



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

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
March 10, 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, Colleen Corrigan, Raymond Dodson, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, Steve Reeves and Jon Shenski. Also present were Robin Finnacom, Carolyn Laray, Donna Sasscer, and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included: Cindy Greb, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D); Christina Allen, Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT); and Dr. Christine Bergmark, Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC).

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. It was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum. Minutes from the January 14, 2016 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Reeves and seconded by Mr. Langley.

Old Business

SMADC Property- Dr. Bergmark updated the Board that SMADC continues to try to work through the legal process for their project and hope to have a Request for Proposal released in 2 months seeking a site.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) – Ms. Sasscer notified the Board that MALPF will accept applications for easement consideration for FY2017. The state has yet to announce how many applications it will accept. Currently one property from the FY2015 easement cycle has appealed their offer; this property is in the process of being reappraised. Ms. Sasscer will attend the March MALPF Board meeting with Mr. Norris to discuss hosting weddings on the Easement property of his mother-in-law.

Rural Legacy – Ms. Greb told the Board that renewal applications for both Huntersville & Mattapani Rural Legacy Areas were submitted to the State. RC&D has been approved as a partner and co-sponsor for the Rural Legacy Program, and is currently in the process of being added to the REPI agreement to be able to use Navy funds. There is a settlement date set for one easement and a second property has been sent to the state for easement review.

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market – Ms. Sasscer reported to the Board that a Project for the Farmers Market has been added to the County's Capital Improvements Budget for FY2017.

Farm Tours – The Board would like for Ms. Sasscer to work on setting up a farm tour for the central portion of the county. Ms. Sasscer will consult with Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator, to determine a date. The Board would suggest a Tuesday afternoon in May.

New Business

Election of Officers – Mr. Parlett was unanimously reelected as Chairman and Mr. Bacon was unanimously elected as the Vice Chairman of the St. Mary's County Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Board, motioned by Mr. Dorsey and seconded by Mr. Shenski. Mr. Paulk, Mr. Russell, Mr. Webb, and Ms. Corrigan were appointed to serve on the Farmers Market Sub-Committee. Mr. Reeves, Mr. Paulk, Mr. Shenski, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Dodson were appointed to serve on the Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board. Mr. Langley, Mr. Dorsey, Ms. Corrigan, Mr. Paulk, and Mr. Shenski were appointed to the Agriculture Reconciliation Committee. Sub-Committees will continue to meet on an as needed basis and will elect officers as necessary.

Tourism & Hospitality Master Plan – Ms. Laray briefed the Board on the Tourism & Hospitality Master Plan. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy now being put together by the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, is a first step toward a more diversified economy that is less base-dependent. The Tourism & Hospitality Master Plan is part of that process. It seeks to ensure that this economic sector and those working within it are full participants and beneficiaries of this “new” economy. The objectives of the THMP are to Create a path forward for sustainable Tourism development. The plan is to be

- visionary and creative
- measurable and specific
- action-oriented
- achievable
- grounded in sound research and analysis
- propelled by stakeholders
- engender a sense of ownership and shared vision

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members –David Paulk, Colleen Corrigan, Patrick Russell, and Charles Webb

No updates at this time.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – Jon Shenski (Chairman), Raymond Dodson, David Paulk, Steve Reeves, and Patrick Russell

Met and approved to send a request from Mr. Brian Russell to host special events on his easement property to the State MALPF Board for consideration, motioned by Mr. Dodson and seconded by Mr. Reeves.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – Colleen Corrigan, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, David Paluk, and Jon Shenski

No updates at this time.

Open Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m., motioned by Mr. Dodson and seconded by Mr. Shenski. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2016 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.