

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

2008 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 12

Resolution No. 78-2008

Introduced by: The President of the Council at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A RURAL LEGACY GRANT AND APPROVING THE RURAL LEGACY GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF MARYLAND ACTING THROUGH THE RURAL LEGACY BOARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00.

WHEREAS, Wicomico County participates in the Rural Legacy program in an effort to preserve the natural resources in the Quantico Creek Rural Legacy Area; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland through the Rural Legacy Program has awarded Wicomico County \$500,000.00 in funding to assist in the efforts to preserve natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland that:

- A. The County Executive of Wicomico County, Maryland is authorized to enter into the Rural Legacy Grant Agreement accepting the aforesaid funds to be used for purchase of protective easements in the Quantico Creek Rural Legacy Area.
B. The Rural Legacy Grant Agreement shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof, and in such form the Rural Legacy Grant Agreement is hereby approved as to form and content.

Done at Salisbury, Maryland, this 3rd day of June 2008.

ATTEST:

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

Matthew E Creamer Council Administrator

John T. Cannon Council President

CERTIFICATION

This Resolution was Adopted [checked], Adopted with Amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdraw ____ by the County Council on June 3, 2008.

Certified by Matthew E Creamer, Council Administrator

EXHIBIT A

CERTIFICATION

This Resolution was Adopted ____, Adopted with Amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdraw ____ by the County Council on ____, 2008.

Certified by _____
Matthew E Creamer, Council Administrator

Rural Legacy Board

**RURAL LEGACY GRANT AGREEMENT
SPONSOR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made this ____ day of _____, 2008 by and between the STATE OF MARYLAND, acting through the RURAL LEGACY BOARD (“RLB”), c/o Rural Legacy Program, Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 and WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL, a local government, Post Office Box 870, Salisbury, Maryland 21803-0870 (hereinafter sometimes referred to either as the “Sponsor” or the “Local Government”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland, pursuant to Natural Resources Article § 5-9A-01, et. seq., has established the Rural Legacy Program (“Program”) to enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry, and environmental protection and the Program provides funds through grant assistance to local governments and land trusts to purchase interests in real property from willing sellers, including fee estates, easements and other interests in real property for the preservation of land in key areas of Maryland;

WHEREAS, the Sponsor is a local government, meaning one of Maryland’s 23 counties or one of Maryland’s municipal governments;

WHEREAS, the Sponsor has filed an application to designate a Rural Legacy Area, known as the Quantico Creek Rural Legacy Area shown on the map set forth on Attachment A (“Rural Legacy Area”);

WHEREAS, the RLB has designated the Rural Legacy Area submitted in the Sponsor’s application as originally submitted or as amended;

WHEREAS, the RLB has agreed to award the Sponsor a grant in an amount not to exceed the Total Grant Amount pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement to be used for the purchase of certain interests in real property for the preservation of land in the Rural Legacy Area, and for approved Project Costs pursuant to Project Agreements, all as more particularly described herein;

WHEREAS, the RLB’s Rural Legacy Area designation, Rural Legacy Plan acceptance, Grant award and authorization to execute this Agreement were subject to approval by the Maryland State Board of Public Works (“BPW”) and such approvals have been given by the BPW on April 2, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor shall enter into Project Agreements for Eligible Properties, which the Sponsor may acquire, which Agreements shall specify the Project Costs that the Sponsor may request for acquisition of Eligible Properties, subject to the approval of the RLB and the BPW.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual covenants, terms and conditions of this Agreement, the parties agree as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

Acquisition Activities is defined in Section 4.1. of this Agreement.

Annual Report is defined in Section 8.2. of this Agreement.

BPW is defined in the Recitals Section of this Agreement.

Contract is defined in Section 4.2.5 of this Agreement.

Easement is defined in Section 4.2.2. of this Agreement.

Easement Form is defined in Section 4.2.2. of this Agreement.

Effective Date is defined in Section 12.12. of this Agreement.

