



St. Mary's County Government
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD, AND FORESTRY BOARD
P.O. Box 653, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650
TELEPHONE 240-309-4022

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

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
September 18, 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, Adam Dyson, Dr. Edward Falta, James Moore, Jon Shenski, and James Spence. Also present were Sue Veith from the St. Mary's County Land Use and Growth Management Department and, Robin Finnacom, Donna Sasscer and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance were Jeanne Herbert from the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC) and Wendy Schaller from the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTWLT). 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 June 12, 2014 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Dr. Falta.

Old Business

Rural Legacy – Wendy Schaller from the PTWLT was present at the meeting. Ms. Schaller informed the Board that the 3 properties utilizing REPI funding have gone to settlement. The PTWLT received an award for FY15 from the State for \$212,000 for efforts in the Mattapanay Rural Legacy Area. The agreement with RC&D is in place and work is moving forward. Ms. Sharon Saez from Compton has been named the new Executive Director of the PTWLT.

Mechanicsville School Site – Mr. Parlett recused himself from any decisions about the proposed Mechanicsville School Site as he has property in the area he has asked to be considered for a school site. Ms. Veith presented a memo to the Board that was an amended version of one that was submitted to the Commissioners for St. Mary's County which addressed several issues with the proposed Mechanicsville School Site.

New Business

Southern Maryland Meats Program – Ms. Jeanne Herbert from the SMADC spoke to the Board about the Southern Maryland Meats Program. Through SMADC grants were awarded to purchase freezer trailers that are used to transport packaged frozen meats from USDA approved

slaughter facilities over 90 minutes away back to the local farmer who raised the livestock. The meat can then be sold by the cut from off the farm or from a farm market. An additional grant was awarded to purchase freezer cases for farm markets to sell the cuts of meat. To participate in the Southern Maryland Meats initiative farmers agree to feed standards, not to use antibiotics, and attend workshops which help educated them on marketing and business.

Envirothon – Ms. Sasscer informed the Board that the Envirothon program for students is in jeopardy. Due to the budgeting concerns from the teachers and the cut of the stipend for after school activities, the teacher involvement is greatly impacted. This in addition to the delayed roll-out of the CASE program sends a negative message to the agriculture community.

Agriculture Service Center Open House – the Agriculture Service Center Open House is scheduled for October 14th. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony from 11 am until noon and then the open house is from noon until 3 pm.

Membership – Ms. Melissa Thompson has not attended a meeting of the Board since her appointment. Mr. Parlett will draft a letter to ask for her to be removed from the Board.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – Joseph Wood (Chairman), James Moore (Vice Chair), David Paulk, Edward Falta
The California Farmers Market is doing well. The vendors there would like to apply for a grant through SMADC to utilize credit cards and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

There is a new market in Leonardtown operating at St. Mary's Hospital one day a week. The Home Grown Farm Market is at maximum occupancy for indoor vendors and is doing well this season.

The North St. Mary's County Farmers Market is still faced with complaints about the parking problem. The market has received approval from the County First Bank to allow for overflow parking when the bank is closed. Funds for the farmer's market project have been allocated in the FY16 Capital Improvement Budget.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

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

The Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board met in June and decided to forward the eight highest ranked properties (using the Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) ranking system) to the State for easement consideration. The Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board will meet at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss a child's lot request.

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 Mr. Paulk and seconded by Mr. Spence. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2014 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.