



John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman
David Paulk, Vice Chairman
Colleen Corrigan Phil Dorsey Dr. Edward Falta Patrick Russell
Jon Shenski Michael Sirk James Spence Charles Webb Joseph Wood

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
January 15, 2015
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, David Paulk, Colleen Corrigan, Edward Falta, Patrick Russell, Jon Shenski, James Spence, and Charles Webb. Also present was Bruce Young from the St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District, Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension, Dr. Christine Bergmark from the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC) and Donna Sasscer and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included Willy Goddard, St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Director; Robin Finnacom, Acting Director, St. Mary's County's Economic Development; Mike Hewitt, Commissioner for St. Mary's County; and Merl Evans, citizen.

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 December 11, 2014 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Paulk.

Old Business

SMADC Property - Dr. Bergmark began by briefing the Board about the Hub & Spoke Program. Last year there was legislation that did not move forward that would have allowed for tax incentives to farmers who donated produce to the hunger community. In 2014 Farming 4 Hunger was able to acquire 1.2 million pounds of food from 29 local farmers and distribute it to 1,400 families. This legislation is to be reintroduced again this year. In regards to the acquisition of property at the County line, SMADC has the funding in place to enter into a contract with contingencies to do studies over a term to do due diligence before making the final purchase. The Charles County Commissioners have met in executive session to discuss this project however they have not yet made a decision on the project. Paperwork has been submitted to request a discussion on the Commissioners for St. Mary's County's agenda.

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market – The vendors of the North St. Mary's County Farmers Market held their Annual Meeting on December 23, 2014. At this meeting the vendors elected officers for the 2015 season. The vendors reported that despite the parking conditions, their sales were up from previous years. Because of the parking situation, no advertising was done for the North St. Mary's County Farmers Market even though an advertising grant was received through SMADC. The vendors were made aware that there is a budget item in the County's budget to

fund the market relocation for FY2016. The vendors voted that the triangle property would be adequate to serve current market vendors. The Board discussed the structure of the managing entity and would like to see a 501c3 created and not have the market managed by a limited liability corporation consisting of market vendors. The Board voted, motioned by Mr. Paulk and seconded by Mr. Shenski, to draft a letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County asking them to reconsider investing the Capital Improvement Funds into the proposed triangle property as it will only provide a short term solution. The Board would rather invest these funds in another location, such as that being considered for purchase by SMADC, that will allow for growth and a better service to the community.

Rural Legacy – The Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust has submitted a request to appear before the Commissioners for St. Mary's County to have a letter of support prioritizing the Mattapany Rural Legacy Area for funding. Applications for both the Huntersville and Mattapany Rural Legacy Areas will be submitted to the State by February 12, 2015

New Business

Election of Officers – John Parlett was reelected to serve as Chairman of the Agriculture, Seafood and Forestry Board by unanimous vote, motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Russell. David Paulk was reelected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Agriculture, Seafood and Forestry Board by unanimous vote, motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Russell.

Sub-Committee Appointments – Mr Webb and Ms. Corrigan were assigned to serve on the Farmers Market Sub-Committee. Mr. Shenski and Mr. Russell were assigned to serve on the Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board. Membership to the Agricultural Reconciliation Committee will be discussed at the Board's February meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – Joseph Wood (Chairman), David Paulk, Edward Falta, Charles Webb, Colleen Corrigan

No updates at this time

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – James Spence (Chairman), David Paulk, Joseph Wood, Jon Shenski, Patrick Russell

The Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board will meet at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss an owners lot request.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – James Moore (Chairman), Michael Sirk (Vice Chair), Phil Dorsey, Adam Dyson, & Jon Shenski

No updates at this time

Open Comment

Mr. Young briefed the Board on 2 situations that the Soil Conservation District is involved in where ponds were constructed without permits. Mr. Paulk questioned if there were additional outreach the Board should consider to make the agriculture community more aware of when permits are needed.

Mr. Young also informed the Board that the stipend for the teachers involved with the Envirothon Program has been reinstated. Mr. Shenski motioned, seconded by Mr. Spence, to draft to the School Board and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to thank them for coming to the November 2014 meeting and remind them that the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) program at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center is important to the Board.

Ms. Sasscer announced to the Board that Mr. Shenski and Dr. Bergmark were accepted into the LEAD Maryland program. The LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to identifying and developing leadership to serve agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m., motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Dr. Falta. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.