



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

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board

September 12, 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, , James Moore, James Norris, Michael Sirk, James Spence, and Joseph Wood. Also present was Bruce Young, Tom Koviak, and Al Steward from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District; Ben Beale from the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service; Phil Shire from the St. Mary's County Land Use and Growth Management and Donna Sasscer and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Members not in attendance included David Paulk, Melissa Alton, and Adam Dyson. 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. Minutes from the August 8, 2013 were read and approved by the Board.

Old Business

Agriculture Services Center – Mr. Parlett abstained from any discussion and votes in regards to the Agriculture Services Center. Mr. Young distributed a draft layout to the Board. The Board of County Commissioners has approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Soil Conservation District to fund \$200,000 for the build out.

Ms. Sasscer gave the Board an update on the history of the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTWLT) which was created in 1996 by Mr. Jim Conrad. In 1997, the Rural Legacy program was created. In 1998, the first Huntersville application was submitted and approved, this area was expanded in 2006 and again in 2013. Currently, there are 2,900 acres preserved in the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area with one additional easement pending settlement. In 2006, an application was submitted and approved designating the Mattapany Rural Legacy Area. This area was expanded in 2010. Currently there are 400 acres preserved in the Mattapany Rural Legacy Area with 3 easement sales pending and 1 additional easement in negotiations. Currently, the PTWLT submits signed applications on behalf of the County to the State Rural Legacy Program however, majority of the work is done by County Land Use and Growth Management and Department of Economic and Community Development staff (maps, environmental assessments, face to face contact with landowners). The PTWLT collects a 3% administrative fee and 2% monitoring fees from the sale of each easement in return for co-holding the

easements with the State. Two issues with the PTWLT is that the Executive Director is located in Pennsylvania and the inspectors are not familiar with agricultural practices.

Mr. Stewart briefed the Board on the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Board, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. They have over 30 years of experience and able to work with people locally. Mr. Stewart expressed that the RC&D would be willing to become a land trust if that was necessary to co-hold easements with the Navy.

New Business

Ms. Sasscer told the Board of the Maryland Environmental Trust's push for donated easements to receive an income tax credit which can be carried over for up to 16 years. This Federal Tax Credit will come to an end this year and it is uncertain if congress will re-approve.

Mr. Phil Shire briefed the Board about the Lexington Park Master Plan. Three Open Houses have been concluded. On Monday, September 9th, the Planning Commission hosted a Public Hearing where only one concern arose regarding the area from Sanners Drive to Willows Road, the community was not in favor and as a result some property may not be removed from Development District. The Planning Commission will host work sessions on September 23, October 7, and October 28 and hope to have the plan turned over to the Board of County Commissioners by January 2014.

The Farm Bureau has drafted a letter in response to the proposed text amendment asking for administrative authority to subdivide a dwelling from a lot with 2 or more dwellings. The Farm Bureau suggests the use of TDRs to compensate for the lack of density on smaller parcels. At the time these dwellings were created, there was no zoning ordinance. These dwellings were constructed legally at the time however, now they do not meet density requirements according to today's zoning. The Board would like to wait until its next meeting to take a stance on this issue and send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

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

Ms. Sasscer told the Board that the Library staff has made it clear that they want the North St. Mary's County Farmers Market moved from its current location by next year. This simply is not feasible. Staff is currently working with the farmers and others to explore other options for moving. An area of concern is that a portion of the library parking lot was paid for using a grant from the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission.

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

No update at this time.

Open Comment

Ms. Sasscer invited the Board members to attend the Farm to School Program. On September 25th the program will be at Leonardtown Elementary School and on September 26th the program will be at Ridge Elementary School.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.