention the very timely intervention of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Mac Middleton a very solid task force bill was able to pass muster in the General Assembly after initially encountering opposition. A task force report is required to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly late in 2004 that outlines a statewide rural development plan to provide both public and private sector broadband communications access. The FORVM will have representation on the 20-member task force and will also provide staff support along with TEDCO.

**Continued: Executive Director's Report, from page 4**

Lastly, as you will read about further down the page, one of the most important projects initiated by the FORVM recently is the **County-by-County Economic Impact Estimates for Resource-Based Industries in the State of Maryland**. This groundbreaking report, completed by Salisbury University, contains the first county-by-county analysis ever done on the agricultural, forestry and seafood industries in the State of Maryland. Although the study slightly under-estimates the total economic impact of these industry sectors, it is an excellent baseline from which to help these rural industries move forward in achieving the recognition they deserve. We salute the study's principal researcher, Dr. Memo Diriker, for taking on this challenging project.

As more and more needs in our rural communities become apparent, the more we try to find new and innovative ways to address them. To do that, we need your help and your involvement. We invite you to join us, participate in one of our committees, attend the Annual Rural Summit, and partner with us to ensure the heritage and sustainability of our rural communities. By working together we truly can be a "Collective Voice for Rural Maryland."

**Agriculture and Resource Based Industry**

The table below summarizes estimates of total outputs of resource-based industry (agriculture, seafood/aquaculture, forestry, and mineral extraction) in the State of Maryland, by county. These estimates are a result of research done by Salisbury University, that was funded by a MAERDAF grant. The study examined estimates of employment impact, total output, and value-added impacts for all resource-based industry in the State.

The Salisbury University study is significant because it is the first ever examination, on a county-by-county basis, of the economic impact of resource-based industry in the State. This report is an important first step in showing the tremendous economic impact of resource-based industries in Maryland. For further information on the study, please go to [www.rural.state.md.us](http://www.rural.state.md.us).

**Maryland Resource Based Industry Total Outputs**

Impact per Maryland county including Baltimore City

<b>County</b>	<b>Direct</b>	<b>Total*</b>
Allegany	118,559,200	185,575,100
Anne Arundel	233,446,901	533,150,738
Baltimore	456,168,445	871,785,660
Calvert	71,465,630	105,834,338
Caroline	124,081,398	177,346,979
Carroll	230,288,771	375,460,934
Cecil	240,277,650	379,084,095
Charles	85,536,504	133,556,795
Dorchester	398,893,764	604,799,996
Frederick	650,585,320	1,070,265,938
Garrett	237,411,880	415,390,001
Harford	131,232,899	232,849,601
Howard	327,487,260	504,143,085
Kent	122,608,814	185,344,057
Montgomery	502,007,294	891,259,180
Prince George's	290,293,618	536,630,785
Queen Anne's	194,315,254	318,108,064
Somerset	147,257,599	189,623,401
St. Mary's	65,720,490	111,724,187
Talbot	207,423,188	388,968,342
Washington	321,189,499	545,573,376
Wicomico	645,994,315	1,099,216,751
Worcester	485,341,444	844,080,168
Baltimore City	1,177,218,828	2,133,961,418
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>7,380,555,432</b>	<b>16,089,983,944</b>

\*Including Indirect and Induced Outputs. (Source: County-by-County Economic Impact Estimates for Resource-Based Industries in the State of Maryland, by Salisbury University, 2002)

**Counties with Median Household Income Below the State Average**

State Median: \$58,600

<b>Cecil</b>	<b>\$57,300</b>
Baltimore	\$54,750
<b>Talbot</b>	<b>\$46,150</b>
<b>Worcester</b>	<b>\$44,100</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>\$43,300</b>
<b>Wicomico</b>	<b>\$41,650</b>
<b>Caroline</b>	<b>\$41,300</b>
<b>Kent</b>	<b>\$40,700</b>
<b>Dorchester</b>	<b>\$37,500</b>
<b>Garrett</b>	<b>\$33,550</b>
<b>Allegany</b>	<b>\$33,400</b>
<b>Somerset</b>	<b>\$32,650</b>
Baltimore City	\$30,550

