



Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

Rural Economies Workgroup Report

January 27, 2014

To: Jon Laria, Chairman, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

From: Ryan Sigworth AICP, MDP, Rural Economies Workgroup Staff

Subj: Status Report on Rural Economies Workgroup Activities

Date: January 27, 2014

The Rural Economies Workgroup has not met since August 27th, 2013.

As reported in November, the workgroup has been looking at Rural Broadband issues. MDP staff has been investigating opportunities for the Workgroup and Commission to promote broadband deployment in the rural area of Maryland. However, to this point a specific role of the Commission has not been identified. It appears that other state organizations have a more direct role/function addressing broadband in rural Maryland.

Therefore, MDP staff has begun investigating one of the other top priorities identified by the Workgroup – Agriculture and Forest Enterprise Zones, Value Added Agricultural Products, and Local Food for Local People. Over the next month, MDP will be collecting relevant information about these topics and scheduling a meeting of the Workgroup to begin discussions.