



John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman
David Paulk, Vice Chairman
Phil Dorsey **Adam Dyson** **Dr. Edward Falta** **James Moore**
Jon Shenski **Michael Sirk** **James Spence** **Melissa Thompson** **Joseph Wood**

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
May 8, 2014
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, Phil Dorsey, Dr. Edward Falta, James Moore, Jon Shenski, Michael Sirk, James Spence, and Joseph Wood. Also present was Bruce Young, Tom Koviak, and Donnie Oacker from the St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District, Al Stewart and Tom Wright from the St. Mary's County Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Board, Sue Veith from the St. Mary's County Land Use and Growth Management Department and Robin Finnacom, Ron Sweeney, Donna Sasscer and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance were Merl Evans, Bob Schaller, and Frank and Christina Allen. 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 April 10, 2014 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Dorsey.

Old Business

Rural Legacy – Bob Schaller, Frank Allen and Christina Allen from the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust Board (PTWLT) briefed the Board on their efforts as of late and also their future plans. There are currently 7 members of the PTWLT, they are allowed 15 by their by-laws. In addition the PTWLT would like to have 14 monitors – there are approximately 5,000 acres encumbered by easements that are required to be monitored every 3 years. The PTWLT is working toward receiving Land Trust accreditation. Once accreditation is received, the PTWLT will have to monitor its easement properties once a year. Another area of concern is that there are no monitoring fees for donated easements. The PTWLT is also seeking a new administrator who will be located in St. Mary's County. The current Executive Director has not been able to do community outreach due to her living in Pennsylvania.

The Board expressed concern with the lack of communication between the community and other agencies. The Board would like to extend an open invitation to the PTWLT to attend its monthly meetings. It was also suggested that the PTWLT Board reach out to members of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau for membership recruitment. The Board expressed concern to the PTWLT over the delay in processing the three pending easements using Navy funding. PTWLT assured

the Board that these easements are moving forward and the delay was due to the effects of sequestration.

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market – Ms. Sasscer told the Board that the current CIP budget has \$150,000 for moving the farmers market to the “Triangle Property.” The Board agreed that this is only a temporary fix and will not sustain the market into the future. It would be better to look at other options, instead of expediting the decision for a quick fix and not addressing the long term need of the community.

New Business

None.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – Joseph Wood (Chairman), James Moore (Vice Chair), David Paulk, Edward Falta

No updates at this time

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – James Spence (Chairman), James Moore (Vice Chair), Adam Dyson, David Paulk, Joseph Wood

No updates at this time

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

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

No updates at this time

Open Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m., motioned by Dr. Falta and seconded by Mr. Paulk. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2014 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.