



**John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman**

**David Paulk, Vice Chairman**

**Phil Dorsey**

**Adam Dyson**

**Dr. Edward Falta**

**James Moore**

**Patrick Russell**

**Jon Shenski**

**Michael Sirk**

**James Spence**

**Melissa Thompson**

**Joseph Wood**

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## **Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board**

**June 12, 2014**

### **Meeting Minutes**

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#### **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, Phil Dorsey, Dr. Edward Falta, James Moore, Jon Shenski, Michael Sirk, James Spence, and Joseph Wood. Also present was Sue Veith from the St. Mary's County Land Use and Growth Management Department and, Ron Sweeney, Donna Sasscer and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance were Merl Evans, George Beavan, Steve Reeves, Dudley Lindsey, and Diane Chasse. 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 May 8, 2014 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Shenski and seconded by Mr. Dorsey.

#### **Old Business**

Rural Legacy – Dudley Lindsey from the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust Board (PTWLT) was present at the meeting. The Board would like to know the status of the agreement with the St. Mary's County Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Board. Ms. Sasscer informed the Board that the 3 properties utilizing REPI funding have been before the Board of Public Works for approval and are pending document signatures.

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market – Ms. Sasscer told the Board that the County is continuing to research alternative solutions to the parking lot problem with the North St. Mary's County Farmers Market.

#### **New Business**

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) – Ms. Chasse, the St. Mary's County MALPF Program Administrator, briefed the Board on regulations and legislative changes to the MALPF program. In 2004 a law was passed that allows landowners 3 years from the preliminary release (approval of the lot release location), to provide a non-transferrable building permit to obtain a final release. The lot must be occupied by the owner or

child for 5 years after the final release is obtained. To request a child's lot the child must be at least 18 years old to qualify. The Board would like to have MALPF notify easement owners in the future when policy or regulation changes occur. Ms. Chasse also told the Board of the MALPF Uses policies that are in effect to allow for new (non-traditional) farming operations: equine, winery, etc.

Mechanicsville School Site – The School Board would like to purchase land that is currently zoned RPD and lies within the Rural Legacy Area (adjoining Rural Legacy Easement properties) for a future school site. In the past the Agriculture Community has frowned against developing lands in the RPD that is next to the Development District. This issue will be discussed at future Ag Board meeting. Mr. Parlett stated that he would recuse himself from a vote because he has land in the Charlotte Hall Town Center that he has asked to be considered for a potential school site.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

*Members – Joseph Wood (Chairman), James Moore (Vice Chair), David Paulk, Edward Falta*  
The Home Grown Farm Market and California Farmers Market are both doing well this season. The North St. Mary's County Farmers Market is still faced with complaints from the library about the parking problem which County Staff is working to improve.

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 is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2014 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.