Eligible Properties is defined in Section 3.1. of this Agreement.

Grant Period is defined in Section 2.2. of this Agreement.

Law is defined in Section 3.6. of this Agreement.

Mortgage(s) is defined in Section 4.2.6. of this Agreement.

Permitted Real Estate Interests is defined in Section 3.1. of this Agreement.

Program is defined in the Recitals Section of this Agreement.

Project Agreement is defined in Section 3.4. of this Agreement.

Project Costs is defined in Section 3.4. of this Agreement.

Rural Legacy Area is defined in the Recitals Section of this Agreement.

Rural Legacy Manual is defined in Section 3.7. of this Agreement.

SLCO is defined as a state land conservation organization being “the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, the Maryland Environmental Trust, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, or another state organization approved by the RLB.”

Subordination Agreement is defined in Section 4.2.6. of this Agreement.

Title Holders are defined in Section 4.2.3. of this Agreement.

Total Grant Amount is defined in Section 2.1. of this Agreement.

Section 2. Grant.

2.1. Amount of Grant. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the RLB hereby agrees to award a grant to the Sponsor in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) (the "Total Grant Amount") to be used solely for payment of approved Project Costs in connection with acquisition of Permitted Real Estate Interests in Eligible Properties. In accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement and each Project Agreement, and during the Grant Period as defined below, the RLB shall disburse to the Sponsor that portion of the Total Grant Amount which equals approved Project Costs for acquisition of Eligible Properties, provided however, that such disbursements shall cease upon the earlier to occur of (a) the date on which the sum total of all disbursements hereunder equals the Total Grant Amount, or (b) the expiration of the Grant Period.

2.2. Grant Period. The "Grant Period" shall mean that period commencing upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and ending on the date which is twelve (12) calendar months from the Effective Date, unless the Grant Period is extended by the RLB in its sole discretion. In the event the ending date falls on a legal holiday or non-business day, the ending date shall be the next immediately succeeding day which is not a legal holiday or a non-business day.

2.3. General Conditions. Any general conditions to this Agreement are set forth in Attachment B attached hereto.

2.4. Sponsor Information, Easement Form and Eligible Properties. Sponsor and other information are set forth in Attachment C attached hereto. Some of the information on Attachment C is also specified in another part of this Agreement or the other Attachments to this Agreement, and if there are any conflicts between Attachment C and any of the terms of this Agreement or the other Attachments to this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement and the other Attachments shall govern.

Section 3. Sponsor's Performance.

3.1. Property Acquisitions. A Sponsor may acquire Permitted Real Estate Interests in Eligible Properties. "Permitted Real Estate Interests" means fee simple estate interests or conservation easement interests, or other real estate interests allowed by the Law. "Eligible Properties" means both those properties which the Sponsor has identified and listed in Attachment C. In the event that Sponsor requests (a) additional properties to be placed on

Attachment C or (b) a change of the Rural Legacy Area boundary, Sponsor shall submit a written request for approval to the Rural Legacy Program and shall not begin the acquisition process for the property until such approval has been granted.

3.2. Submission of Easement Valuation Methodology. Within thirty (30) days of execution of this Agreement, the Sponsor shall submit to the RLB its Easement valuation methodology. The methodology shall reflect the agricultural, forestry, and natural resource qualities the Easement is designed to protect; reflect the fair market values of properties in the Rural Legacy Area; and relate to the range of easement values paid by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and other easement purchasing programs. Upon approval by the RLB, the Sponsor may use the approved methodology to acquire conservation easements as Permitted Real Estate Interests.

3.3. Appraisals. If the Permitted Real Estate Interest to be acquired is an Easement, the Sponsor shall use its approved easement valuation methodology to appraise the value of the Easement. If the Sponsor does not have an approved easement valuation methodology, or if the Permitted Real Estate Interest is not an Easement, the Sponsor shall obtain two independent appraisals of the value of the property interest to be acquired and shall otherwise comply with the appraisal requirements set forth in the Rural Legacy Manual. The easement valuation methodology and appraisals shall be subject to the approval of the RLB or designee. A Sponsor who has an approved Easement valuation methodology shall not use appraisals unless specifically authorized by the Rural Legacy Program.

