

Agriculture, Seafood and Forestry Board (Thursday, August 11, 2022)
Generated by Lisa Ledman

Members present

Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Kaitlyn Fraer, Alan Polk, Stephen Reeves, Donna Sasscer, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 12:10 PM

2. ROLL CALL

A. Confirmation of Quorum

Members present included Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Kaitlyn Fraer, Alan Polk, Stephen Reeves, Donna Sasscer, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

B. Welcome Guests

Kellie Hinkle, St. Mary's County Economic Development

Lisa Ledman, St. Mary's County Economic Development

Sue Veith, St. Mary's County Economic Development

Allison Burnett, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development

Jamie Raley, St. Mary's County Farm Bureau

John Heartline, Tri County Council for Southern Maryland

B. Approval of the August 11, 2022 Minutes

I move to approve Minutes from August 11, 2022 Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board Meeting. Motion by Alan Polk, second Bruce Young

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Kaitlyn Fraer, Alan Polk, Stephen Reeves, Donna Sasscer, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

3. PRESENTATION

None

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Farmers Markets

Subcommittee membership includes Joe Wood, Phil Langley, Scott Bacon, and Phil Dorsey.

The Barns at New Market seasonal building is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am until 4 pm. The California Farmers Markets is on Saturdays from 9 am until 1 pm. The Home Grown Farm Market is open Saturdays only from 9 am until 1 pm.

B. Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board

No update.

C. Agriculture Reconciliation Committee

Subcommittee membership include Bonnie Browne, Phil Dorsey, Charles Mattingly, Alan Polk, and Steve Reeves.

No update.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Seafood/Aquaculture Updates

No update.

B. The Barns at New Market

Donna Sasscer updated the Board that the septic system was fixed. The Seasonal Market is doing very well, a parking lot expansion/re-design is necessary.

C. Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)

Donna Sasscer informed the Board that 10 FY2023 applications were forwarded to the state for easement consideration.

D. Rural Legacy

Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) – Donna Sasscer told the Board that PTLT has closed on a MARBIDCO Small Acreage Next Generation (SANG) Easement for the Webb farm on Drayden Road in Valley Lee on July 22, 2022. PTLT expects Board of Public Works approval this month on an easement in the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area: Smith Property, 86+ acres with frontage on McIntosh Road and Seipth Road.

Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) – Allison Burnett updated the Board that RC&D has received Board of Public Works approval on the 140 acre Allen Easement in the Mattapany Rural Legacy Area. RC&D is waiting for approval of the expansion and funding for the Mattapany Rural Area.

E. Regional Agriculture Center (RAC)

County staff continues to work with members of SMADC on the building layout. John Heartline shared that there was \$1million set aside from the Tri County Council's Rural Maryland Economic Development Program funding for the Regional Agriculture Center. Other projects for funding consideration are The Barns at New Market Capacity Enhancement, Chesapeake Bay UAS Route Network (CURN) (drones) and MEDCO UAS Strategy & Roadmap for the State of Maryland. The Board would like to do a site visit to see local UAS/drone work.

I move to send a letter of support for funding of the Barns at New Market Capacity Enhancement Project, install BAT (best available technology) to accommodate production of high fat food processing and expansion of existing parking. Motion by Scott Bacon, Seconded by Stephen Reeves.

Yea: Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Kaitlyn Fraer, Alan Polk, Stephen Reeves, Donna Sasscer, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

F. Agriculture Tax Assessments

The St. Mary's County Tax Assessor, Michael Degen, attended the last Board meeting and spoke to the Board the reassessment of commercial activities/building on agriculture properties for property tax purposes. Jamie Raley updated the Board that the Farm Bureau shares their concerns with this reassessment. It was discussed that there be better training for the assessors as to what qualifies as agriculture and agriculture activities. The Board would like to see Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation include input from the St. Mary's Department of Economic Development, St. Mary's Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Board, and the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Member Open Comment Period

Kaitlyn Fraer invited the Board to join the St. Mary's County Public Schools for Farm to School Activities at Town Creek Elementary School (10/13) and Green Holley School (10/14). Earl Lumpkins has donated 200 pounds of ground beef to Dynard Elementary School to be served for lunch. The Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation Trailer will be visiting Oakville Elementary School, Carver Elementary School, and Park Hall Elementary School.

Ben Beale told the Board about the Farmers Feeding the Hungry program. COVID Relief funding was used to purchase local produce and was distributed to citizens. On July 21st the program was at Bay District Volunteer Fire Department in Lexington Park and reached over 400 participants giving out 15 pallets of fresh local produce. On August 6th the program was at the U-Haul on Great Mills Road where they partnered with Fed St. Mary's and reached over 675 participants giving out 30 pallets of produce and meat.

Ben Beale also updated the Board that the Maryland Agriculture Commission is coming to St. Mary's and Calvert in October. This Commission provided guidance to the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture.

Bruce Young stated that his office is hiring to Maryland Department of Agriculture positions - Agriculture Resource Conservation Planner and a Technician. The Soil Conservation District is working with a few landowners to do a video for the Maryland Department of Agriculture highlighting Best Management Practices.

B. Partner Updates

None.

7. ADJOURN

I move to adjourn the August 11, 2022 Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board Meeting. Motion by Joseph Wood, second Alan Polk

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Scott Bacon, Ben Beale, Kaitlyn Fraer, Alan Polk, Stephen Reeves, Donna Sasscer, Joseph Wood, Bruce Young

