



**TRI COUNTY
COUNCIL**
FOR WESTERN MARYLAND

11 S. Lee Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
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www.tccwmd.org

Council Membership

Meeting April 22, 2026

Officer	Name	Representing	MEETING ATTENDANCE		
			Apr'26	June'26	Dec'26
Secretary/Treasurer	Commissioner Dave Caporale	Allegany County	P		
	Commissioner Bill Atkinson	Allegany County	A		
	David Nedved	Allegany County	P		
	Eugene Frazier	Allegany County Municipalities	P		
	Todd Logsdon	Allegany County Municipalities	P		
	Kelli Allaway	Allegany County Private Citizen	P		
	Stephen Nelson	Allegany County Private Citizen	P		
Chairman	Commissioner Paul Edwards	Garrett County	P		
	Commissioner Larry Tichnell	Garrett County	P		
	Kim Durst	Garrett County	P		
	Jay Moyer	Garrett County Municipalities	E		
	Spencer Schlosnagle	Garrett County Municipalities	P		
	David Moe	Garrett County Private Citizen	A		
	Merlin Beitzel	Garrett County Private Citizen	P		
Vice Chairman	Commissioner Jeff Cline	Washington County	P		
	Commissioner Randal Leatherman	Washington County	P		
	Linda Spence	Washington County	P		
	Howard Long	Washington County Municipalities	P		
	Bill Green	Washington County Municipalities	E		
	Roger Fairbourn	Washington County Private Citizen	P		
	Jack Miller	Washington County Private Citizen	P		
	Senator Mike McKay	Maryland State Senate District 1	P		
	Senator Paul Corderman	Maryland State Senate District 2	E		
	Delegate Jim Hinebaugh	Maryland House of Delegates District 1A	E		
	Delegate Jason Buckel	Maryland House of Delegates District 1B	E		
	Delegate William Wivell	Maryland House of Delegates District 2B	E		
Tri-County Council Staff: Elizabeth Stahlman, Guy Winterberg, Amy Jacobs, Christie Wakefield, Chris Funk, Ryan Davis, Elaine Jones					
Guests: Jodi Broadwater, Jayci Shaw Duncan, David Jones, Kevin Null, Bill Valentine, Jonathan Horowitz, Machel Dwyer, Andrew Sargent, Charlotte Davis, Joe Rogers, Robin Summerfield, Matt Miller, Jake Shade, Karen Johnson, Ray Morris, Nancy Giunta, Jenny Lazarus, Peter Dolkart and Andy Bauer					

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm at UPMC Western Maryland in Cumberland.
- II. Welcome & Introduction of Guests – Chairman Edwards thanked UPMC for providing the space to host the meeting and welcomed our newest Board member Kelli Allaway.
- III. Guest Speakers –

- A. Peter Dolkart and Andy Bauer from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond gave an overview of the Rural Investment Collaborative covering the 5th District. Rural areas have many challenges including very little philanthropy and a labor force participation rate that is lower than average. Fewer people in an area means less capital due to less demand.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

David Nedved moved to approve the agenda as presented, Spencer Schloshnagle seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

- V. Minutes of December 3, 2025 – Chairman Edwards presented the minutes of the December 3, 2025, meeting, and noted that they were previously distributed to the membership.

Howard long moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2025, as presented, Steve Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

VI. Financial Report –

- A. 2025 Year-End Financial Statements – Elaine Jones said that the Council is seeing an increase in net position based upon preliminary data. The largest portion of the net increase is coming from loan revenue. Net revenue over expenditure resulted in a total of \$362,043. It is noteworthy that the totals do not include the George Edwards Fund.
 - B. Financial Statements as of February 28, 2026 – Grant funding supplies the agency with over 50% of the total revenue while salaries and fringe make up the bulk of the expenses. Year to date we have received 14% of the total budget revenue and expended 11%.

Todd Logston moved to approve the preliminary year-end Financial Statements as well as the Financial Report as presented, Roger Fairbourn seconded the motion, and the motion carried