3.4. Project Agreement. If the Sponsor and a property owner of an Eligible Property reach agreement on the terms of an acquisition, the Sponsor shall prepare a Project Agreement, substantially in the form required by the RLB (a copy can be obtained from the Rural Legacy staff) ("Project Agreement"). The Project Agreement shall include a copy of the Contract (as defined in 4.2.5) for the Eligible Property, and, as applicable, the proposed form of the Easement or the proposed form of the Deed and other supporting documents. The Project Agreement shall specify the amount of total permissible costs, including direct (contract) costs, incidental costs, administrative costs, and easement monitoring costs ("Project Costs") which the Sponsor shall receive from the Total Grant Amount following Sponsor's satisfaction of the terms of this Agreement.

3.5. Rural Legacy Program Review, Approval. A Sponsor shall submit the Project Agreement to the Rural Legacy Program for review. The Rural Legacy Program shall review the Project Agreement for compliance with the terms of this Agreement and the Law. Project Agreements meeting all Program requirements will be submitted by the Rural Legacy Program to the BPW for approval. Upon BPW approval of the Project Agreement, the Sponsor shall make every effort to acquire the Eligible Property within forty-five (45) days.

3.6. Reimbursement. A Sponsor who acquires an Eligible Property may apply to the RLB for reimbursement of Project Costs in accordance with the Project Agreement and Section 6 of this Agreement.

3.7. Compliance. Sponsor agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Rural Legacy Area, its accompanying application, and each Project Agreement. Sponsor acknowledges and agrees that this Grant Agreement is governed by the terms and provisions of Subtitle 9A of the Natural Resources Article which established the Program, the Program's Regulations, and the Rural Legacy Manual and Application Procedures dated December 2001 (the "Rural Legacy Manual"), as they may be amended from time to time, and as sometimes referred to herein collectively as the "Law."

Section 4. Conditions for Acquisition of Permitted Real Estate Interests.

4.1. Acquisition Activities. As set forth in the Law and in this Agreement, the RLB has the right to approve all activities in connection with acquisition of Permitted Real Estate Interests in Eligible Properties ("Acquisition Activities"). The RLB or its designee has the right to make comments upon, require revisions to, and approve all Acquisition Activities whether or not specifically enumerated below. In addition, in the event a SLCO will hold title to a Permitted Real Estate Interest, the SLCO shall have the right to make comments upon, require revisions to and approve all Acquisition Activities, whether or not specifically enumerated below. Any other Title Holders of a Permitted Real Estate Interest shall have the right to make comments upon, require revisions to and approve all Acquisition Activities, whether or not specifically enumerated below. The Sponsor shall contact any SLCO and any other Title Holders directly for any comments, revisions or requirements that they may have.

4.2. Acquisition of a Fee Estate or a Conservation Easement.

4.2.1. Form of Deed. If the Permitted Real Estate Interest is a fee simple estate interest, the Sponsor shall submit the form of the proposed special warranty deed (the "Deed") to the RLB or its designee, any SLCO and any Title Holders for approval. The Deed shall be drafted to provide that one hundred percent (100%) of the fee simple estate interest shall be held by the Title Holders as the Grantees in the Deed. At settlement, the Deed shall be duly executed and recorded among the land records where the Eligible Property is located.

4.2.2. Easement Form. If the Permitted Real Estate Interest is a conservation easement interest, the Sponsor shall use either the Rural Legacy Program Sample Easement and Optional Provisions, available from the Rural Legacy staff, or the Sponsor shall use the Sponsor's Easement Form as approved by the Rural Legacy staff and the Office of the Attorney General. The form of easement chosen is also indicated on Attachment C (the "Easement Form"). Any changes to the Easement Form shall be approved by the RLB or its designee, the SLCO, if any, and any Title Holder. As used herein, "Easement" shall mean the final approved Easement Form. At settlement, the Easement shall be duly executed and recorded among the land records where the Eligible Property is located.

