

Agriculture, Seafood and Forestry Board (Thursday, January 14, 2020)  
Generated by Lisa Ledman

**Members present**

Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

**Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM****1. CALL TO ORDER****2. ROLL CALL****A. Welcome Guests**

Kellie Hinkle, St. Mary's County Economic Development  
Donna Sasscer, St. Mary's County Economic Development  
Lisa Ledman, St. Mary's County Economic Development  
Kwasi Bosompem, St. Mary's County Land Use and Growth Management  
Jamie Raley, St. Mary's County Farm Bureau  
Shelby Watson-Hampton, Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission  
Cindy Greb, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)  
Caroline King, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)  
Vivian Marek, Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust

**B. Approval of the February 13, 2020 Minutes**

I move to approve the Minutes from the February 13, 2020 Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board Meeting. Motion by Ben Beale, second Joe Wood.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

**3. PRESENTATION**

None.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS****A. Farmers Markets**

All markets closed with successful 2020 season. The Home Grown Farm Market is currently opening weather dependent on Saturdays from 10 am until 1 pm for a special Winter Market due to customer demand, currently there are 9 vendors participating.

Subcommittee membership was updated to include Joe Wood, Phil Langley, Scott Bacon, and Phil Dorsey.

**B. Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board**

Met at the conclusion of the Board Meeting to discuss 2 requests.

I move to approve the request for MALPF File Number 18-99-11 to transfer land to cure a violation update prior approval to include 1 development right will be given up in the land exchange. Motion by Phil Langley, seconded by Alan Polk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Steve Reeves, Joseph Wood

I move to approve the request for MALPF File Number 18-86-01 to donate a 2.723 acre lot containing a dwelling to the easement property so that there will also be a dwelling associated with the MALPF Easement. Motion by Joe Wood, seconded by Phil Langley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Steve Reeves, Joseph Wood

**C. Agriculture Reconciliation Committee**

Lisa Ledman will contact St. Mary's County's Attorney's Office to question membership requirements which include 2 members of the agriculture community, 1 member of the forestry community, 1 member of the real estate community, and 1 member of the

community not actively involved in agriculture. Suggested membership will include Steve Reeves, Patrick Russell, Alan Polk, Michael Sirk, and Charles Mattingly.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)

Donna Sasscer state that the new MALPF Application will remain the same as last year, however the State has not sent updated applications at this time. There is a list of property owners to be contacted once this updated application is received.

### B. Rural Legacy

Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Caroline King shared that RC&D will submit their application for FY2022 Rural Legacy funding for the Mattapany Rural Legacy Area in February. RC&D just settled an easement on a 65-acre Bay-front property in Dameron with another 38-acre easement approved by the Board of Public Works and should settle within the next month. RC&D is about to submit two easements for approval to DNR and the Navy, they are adjacent to each other and total 236 acres. RC&D recently met with the REPI team to give them an update and go over their priorities for FY21 easements and will be meeting soon with an advisor for the DOD Sentinel Landscapes program to discuss ways to make that program more effective. Lastly, RC&D continues to look for interested landowners, so if you know of anyone who might want to put a conservation easement on their property please send them their way.

Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) - Vivian Marek updated the Board that the PTLT has recently went to settlement on a 127-acre property located off of Sandgates Road. PTLT is also in the final stages on two other easements in the Huntersville area.

### C. Regional Agriculture Center (RAC)

Shelby Waton-Hampton stated that SMADC continues to meet with the County leadership to move forward with this project.

### D. Relocation of North St. Mary's County Farmers Market

Cindy Greb shared that RC&D has an approved site plan. There will be a virtual ribbon cutting ceremony during the January 26, 2021 Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Election of Officers

I move to elect Steve Reeves as Chairman of the Agriculture, Seafood and Forestry Board. I also move to approve Joe Wood as Vice Chairman of the Agriculture, Seafood and Forestry Board. Motion by Phil Langley, second Alan Polk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

### B. Department of Economic Development Strategic Plan Update

Kellie Hinkle suggested a subcommittee be formed to discuss what higher level focus for the Agriculture and Seafood Division should be included in the 2022 update of the Department of Economic Development Strategic Plan. Steve Reeves and Phil Langley volunteered to join this subcommittee along with Jamie Raley who will get input from the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.

### C. Request for Public Hearing on Commercial Wedding Use

Kellie Hinkle updated the Board that a Public Hearing regarding proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance affecting weddings was suspended indefinitely. Weddings are currently considered temporary special events and landowners are allowed to hold 20 per year. There is currently no process to report or track these events.

### D. Open Comment Period

Ben Beale told the Board of the closure of the Lothian Grain Elevator. This will be a huge loss to the area's small grain producers. Bruce Young updated the Board that the District received a grant from SMADC to purchase a manure spreader for poultry litter. The spreader has been ordered and it should be received it within a month. He also stated that the District normally holds our Cooperators dinner meeting in February to acknowledge an outstanding cooperator and contractor as well as having other presentations. Because of the current limitation on gatherings and no sign that it will change soon, the District Board made the decision to cancel the Cooperators dinner. St. Mary's County will not be holding a local competition this year, but will be competing in the Maryland Envirothon which will be a virtual event. The Maryland Envirothon committee is working with the University of Maryland to use their virtual platform to hold the competition. Teams from St. Mary's county schools will participate in the Maryland Envirothon. Our top three scoring teams will be the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place county teams.

Ben Beale also questioned the distribution of the Covid Vaccine for farmers which are considered tier 1C. At this time, the focus is not yet on the Tier 1C.

**7. ADJOURN**

I move to adjourn the January 14, 2021 Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board Meeting. Motion by Alan Polk, second Phil Langley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Steve Reeves, Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

