

Agriculture, Seafood and Forestry Board (Thursday, October 17, 2019)

Generated by Lisa Ledman

Members present

Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Lynn Klug, Phil Langley, Charles Mattingly, John Parlett, Alan Polk, Michael Sirk, Patrick Russell

Meeting called to order at 12:15 PM**1. CALL TO ORDER****2. ROLL CALL****A. Welcome Guests**

Shelby Watson-Hampton, Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC)

Cindy Greb, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

Viv Marek, Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust

Donna Sasscer, St. Mary's County Economic Development

Sue Veith, St. Mary's County Economic Development

Lisa Ledman, St. Mary's County Economic Development

B. Approval of the August 8, 2019 Minutes

I move to approve the Minutes from the August 8, 2019 Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board Meeting.

Motion by John Parlett, second Scott Bacon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Lynn Klug, Phil Langley, Charles Mattingly, John Parlett, Alan Polk, Michael Sirk, Patrick Russell

3. PRESENTATION

Ms. Watson-Hampton shared the new "Farms in Focus - Oyster Edition" video with the Board.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Farmers Markets**

Mr. Parlett reminded the Board of the subcommittee meeting was held in August where a potential uniform over site for all markets within the County was discussed. Each market would continue to run independently but would have an overarching not for profit "cooperative" made of vendors and community members. The membership would vote annually for leadership, with potential term limits. The County would continue to be the sponsor of the markets and would act as an arbitrator as necessary.

I move to form an exploratory committee to review Farmers Market management and operations to include members from each market (2 from each market), members from the Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board (Joe Wood and Lynn Klug), and a member from the Farm Bureau (1) approve the Minutes from the August 8, 2019 Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board Meeting. Motion by John Parlett, second Alan Polk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Lynn Klug, Phil Langley, Charles Mattingly, John Parlett, Alan Polk, Michael Sirk, Patrick Russell

B. Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board

The Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board met at the conclusion of the Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board Meeting.

The Board is concerned with the recent violations (two within the last 6 months) of MALPF Easements due to the recording of plats without MALPF approval.

I move for Ms. Veith to draft a friendly letter to send to Land Use and Growth Management to please be more mindful of land preservation easements and their restrictions on properties. Motion by Phil Langley, second Patrick Russell.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Steve Reeves, Patrick Russell

The Board reviewed a request for a Boundary Line Adjustment on the Lyon MALPF 18-16-06 Easement Property.

I move to approve the Boundary Line Adjustment on the Lyon MALPF 18-16-06 Easement Property. Motion by Phil Langley, second Alan Polk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Steve Reeves, Patrick Russell

C. Agriculture Reconciliation Committee

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)

No update at this time.

B. Rural Legacy

The Maryland Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) office still has not announced their FY2020 awards. Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) - Ms. Marek updated the Board that PTLT is currently renegotiating the Buckler Easement that was rejected by DNR.

Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Ms. Greb announced that RC&D has currently settled on all easements submitted as part of last year's grant application. RC&D also attended a meeting in Calvert County that showcased the REPI efforts through St. Mary's County.

C. Regional Agriculture Center (RAC)

Ms. Veith updated the Board that she continues to work with SMADC Staff and consultants to update the layout of the RAC.

D. Relocation of North St. Mary's County Farmers Market

Ms. Veith informed the Board that this project is currently in the site plan stage.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. CIP Requests - Ms. Ledman told the Board that all reoccurring CIP requests (land preservation programs) have been submitted to the County's Finance Department. Two new projects consisting of a California Farmers Market Building and an Urban Legacy Program were also submitted for consideration.

B. Open Comment Period

Mr. Beale updated the Board that there will be market impact on the pulp wood industry due to the Western Maryland Paper Mill closing. Mr. Beale also told the Board of a push in the timber industry to revamp the permitting issue - this is not an issue in St. Mary's County.

Mr. Langley spoke of the additional 18-20% striped bass reduction and a 20% reduction in oyster harvesting (no oystering on Wednesdays).

Ms. Veith announced that Phil Langley was named Waterman of the Year at this year's Blessing of the Fleet.

Mr. Reeves is concerned about Board attendance. He would like the Board to consider reducing membership from 14 members to a smaller number to ensure that a quorum can be met each month.

7. ADJOURN

I move to adjourn the October 17, 2019 Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board Meeting. Motion by John Parlett, second Phil Langley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Lynn Klug, Phil Langley, Charles Mattingly, John Parlett, Alan Polk, Michael Sirk, Patrick Russell

