



John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman
David Paulk, Vice Chairman
Phil Dorsey
Adam Dyson
James Moore
James "Bubby" Norris
Michael Sirk
James Spence
Joseph Wood

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board

May 9, 2013

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, Phil Dorsey, Adam Dyson, Michael Sirk, James Spence, and Joseph Wood. Also present were Bruce Young from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, Ben Beale from the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service and Donna Sasscer, Lisa Ledman and Steven Anderson from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guest attendees included Diane Chasse from the Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and Melissa Alton who is interesting in joining the Board. Members not in attendance included David Paulk, James Moore and James Norris. The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. Attendance was called and it was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum.

Old Business

Agriculture Services Center – Mr. Parlett abstained from any discussion and votes in regards to the Agriculture Services Center. Mr. Young briefed the Board that he and Mr. Beale had met with the builder do discuss the floor plan. County funding should be available July 1 if the new budget is approved. Once the plans are in place a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will need to be done as the current MOU expires on June 30th.

New Business

Ms. Chasse updated the Board with news from the MALPF office. There will be \$44 million state wide this fiscal year to use to make easement offers in hopefully July. Each county will receive about \$950,000 through the general allotment and then there will be about another \$20 million to be divided between matching funds (for every dollar the County pledges, the State will contribute \$1.50, up to \$1.3 million). The Board voted unanimously to send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners to ask for more money to match MALPF's funds. Since there were no MALPF offers made last year the county's \$666,000 pledge was used to match State & Navy funds for the Rural Legacy Program. This year the County will allocate it's \$666,000 to match MALPF funds, if the County put up an additional \$640,000 then the State would match \$960

additional back for MALPF easement purchases. In the event that the State does not utilize the full match, the County will reallocate these funds to its local easement purchase program.

	County Match	State Match	Total Funding Available for Easements
General Allotment	none required	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Current County Commitment	\$700,000	\$1,050,000	\$2,750,000
Additional Requested County Commitment	\$632,000	\$948,000	\$4,330,000

Ms. Chasse also shared some notes from the current legislative session that related to MALPF.

1. Legislation passed that allowed for MALPF to reimburse a landowner who had requested and paid for a child's lot release and then changed their mind.
2. A wind/solar bill to allow commercial sized operations on MALPF easement properties to sell off the farm to the grid – was not passed but will go for study. This bill included limits such as not impacting more than 5% of the property and MALPF Board review & approval to the location.
3. A flow chart to show the termination process was handed out to the Board & discussed.

Ms. Chasse also told the Board that there is currently a committee of members of the MALPF State Board, her office & County Program Administrators to review the current easement document and attempt to make it simpler to read and understand.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

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

Ms. Sasscer told the Board that she had met with members of the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission and the Moore family about the proposal to move the Charlotte Hall Farmers Market. The zoning of the Moore farm was questioned (Ms. Ledman researched after the meeting and it is zoned RPD)

Ms. Sasscer also told the Board about a private market that has just opened in Leonardtown, across the street from the fairgrounds. Mr. Willie Goddard has obtained approval for a shed to sell his meat and is allowing other vendors to sell from there as well. This is not the ideal locations the committee has wanted (walkable to new neighborhoods within the central town area) but it is a private venture not requiring assistance at this time.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

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

Members for the Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board will meet at the conclusion of this Board meeting to discuss 2 child lot requests.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – vacant (Chairman), Michael Sirk (Vice Chair), Phil Dorsey, Adam Dyson, & James “Bubby” Norris

A chairman for the Agricultural Reconciliation Committee will be appointed at the next meeting.

Open Comment

Mr. Young informed the Board that on Wednesday from 1 – 3 FEMA will be at Land Use & Growth Management to update the County’s Flood Plain Maps. Also 5/13 begins the open enrollment period for CRP & CREP.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center and will include a presentation from the Navy to share their land preservation priorities.