

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD & FORESTRY BOARD  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE OF THE GROUP**

The St. Mary's County Agricultural, Seafood and Forestry Board members shall be appointed by the Commissioners for St. Mary's County, to meet statutory requirements, to include:

- at least three (3) members from the agricultural community (owner-operators of commercial farms who earn fifty (50) percent or more of their income from farming);
- at least one (1) member from the forestry community;
- at least one (1) member from the real estate community and
- at least one (1) member from the community not actively engaged in agriculture.

Each member of the Board shall be appointed for a term of office of five years with no member serving for more than two consecutive full terms. Members of the St. Mary's County Agricultural, Seafood and Forestry Board during 2021 are as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Scott Bacon	Forestry	12/31/2025
Bonnie Brown	Citizen Member	12/31/2024
Phil Dorsey	Real Estate	12/31/2024
Phil Langley	Waterman	12/31/2025
Charles Mattingly	Citizen Member	12/31/2023
Alan Polk	Forestry	12/31/2024
Stephen Reeves	Chair, Farmer	12/31/2025
Michael Sirk	Forestry	06/30/2021
Joseph Wood	Vice Chair, Farmer	06/30/2021

The following shall be ex-officio members:

- one (1) member from the University of Maryland Extension – St. Mary's County,
- one (1) member from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, and
- one (1) member from the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development.

**SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PAST YEAR**

**Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Board:**

- Over the past year, the Board was pleased with the design and construction of the relocated the North St. Mary's County Farmer's Market from the Charlotte Hall Library to a new location off Redstone Lane. The Board has monitored the construction progress. Shipping issues have caused a delay in opening; however, the Board is pleased with the progress of the Barns at New Market.
- The Board has worked with the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) and the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) to ensure the success of the Rural Legacy Program in St. Mary's County. At the request of the

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD & FORESTRY BOARD  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, RC&D is now the land trust representing the Mattapany Rural Legacy Area and PTLT represents the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area.

- The Board is pleased to have submitted 10 applications to the Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) for consideration of easement purchase for the FY2022 funding cycle.

**Subcommittees**

**Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board**

The duties of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board are:

- (1) To advise the county governing body with respect to the establishment of agricultural districts and the approval of purchases of easements by MALPF within the county;
  - (2) To assist the county governing body in reviewing the status of agricultural districts and land under easement;
  - (3) To advise MALPF concerning county priorities for agricultural preservation;
  - (4) To approve or disapprove an application by the county for certification;
  - (5) To promote preservation of agriculture within the county by offering information and assistance to farmers with respect to establishment of districts and purchase of easements;
  - (6) To meet at least annually with forest conservation district boards in order to work cooperatively to encourage the promotion and retention of farmland and woodland in their respective jurisdictions; and
  - (7) To perform any other duties as assigned by the county governing body.
- The Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board approved a transfer of land to cure a violation on an Easement Property, a donation 2.723 acres that were previously withheld from an Easement, 1 Pre-Existing Dwelling Release Request, and a donation of a 1.128 acre parcel to a pending Easement. All requests were forwarded to the State MALPF Board for consideration.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Acres Preserved in 2020</b>	<b>Total Acres Preserved To Date</b>
MALPF	492.71	13,872.65
Rural Legacy	625.31	6,917.24
TDRs	50.09	4514.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,168.11</b>	<b>25,304.13</b>

**Farmers Market**

The duty of the Farmers Market Subcommittee is to address issues facing farmers markets administered by DED throughout the County.

- The Home Grown Farm Market is located at 21078 Three Notch Road in Lexington Park. The Home Grown Farm Market was open Saturdays January 9 through December 18 from 9 am until 1 pm. The Home Grown Farm Market had thirty (30) vendors in 2021.

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD & FORESTRY BOARD  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

- The California Farmers Market is located at the BAE Systems parking lot at the corner of Town Creek Drive and Route 235. The California Farmers Market was open Saturday from 9 am until 1 pm May 1 through November 20. The California Farmers Market had sixteen (16) vendors in 2021.
- The North St. Mary's County Farmers Market is located at the Charlotte Hall Library Parking Lot. The North St. Mary's County Farmers Market was open Monday through Saturday April through November. The North St. Mary's County Farmers Market had fourteen (14) vendors in 2021.

**Agriculture Reconciliation Committee**

The Agricultural Reconciliation Committee arbitrates and mediates disputes involving agricultural operations conducted on agricultural lands. The Committee issues opinions on whether such operations conform with generally accepted agricultural management practices.

- No activity for this committee was required in 2021.

**PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES**

- Attendance. Member attendance at Board meetings continues to be a challenge. The Board will modify its schedule for 2022 to meet bi-monthly.
- Identify management structure/entity for the Barns at New Market.
- Farmland Conservation Easements. Year after year there is interest to participate in the MALPF program from landowners however there is a shortfall of funding for the program.
  - The Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board continues to be concerned over the quality of appraisals used to determine easement values for the Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation easement offers. It is the opinion of the Board that the appraisers used by the State are not familiar with the area and therefore determine lower than realistic property values for St. Mary's County. In addition, on multiple instances, the two appraisers had widely varying assessments of the properties.

**PLANS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

- The Board will continue to meet the second Thursday of every other month

\*2022 Meeting Calendar

February 10, 2022	August 11, 2022
April 14, 2022	October 13, 2022
June 9, 2022	December 8, 2022

\*Commissioner and citizen attendance is always welcomed.

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD & FORESTRY BOARD  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

- The Board will continue to promote and discuss initiatives, projects and programs as they relate to the implementation and update of the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- The Board will assist in promoting the Barns at New Market as not only a local sales outlet but a tourism destination.

**RECEIVED**

DEC 16 2021

**CSMC & CO ADMIN**

CC: SF & DG