VII. Staff, Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Tri County Council Staff Updates –

1. New Branding, New Website – After working with PPR Strategies and Curly Red we have settled on a new logo which is featured at each table on the brochures and cups. The new website is not live yet but should mirror the new marketing materials.
2. 2025 Annual Report – An annual report was compiled this year to tell the story of Tri County and feature loan clients and projects from 2025.
3. RLF Refresh – With the help of PPR, interviews were held across the region with bankers, committee members, economic development officials and clients. Changes made to this fund were based upon the feedback of the group. New marketing materials were produced with these changes in mind. Recommendations included changing the Committee, reevaluation of the purpose and new brochures.
4. Western Maryland Entrepreneurial Ecosystem – The Ecosystem revolves around the idea of coordinating resources and making connections. Working with the Bridging Innovations Institute (BII) for our first meeting we attracted 40+ attendees for 6 hours to talk about small businesses.
 - i. RMPIF mid-year grant – The Rural Maryland Council has offered a one-time grant to each Council for \$50,000 to put towards a project. We would like for this grant to go towards supporting additional work of the Ecosystem and working with BII.
5. ARC Arise Grant Status – TCC applied for an ARC ARISE grant partnering with Region 8 in WV and Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development District in PA. The goal is to see if a need exists to fund mixed use redevelopment in downtown areas and then ultimately find a way to aid in that development if the need exists. ARC did invite us to make a full application for the grant and the other districts plan to contribute financially.

David Nedved moved to approve making application for the ARISE grant and up to \$90,000 needed to match if necessary. Roger Fairbourn seconded the motion, and the motion carried

- B. ARC Program Manager Update – Joe Rogers gave an update on the ARC Area Development funding. Applications are due by October 1, and an emphasis will be put on shovel ready projects. For new projects grants will have a 3-year time frame for completion with construction projects being given 7 years. Based on the allocation formula, if we can spend 80% of our allocation by October 1st, we will be given an additional 10%. All applications are now being done through the pathways system.

- C. Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Fund – The Governor’s budget had the program zeroed out for the 2027 fiscal year. The Delegation was able to work with the house and Governor’s office to get funding restored to \$9 million. Last year, new legislation restructured the Board but put the responsibility of selection on the president of the Senate and Speaker of the House. There was not a Board in place since June 30, 2025. The new voting Board is now in place and the standards for funding projects have been raised. New requirements for funding are a minimum of 25 jobs to be created or 10 jobs that pay at least 120% of the state average wage. The minimum grant is now \$200,000. Since inception the fund has awarded \$39 million in grants, and those funds leveraged an additional \$390 million.
- D. Maryland Department of Commerce – Commerce is pleased that the Decade Act passed this legislative session. It will make Advantage Maryland easier to use by removing local match requirements and adds the Strategic Closing Fund. The bill also makes the Build Our Future Grant Program permanent.

In Washington County a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Hagerstown Regional Airport expansion. The addition is to better accommodate passenger and baggage demand.

In Allegany County a local paper converter is considering doubling its current manufacturing space.

In Garrett County the new Mountain Laurel Medical Center opened its doors in Grantsville.

- E. Small Business Development Center – Jodi Broadwater reported that Western Maryland led the State in capital infusion for 2025 with almost \$15 million.

SBDC with Amazon will be hosting an AI pitch competition on May 14th at the Western Maryland Works center. The winner will be awarded up to \$50,000. Things like adding a QR code to enhance your business model would count as AI.

Legacy training will again be offered this fall for businesses that have no succession plan.

VIII. Unfinished Business – none

IX. New Business –

- A. Revisions to By-Laws of Tri-County Council for Western Maryland – Elizabeth Stahlman reviewed the proposed changes to the by-laws. The committee structure is proposed to be changed to combine the RLF and VLT loan committees. At least 51% of the committee must be made up by

employees of a financial institution currently lending commercially in Western Maryland. There will also be 1 member from each county that will be a commissioner serving on the TCC Board or a person from the County Economic Development office.

Mailing of meeting notices is no longer required. Electronic notification is now acceptable.

The ethics policy that was created in 2015 was never officially adopted as part of the by-laws. We would like to incorporate that to ensure members read and sign the document. Council members must also complete a financial disclosure document to the state annually.

Roger Fairbourn moved to approve the By-Law updates as presented, Todd Logston seconded the motion, and the motion carried with unanimous approval.

B. Budget Modifications and Extension to 3/31/2026 for FY 25 RMPIF Grant –

The Council was unable to spend all of the funding from the FY 2025 RMPIF by the deadline of December 31, 2025. The funds were expended in full in mid-May 2026 and verbal approval of an extension was approved. We would like the approval of the Board to file a formal extension and a budget modification. Funds were used to support the entrepreneurial ecosystem, logo and marketing materials, annual report and brownfields initiative.

David Nedved moved to approve the budget modification and grant extension as presented, Kim Durst seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

X. Announcements from the Floor –

Charlotte Davis announced that the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund and the Maryland Agriculture Education Fund are accepting applications through May 15.

Robin Summerfield announced the following federal earmarks:
Allegany County 4 projects for \$6.7 million
Garrett County 3 projects for \$4.5 million
Washington County 8 projects for \$8.2 million

XI. Adjourn – *Steve Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting, Linda Spence seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.*