*Of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions, the 13 counties listed above had median household incomes below the state average in 2002. Of those, 11 (in bold) are rural counties. (Source: Maryland Department of Planning, May 2003)*

**Unemployment Rates**

Montgomery	2.6
<b>St. Mary's</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Howard	2.9
<b>Calvert</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Charles</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Frederick</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Carroll</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Anne Arundel	3.6
<b>Queen Anne's</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>Talbot</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Kent</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Prince George's	4.6
<b>Washington</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Harford</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Baltimore	4.9
<b>Wicomico</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Caroline</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>Allegany</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Garrett</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Somerset</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Cecil</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>Worcester</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Baltimore City	8.6
<b>Dorchester</b>	<b>9.4</b>

*Rural counties in bold. (Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licencing, and Regulation, 2003)*



The 2002 Maryland Rural Summit was held at the centrally located Sheraton Barcelo Hotel in Annapolis.

### 2002 Rural Award Winners

#### Outstanding Legislator of the Year

Delegate Louise V. Snodgrass

#### Outstanding Rural Community Development Program

Lexington Park Library Renovation and Community Revitalization

#### Outstanding Rural Economic Development Program

Frederick County Office of Economic Development: Agricultural Industry Marketing and Development Plan

#### Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner

Dr. Andrea M. Allen

#### Outstanding Rural Health Achievement

Garrett County Cancer Prevention, Education Screening and Treatment Program

#### Outstanding Rural Health Program

Eastern Shore Oral Health Outreach Project

5th Annual

# 2002 Maryland Rural Summit

The Maryland Rural Summit is an important event for rural Marylanders. The Summit provides a unique opportunity for public and private sector leaders to get together to learn about issues and trends in rural development and health care. Past Summits have brought together many rural leaders from all across the State and from across a wide range of interests.

The 2002 Summit was no different. With twenty speakers, thirteen workshops, and twenty-five exhibitors on hand for two days of activities and networking, it is no surprise that this year's attendance shattered the previous record. The Summit provided over 200 participants with an atmosphere unmatched anywhere in Maryland when it comes to rural development policy and planning. The Maryland Rural Summit is sponsored annually by the FORVM for Rural Maryland, the Maryland Rural Health Association, and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Office of Primary Care and Rural Health.

Here are some of this year's Summit highlights.



*Dr. Memo Diriker, of Salisbury University, previews his study on the economic impact of resource based industry in Maryland's counties.*



*Renee Winsky, Deputy Executive Director of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) discusses "eReadiness Maryland."*



*Hurlock Mayor Don William Bradley and Henry Bogdan, Director of Government Affairs, Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations, discuss Bogdan's presentation on effective rural advocacy techniques.*



*Pat Boehm and Anissa Carter, both of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, welcome attendees to the 2002 Annual Rural Summit.*

5th Annual  
2002 Maryland Rural Summit  
*Town Hall Meeting*

Several rural legislators attended this year's Summit and participated in a Statewide Rural Town Hall Meeting, answering questions from participants and sharing in a two-way dialogue. The legislators and attendees discussed a wide range of important rural issues such as agriculture, economic development, housing, health care and infrastructure. The Town Hall Meeting is one of the few venues that afford rural Marylanders an opportunity to voice their concerns, be heard, and be answered by some of the State's senior legislative leaders.



FORVM Chairman Bill Eckman, Senator Mac Middleton, and Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland Executive Director, David Jenkins, take a moment to discuss regional issues affecting Southern Maryland.



Mid-Shore Regional Council Executive Director, Kevin Morse, discusses a key rural economic development issue with the panel of rural legislators



Delegate Mary Roe Walkup addresses important issues to her constituents on the Mid- and Upper Eastern Shore.



Rural legislators Del. Addie Eckhardt and Sen. Mac Middleton share a light moment during the Town Hall Meeting.



Retiring Delegate Louise Snodgrass has served on the FORVM Board since its founding in 1995. FORVM Chairman Bill Eckman expresses his appreciation for her years of service.