4.2.3. Title Holders. The parties acquiring any fee simple estate interest or any Easement interests acquired under this Grant Agreement shall be specified in the Project Agreement as the "Title Holders".

4.2.4. Property Description. All Eligible Properties proposed for acquisition under the Rural Legacy Program shall have a metes and bounds description or a reference to lots on a duly recorded plat and/or a survey with a metes and bounds description, all as approved by the RLB or its designee, the SLCO and any Title Holder. Any Title Holder, including but not limited to any SLCO, shall also have the right to approve the metes and bounds description or lot reference and/or the survey with a metes and bounds description, and, in addition to the foregoing requirements, may have requirements on the adequacy of the metes and bounds description of or lot reference for the Eligible Property and may require a survey in form and content acceptable to such Title Holder and to the title insurance company.

4.2.5. Contract. The Sponsor shall use option contract or contract of sale forms (collectively, "Contract") approved by the RLB or its designee. The Contract shall contain conditions which (a) shall permit the Title Holders to be the Grantee on the Deed or Easement in addition to the purchasers under the Contract, even if such Title Holders are not listed as purchasers under the Contract, (b) make the Contract contingent upon the approval by the RLB or its designee, any Title Holders, any SLCO, and the BPW, unless the Sponsor is willing to run the risk that the Sponsor may settle and the Contract might not be approved, and (c) in the case of an Easement, make the Contract contingent upon the receipt of fully executed Subordination Agreement(s). The Contract is subject to BPW approval.

4.2.6. Subordination to Easement. All mortgages, deeds of trust and any other liens or encumbrances, (except for future taxes, charges or assessments, not yet due and payable), with respect to the repayment of a debt against the Eligible Property (collectively, the "Mortgages") must be fully subordinated to the Easement. Sponsor shall provide a copy of each proposed subordination agreement ("Subordination Agreement") to the RLB along with the Project Agreement. The RLB or its designee, any Title Holder, and the SLCO, if any, shall have the right to approve the form of the Subordination Agreement, prior to its execution, and the recording order of the Easement and the Subordination Agreements.

4.2.7. Title Insurance. The Sponsor shall obtain title insurance for the Eligible Property in the form of an Owner's Policy from a title insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Maryland in the amount of the purchase price of the Permitted Real Estate Interest in the Eligible Property. The title insurance policy shall not contain exceptions to title which (a) would defeat the purpose of the Program and any Easement or Deed placed upon the Eligible Property as required by the Program, (b) create a remainder, reversion, or condition which could cause forfeiture or reversion of title, (c) require the payment of money by any SLCO, unless such exception is approved by any SLCO, (d) list an unsubordinated mortgage, deed of trust, judgment, lien or other encumbrance, contract or purchase option, which would, if foreclosed or enforced, take priority over and eliminate the interest of the Sponsor, any SLCO and any Title Holders in the Easement in the Eligible Property, (e) provide for the lien of unpaid taxes or show any taxes or any other charges or assessments as unpaid, unless such taxes, charges or assessments are not yet due and payable, (f) are the preprinted standard exceptions (unless any preprinted exception would require a survey acceptable to the title company in order to remove

such exception and a decision has been made not to obtain such a survey pursuant to Section 4.2.4.), or (g) any exception unacceptable to any SLCO or any Title Holder.

