



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

June 13, 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, David Paulk, Phil Dorsey, Adam Dyson, James Moore, James Norris, Michael Sirk, and James Spence. Also present were Bruce Young, Tom Koviak, Al Stewart and Donnie Ocker from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District; Ben Beale from the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service; Sue Veith from the St. Mary's County Land Use and Growth Management and Donna Sasscer, Lisa Ledman and Steven Anderson from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guest attendees included Jack Russell, Todd Morgan, and Cindy Jones from the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners; Steve DuBoyce from the Naval District Washington; and Chris Jarboe from NAVAIR. Members not in attendance included Joseph Wood. 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 independently with Mr. Sparling who is the County Attorney and that there will need to be a revised Memorandum of Understanding to move forward with the project of completing the 3,500 sq. ft. for the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service. Mr. Ocker spoke on behalf of the Soil Conservation District Board and said that they would like to see the project completed and it has always been the Board plan to maintain the original vision to have a central location for all agricultural services within the county.

MALPF – Ms. Sasscer announced to the Board that the Board of County Commissioner pledged the requested additional funds to fully match MALPF's funds for easement offers. The Board thanked the Board of County Commissioners who were present.

New Business

Mr. Steve Duboyce who is the US Navy Regional Encroachment Liaison, Naval District Washington gave an overview presentation on the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) to the Board. The Department of Defense's (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program protects the Nation's military readiness, enhances relationships with communities, and preserves the environment. The Navy has funding available to help purchase preservation easements but to use the funds the Navy works with other entities (such as local governments) who will hold the easements that are drafted to the Navy's specifications. Ms. Sasscer has been working with the Navy and the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust to use REPI funds for three Rural Legacy easement purchases in the Mattapany area and would like to work with MALPF to also use REPI funds in the future for that program as well. It was also mentioned that the RC&D could also be a potential partner to co-hold easements using REPI funds.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

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

No update at this time. Mr. Moore would like to have farmers who sell at the markets come to a future meeting to provide insight.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

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

No update at this time.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

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

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

Open Comment

Mr. Beale would like to have more information on the "Rain Tax". Ms. Veith will provide a presentation at a future meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.