5th Annual  
2002 Maryland Rural Summit  
*Rural Awards Dinner*

Five rural programs and one rural legislator were recognized for their outstanding efforts in trying to achieve a better rural Maryland at the annual Rural Awards Dinner. Individuals and organizations from throughout the state were nominated for rural development awards in six different categories and the winners were announced during the dinner. Below are some of this year's winners. **To see all of the 2002 Rural Awards winners - go to page 6.**

(from left) Del. Addie Eckhardt, MRHA's Jake Frego, DHMH's Grace Zaczek, and the FORVM's Bill Eckman present a Rural Award to Dr. Andrea Allen.



(from left) Garrett County Commissionr Fred Holliday, MRHA's Jake Frego, DHMH's Grace Zaczek, the FORVM's Bill Eckman and Garrett County's Robert Stevens present a Rural Award to Cindy Kutchinson of the Garrett County Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening and Treatment Program.



FORVM Foundation Treasurer, Kevin Brooks, and President, Mary Mallery, present the Foundation's Summit Scholarship to Cheryl DeBerry (center) of Garrett County.



FORVM First-Vice Chair, Phyllis Kilby (far right), presents a Rural Award to representatives from the St. Mary's County Memorial Library System.

# FORVM FOR RURAL MARYLAND

Maryland's Rural Development Council

## Statement of Principles

As a collaborative partnership, the FORVM shall be established and operated in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner. Policy-makers and managers from stakeholding agencies and organizations at all levels of government and the private sector are valued participants in FORVM activities. Where practical, the decision-making undertaken by the FORVM will ordinarily be made by reaching consensus.

## Major Goals

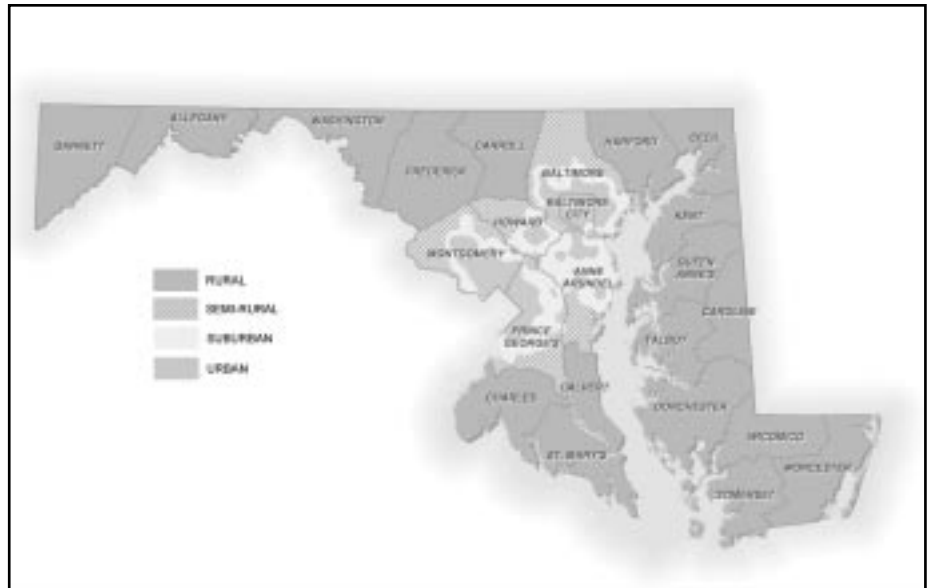
- ◆ Enable citizens in rural communities to achieve success in employment and have access to quality, affordable health care, and other services.
- ◆ Preserve agriculture and other natural resource-based industries as an integral part of Maryland's rural economy and culture.
- ◆ Advocate for a manageable regulatory process and reasonable and effective compliance.
- ◆ Address the impact of changing conditions on the environment, heritage and economic well being of rural Marylanders.

## Our Mission



The mission for the FORVM is to build a bright future for Rural Maryland by helping to address its unique concerns. The FORVM works toward achieving effective solutions by bringing together the diverse partnerships necessary to collectively work to improve the quality of life for Rural Maryland.

## Maryland's Rural and Semi-Rural Areas



## A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland

To add your voice and partner with us, please contact:

### The FORVM for Rural Maryland

William F. Eckman  
*Chair*

Stephen R. McHenry  
*Executive Director*

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
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