4.2.8. Evidence of Authority. For any Deed, Easement and Contract, executed by (a) the Sponsor and any Title Holder with (b) any entity conveying such interest to the Sponsor and any Title Holder, the Sponsor shall ensure that any such entity is a validly existing legal entity, in good standing (if applicable for that particular type of entity), has the authority to enter into the transaction and into the respective documents evidencing the transaction, and the persons signing on its behalf hold the offices or positions described and are duly authorized to do so. The Sponsor and Rural Legacy Board or designee shall review any organizational documents of the entity attached as well as a Good Standing Certificate, if issued for the particular type of entity by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

4.2.9. Environmental Assessment. The Contract shall provide the Sponsor, the SLCO, if any, and any Title Holder with the right to conduct an environmental site assessment of the Eligible Property. The Sponsor and any Title Holder shall, at a minimum, complete or cause to have completed an environmental site assessment of the Eligible Property, in form and content acceptable to the Sponsor, any Title Holder, Rural Legacy Board or designee. The environmental site assessment form prepared as a result of such environmental site assessment shall be attached to the Project Agreement, documenting at a minimum the physical inspection of the Eligible Property and the findings from an inquiry into the historical uses of the Eligible Property. If any environmental hazard is found or suspected, it is to be listed in the Project Agreement with a proposed plan for addressing such environmental hazards. If a SLCO is to be the Title Holder, the SLCO may have requirements on the form of the environmental site assessment and the proposal for handling any suspected or found environmental hazards.

4.2.10. Easement on Fee Simple Property. Either simultaneously with its acquisition by the Sponsor and any Title Holders or before any reimbursement for such acquisition shall be made hereunder, an Eligible Property which is a fee simple estate interest, shall be encumbered with a conservation easement held by a SLCO which shall be duly executed and recorded among the land records where the Eligible Property is located following the recordation of the Deed. The Easement shall be in form and content acceptable to the RLB, any Title Holder and the SLCO, if any.

4.3. Local Government as Title Holder. Notwithstanding the foregoing and unless the SLCO indicates in writing to the RLB to the contrary at the time the SLCO agrees to be a Title Holder, if a Local Government is an Easement or fee simple estate Title Holder, then the Local Government shall approve matters of title, metes and bounds description, survey and environmental assessment, and the attorney for such Local Government shall sign the Deed or Easement as prepared by or under the supervision of an attorney and as to form and legal sufficiency, and the approval of the Local Government shall be evidenced by the duly authorized signatures on the Deed or the Easement of the Local Government and the written assurance of the Local Government to the RLB that the Local Government has duly investigated matters of title,

metes and bounds description, survey and environmental assessment, does not believe the information revealed in the title, metes and bounds description, survey and environmental assessment would defeat the purpose of the Program, is satisfied with and willing to assume any risks revealed therefrom.

4.4. Other Permitted Real Estate Interests. If the Permitted Real Estate Interest is not an Easement or a fee simple estate interest, the requirements for this Section 4 will be set forth in an Addendum to this Agreement.

Section 5. Disposal of Fee Simple Property.

Sponsor may dispose of the Sponsor's fee simple estate interest in an Eligible Property acquired with all or a portion of the Total Grant Amount under this Agreement pursuant to the Rural Legacy Manual, subject to approval by and in accordance with conditions imposed by the RLB, including but not limited to special requirements regarding bond monies as set forth in the Rural Legacy Manual, the Law and other federal and state laws. A conservation easement approved by the RLB or its designee shall be placed on the property before transfer to another entity. Pursuant to the Rural Legacy Manual, funds derived from the disposal of an Eligible Property during the Grant Period may be used by Sponsor for other acquisitions of Eligible Property or Properties provided such acquisitions comply with all the requirements of this Agreement for acquisition of Eligible Properties.

Section 6. Reimbursement of Costs.

6.1. Overview. Each Project Agreement for each Eligible Property represents a separate transaction for purposes of determining the amount of the Total Grant Amount which shall be allocated as Project Costs for that particular Eligible Property. Project Costs may include direct (contract) cost, incidental costs, administrative costs, and easement monitoring costs as provided in the Law. That portion of the Total Grant Amount which is used to reimburse a Sponsor for direct costs incurred in the acquisition of an Eligible Property shall not, when combined with all other funds used by or available to the Sponsor for such acquisition, exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of acquiring the Eligible Property.

