



John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman
David Paulk, Vice Chairman
Scott Bacon **Colleen Corrigan** **Raymond E. Dodson, Jr.** **Phil Dorsey**
Dr. Edward Falta **Phil Langley** **Patrick Russell**
Jon Shenski **Charles Webb**

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
January 14, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center. Members in attendance were John Parlett, Scott Bacon, Raymond Dodson, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, and Charles Webb. Also present was Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension, Bruce Young from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, and Robin Finnacom, Donna Sasscer, and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included: Diane Chasse and Carol West from the Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), Cindy Greb, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), Steve Reeves, James Spence, Bubby Norris, Walter Russell, and Jim Hooper.

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. It was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum. Minutes from the November 19, 2015 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Dorsey and seconded by Mr. Webb.

Old Business

SMADC Property- Ms. Sasscer updated the Board that SMADC continues to try to work through the legal process for their project. SMADC would like to have a feasibility study done for the Cheltenham Facility since it is already owned by the State of Maryland.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) – Ms. West and Ms. Chasse presented the Board with a presentation explaining the State Appraisal Process for Easements. Two appraisers are hired through the Department of General Services. They each appraise a property using five comparables (if they do not use the same comparable property then this is 10 recent sales). They make adjustments to the comparables to reflect differences between the easement property. These are submitted to the Department of General Services who reviews them. If there is a difference of more than 30% value between the two appraisals then a composite appraisal is done by selecting five of the comparables supplied. Ms. West explained that if a landowner appeals their MALPF offer that they will be taken out of the current funding cycle and if they are successful in their appeal they will move to the top of the list for the next cycle funding. If they are not successful in their appeal they will be re-ranked in the next cycle and receive their offer again but in the order that they are ranked. Ms. Chasse will get the Board

a copy of the criteria used for selecting appraisers and find out how each appraiser is matched with the area they are assigned.

Rural Legacy – Ms. Sasscer told the Board about the proposed expansion of the Mattapany Rural Legacy Area. There was an information meeting held on January 6th with over 100 attendees and lots of confusion and questions from smaller property owners in the proposed area. As a result of this meeting the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) will delay the submission for requesting the expansion for one year to allow for more outreach and education. PTLT has expressed that they are unsure if they will be able to fulfill the requirements of the REPI Challenge funding opportunity which it applied for. Southern Maryland RC&D has been authorized by its Board members to petition the Commissioners to request a parallel partnership to administer the Rural Legacy Program in St. Mary's County. The Board voted, motioned by Mr. Dotson and seconded by Mr. Langley, with Mr. Dorsey abstaining, to send a letter of support to the Commissioners to name Southern Maryland RC&D as an additional partner for the Rural Legacy Program to increase capacity.

Annual Report - The Annual Report was approved and submitted.

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market – Mr. Parlett spoke to the Board about the North St. Mary's County Farmers Market and the need to have it relocated from the Charlotte Hall Library. The Board voted, motioned by Mr. Paulk and seconded by Mr. Spence, to draft a letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to ask that they add a Capital Improvement Project (CIP). The Board acknowledges that there was a project last year that was removed from the budget in anticipation of utilizing the SMADC proposed property as an alternative location, however with their delay of property acquisition the Board would like to see the project returned to the CIP budget.

New Business

Mr. Brian Norris appeared before the Board to discuss a request he is submitting to the Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board for consideration of allowing weddings to occur on his Mother-In-Law's easement property. There will be no pervious parking installed and the weddings will occur in an existing barn or under a tent which will be set up and removed for the event. He plans to adhere to the County's Zoning Ordinance allowance of less than 20 events a year. The State MALPF Board will allow weddings to be held on easement properties however have determined the number allowed as "infrequent".

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – David Paulk, Edward Falta, Charles Webb, Colleen Corrigan, Patrick Russell

No updates at this time.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – vacant (Chairman), David Paulk, Edward Falta, Jon Shenski, Patrick Russell

Will meet at a future date to discuss an issue on an easement property.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members –vacant, Phil Dorsey, Colleen Corrigan, David Paluk, & Jon Shenski

No updates at this time.

Open Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m., motioned by Mr. Webb and seconded by Mr. Langley. The next meeting will is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.