



St. Mary's County Government
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD, AND FORESTRY BOARD
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Steve Reeves., Chairman
Scott Bacon, Vice Chairman

Ben Beale	Colleen Corrigan	Phil Dorsey	Phil Langley
Lynn Klug	John K. Parlett, Jr	Alan Polk	Patrick Russell
Michael Sirk	Charles Webb	Joseph Wood	Bruce Young

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
May 10, 2018
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 Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Colleen Corrigan, Phil Dorsey, Lynn Klug, John Parlett, Michael Sirk, and Joseph Wood. Also present were Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension; Bruce Young from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District; and, Lisa Ledman and Sue Veith, from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included: Cindy Greb from the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) and Andrew Garte from the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT).

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 April 12, 2018 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Sirk and seconded by Mr. Parlett.

Old Business

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market Relocation ó Ms. Veith updated the Board that DED staff will be meeting with Mr. Deatrick from the County's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) to discuss the Capital Improvement Project Budget. Staff continues to research available grants such as those through the Rural Maryland Council that can be used for this project. Staff also met with Commissioner John O'Connor who was pleased with the preliminary sketches for the market property. He would like to see the project completed at one time versus the phases that were proposed by staff. Also on the subject of Farmers Markets, the Board voted unanimously in favor to draft a letter to the Commissioners requesting they consider purchasing the 9.35 acre Dunkirk Supply property located at 26650 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, motioned by Mr. Parlett and seconded by Mr. Dorsey. The Board feels this property offers excellent potential for a year round enclosed Farmers Market site for the central portion of the County. There is also ample space on this property to allow for cold storage for local food banks, hands on opportunities for the CASE program through the Tech. Center, and value added products.

Rural Legacy ó Nothing new to report at this time. Both land trusts continue to work with landowners and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Staff to move forward pending easements.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) ó Ms. Veith updated the Board that staff completed the forms and reporting required to maintain State Certification (allowing the County to participate in Round 1 Funding through MALPF). This Certification was approved at the last MALPF State Board Meeting. Applications for FY2019 Easement Cycle consideration were due to the County Program Administrator by May 1st. Staff is working to rank the applications using the Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) scoring system. The State MALPF Board voted to accept up to 12 applications per County for the FY2019 Easement Cycle. Staff has been participating in tele-conferences to discuss legislative committee needs, main focus has been appraisals and the need for individual appraisals per property vs. a standard value formula such as used in the Rural Legacy Program.

Zoning Uses ó Ms. Veith will send out a dates to subcommittee members to schedule the 2nd meeting. At the first meeting there were lots of comments received about combining most uses and better defining the definitions.

New Business

Timber Harvest ó Mr. Young told the Board of a meeting he attended earlier today with members from the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) regarding damages done from Timber Harvest Operations. DPW&T is concerned about damage to County roads from logging trucks and equipment, damage caused by creating logging entrances through drainage ditches, and also the damage caused when a swath of trees remains in the right of way after a clear cut (these trees often have weakened root systems or are top heavy and easily fall during wind or rain storms). Currently before a property is harvested a Sediment Erosion Control Plan is submitted for review to the Soil Conservation District, the County has no review or approval process unless the property is within the critical area. DPW&T has the authority to require a permit or bond to help address these problems but neither of these solutions will be conducive to the industry. The Board questioned if it is the responsibility of the property owner or logger to repair County roads that cannot support an operation that is an allowable use. There was a suggestion to have a threshold of possibly disturbance area size for a minor vs. major project to be held accountable to agreed upon standards. The Board would like to see a meeting with those in the logging industry to point out problems and discuss possible solutions as they will be directly affected.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – John Parlett, Colleen Corrigan, Patrick Russell, and Charles Webb

No update at this time.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Steve Reeves, Patrick Russell, and Joseph Wood

The Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board will need to meet later this month to approve ranking of FY2019 MALPF Applications.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – Colleen Corrigan, Phil Dorsey, Steve Reeves, Michael Sirk, and Joseph Wood

No update at this time.

Open Comment

The Board voted (motioned by Mr. Dorsey and seconded by Mr. Parlett) to draft a letter to the St. Maryø County Farm Bureau asking them to consider transferring funds (possibly in the form of a grant) to the Home Grown Farm Market, LLC to be used for maintenance and insurance of the equipment rental program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m., motioned by Mr. Sirk and seconded by Ms. Klug. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.