6.2. Retroactivity. Retroactive costs prior to the Grant Period are not allowed.

6.3. Approved Project Costs. The requirements for and procedures governing payment of Approved Project Costs are set forth in the Rural Legacy Manual.

6.4. Program Compliance Costs. A portion of the Grant, not to exceed one and one-half percent (1 ½ %) of each Easement purchase cost, may be used to pay for program compliance costs for monitoring Easements. To be eligible, Sponsors must document that payments for monitoring costs will be placed in an endowment or other special account to be made available only to the Grantee for the purpose of monitoring the specific Easement acquired

with Rural Legacy funds. Fees charged for program compliance for Easement monitoring will be invested in a long-term, managed investment account, the principal of which may not be withdrawn or used without the approval of the RLB. Additional provisions regarding program compliance costs are set forth in the Rural Legacy Manual.

6.5. Advance Payment. The Sponsor should, as a general rule, submit requests for reimbursement for administrative and incidental costs to the Rural Legacy Program. Under special conditions approved by the Board in this Grant Agreement, for Sponsors that may be unable to initiate acquisition efforts without pre-payment of certain administrative or planning costs, a Sponsor may request a portion of their allowed administrative costs in advance. This advance payment shall be deducted from the allowable three percent (3%) of the Total Grant Amount which is allowable for administrative costs. A Sponsor may also request an advance payment of funds to cover a portion or all of the anticipated direct costs of an acquisition itemized in a Project Agreement and approved by the RLB and the BPW, to be available for payment at settlement.

6.6. Documentation of Expenditures. Each expenditure submitted for payment or reimbursement consideration shall be justified by providing the following information to the Rural Legacy Program: copy of the recorded deed, copy of final title policy, copy of settlement sheet, copies of invoices for any costs not shown on the settlement sheet, and justification of administrative costs. The Sponsor shall maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records, and shall make them available to staff of the RLB for auditing at reasonable times. Such accounts, documents and records shall be retained by the Sponsor for three (3) years following project termination.

Section 7. Stewardship and Monitoring for Program Compliance.

The Sponsor shall establish an Easement stewardship program based upon national standards and practices and involving Easement inspections at least every three (3) years. The Sponsor will submit the program to the RLB for review with the annual report required by Section 8.2.

Section 8. Reporting.

8.1. INTENTIONALLY DELETED.

8.2. Annual Report. Sponsor shall provide an annual report of activities to the RLB in a format provided by the RLB (the "Annual Report"). The Annual Report shall be due thirty (30) days after the end of the state fiscal year.

Section 9. Indemnification. The Sponsor shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, indemnify, save harmless and defend the State of Maryland and all of its representatives from all suits, actions, or claims of any character, brought on account of any injuries or damage

sustained by any person or property as a result of the Sponsor's activities, including the activities of its employees, agents, representatives or subcontractors, in connection with its performance under this Agreement. The Sponsor's indemnification of the State of Maryland and all of its representatives under this Section is subject to the availability of funds appropriated by Wicomico County, Maryland for such purpose. The County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland hereby agrees to use his best efforts to include a request in the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance to appropriate funds in the event there is an indemnification cost to the Sponsor under this Section.

Section 10. Sponsor's Failure to Perform; Remedies.

If the Sponsor fails to perform its obligations under this Agreement in whole or in part, the RLB or the State of Maryland may exercise any or all of the remedies set forth below:

- A. Withhold payment of funds under this Agreement until the Sponsor performs its obligations after notice is provided to the Sponsor of the violation of this Agreement and opportunity is provided for compliance satisfactory to the Board;
- B. Perform the Sponsor's obligations, including but not limited to, maintaining, operating or repairing the Eligible Property to protect it from further damage, using funds available under this Agreement;
- C. Collect damages from the Sponsor for the costs of performing the Sponsor's obligations, after notice is provided to the Sponsor of the violation of this Agreement and opportunity is provided for compliance satisfactory to the Board;
- D. Terminate the Agreement in whole or in part;
- E. Withhold approval of any grant request submitted by the Sponsor to the RLB under this Agreement;
- F. Debar the Sponsor from applying for future Program funds; and
- G. Initiate legal action to enforce the terms of this Agreement, the Easement and/ or exercise any other right or remedy under the Law or available at law or in equity.

