COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 7

Resolution No. 20-25

Mr. Michael Ertel, Chair
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, April 7, 2025

A RESOLUTION to approve and rank three Rural Legacy Area Plan applications submitted to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for consideration and approval by the Maryland Rural Legacy Board for funding in fiscal year 2026. These plans include the Gunpowder Valley, Manor, and Piney Run Watershed Rural Legacy Areas.

WHEREAS, the Maryland Rural Legacy Program was adopted as part of the "Smart Growth" initiative submitted by the Governor and approved by the Maryland General Assembly during the 1997 session of the Maryland General Assembly to be administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in accordance with Section 5-9A-01 through 5-9A-09 inclusive, Subtitle 9A, Natural Resources Article, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland General Assembly declared that, "sprawl development and other modifications to the landscape in Maryland continue at an alarming rate, consuming land rich in natural resources, agricultural, and forestry value, adversely affecting water quality, wetlands, and habitat, threatening resource-based economies and cultural assets, and rending the fabric of rural life," and

WHEREAS, "current State, County, and Local land conservation programs help to limit the effect of sprawl development but lack sufficient funding and focus to preserve key areas before escalating land values make their protection impossible or the land is lost to development;" and

WHEREAS, "a grant program that leverages available funding, focuses on preservation of strategic resources, including those resources threatened by sprawl development, streamlines real property acquisition procedures to expedite land preservation, and promotes a greater level of natural and environmental resources protection than is provided by existing efforts, will establish a rural legacy for future generations;" and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County is particularly rich in natural resources, is recognized Statewide and Nationally for its resource protection zoning and regulations, is a leader nationally in agricultural and environmental lands protected through privately held easements, and receives the benefit of having several well established and successful Local Land Trusts and Community Organizations; and

WHEREAS, the three plans listed below have been reviewed and endorsed by the County Executive as consistent with the County's master planning, zoning, capital improvement program, natural resource protection, and other policies and programs of Baltimore County:

1. Piney Run Watershed Rural Legacy Area;
2. Manor Rural Legacy Area; and
3. Gunpowder Valley Rural Legacy Area; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, that the County Council hereby approves and endorses the three applications listed above in the priority order listed for State Rural Legacy Area designation and funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.

LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION	RESOLUTION 20-25
DISPOSITION	PASSED
ENACTED	N/A
EFFECTIVE	N/A
AMENDMENTS	NO

ROLL CALL - BILL

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☐ *ABSENT	☐	Councilman Young
☑	☐	Councilman Patoka
☑	☐	Councilman Kach
☑	☐	Councilman Jones
☑	☐	Councilman Marks
☑	☐	Councilman Ertel
☑	☐	Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION SECOND

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