Section 11. Notices. Any notice provided hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been received: (a) on the date of delivery, if given by hand delivery and signed for by the recipient party, or (b) on the next business day following delivery to an overnight delivery or other messenger service, if given by an overnight delivery or other messenger delivery service and signed for or refused by the recipient party, or (c) on the date of actual receipt of delivery or refusal of delivery or return by the United States mails as undeliverable at the address shown, if given by certified mail in the United States mails, postage prepaid, return receipt

requested. Any notice provided hereunder shall be provided to the addresses shown on Page One of this Agreement or to such other address in the United States as the party changing its address may designate from time to time by notice to the other party.

Section 12. Miscellaneous.

12.1. Assignment. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns, including by way of privity of estate and contract, provided however that nothing herein shall be construed to mean that the Sponsor has the right to assign this Agreement or all or any portion of the Total Grant Amount hereunder. Nothing in this Agreement, expressed or implied, is intended to confer upon or against any other person, corporation or government unit, any right or remedy under or by reason of this Agreement.

12.2. Complete Understanding. This Agreement and all attachments incorporated herein represent the complete understanding between the parties hereto and supersede all prior negotiations, representations, statements and agreements.

12.3. Amendment. This Agreement may be amended by an agreement in writing between the Sponsor and the RLB, provided that approval of the BPW shall be required for any amendment to increase the Total Grant Amount.

12.4. Waiver. No party shall be deemed to have waived the exercise of any right which it holds hereunder unless such waiver is made expressly and in writing.

12.5. Applicable Law. This Agreement shall be given effect and construed by application of Maryland law, and any action or proceeding arising hereunder shall be brought in the courts of Maryland.

12.6. Exhibits. Each writing or plat referred to herein as being attached as an attachment is hereby made a part of this Agreement.

12.7. Disclaimer of partnership status. Nothing in the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed in any way to create between the parties hereto any relationship of partnership, joint venture or association, and the parties hereto hereby disclaim the existence of any such relationship.

12.8. Nondiscrimination. Sponsor agrees not to discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, or other person because of sex, race, age, creed, color, religious affiliation, mental or physical handicap, national origin, ancestry or marital status and to comply with the terms, intent and provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 P.L. 88-354 (1964) and its amendments, Article 49B Sections 14 to 18 (Discrimination in Employment) of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1994 Replacement Volume and its amendments), and the

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, P.L. 101-336 and its amendments, and with all local, state and federal laws now or hereinafter enacted to effectuate the goals of the aforesaid statutes.

12.9. INTENTIONALLY DELETED.

12.10. No Contingent Fees. Sponsor warrants that it has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or agent working for them, to solicit or secure this Agreement, and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or agent, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of this Agreement.

12.11. INTENTIONALLY DELETED.

12.12. Effective Date. This Agreement shall be effective upon the execution of this Agreement by all of the parties to this Agreement (the "Effective Date").

12.13. Captions. Caption and headings in this Agreement are for ease of reference only and shall not be deemed a part of or have any meaning in the interpretation of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date entered below under their respective signatures.

WITNESS/ATTEST:

(Signature)

(Print Name)

WITNESS/ATTEST

(Signature)

(Print Name)

WITNESS/ATTEST:

(Signature)

(Print Name)

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency
this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Assistant Attorney General

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency
this _____ day of _____, 2008.

City Solicitor / County Attorney

WICOMICO COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

BY: _____ (SEAL)

John T. Cannon
President, Wicomico County Council

DATE: _____

BY: _____ (SEAL)

Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.
Wicomico County Executive

DATE: _____

STATE OF MARYLAND
RURAL LEGACY BOARD:

BY: _____ (SEAL)

John R. Griffin
Chair, Rural Legacy Board

DATE: _____