



Steve Reeves., Chairman
Scott Bacon, Vice Chairman

Ben Beale	Colleen Corrigan	Phil Dorsey	Phil Langley
John K. Parlett, Jr	David Paulk	Patrick Russell	Jon Shenski
Michael Sirk	Charles Webb	Joseph Wood	Bruce Young

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
January 12, 2017
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 Scott Bacon, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, John Parlett, Steve Reeves, Patrick Russell, Michael Sirk, Charles Webb, and Joseph Wood. Also present was Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension; Bruce Young from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District; and Chris Kaselemis, Donna Sasscer and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included: Cindy Greb, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D); Andrew Garte and Dudley Lindsey, Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT); and Kimberly Hoxter, Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation Program.

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. It was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum. Minutes from the December 8, 2016 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Langley.

Old Business

Rural Legacy ó Ms. Greb updated the Board that RC&D is currently moving forward with 4 easements in which they have signed contracts of interest and another 12 properties in the beginning phases of the process. Ms. Greb and Ms. Sasscer have been invited to Texas to speak at the Association of Defense Communities Conference in regards to the success of the Rural Legacy Program and leveraging REPI funds. Mr. Garte updated the Board that PTLT is currently in the process of securing easements on 6 properties. PTLT and RC&D have submitted a request to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to prioritize the Mattapani Rural Legacy Area over the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area to better leverage REPI funds.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) ó The Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board was given copies of MALPF's Guidelines for Uses that will need to be discussed. Ms. Sasscer spoke at the Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner on land preservation efforts in the county ó the use of tobacco funds within the County and allowing MALPF to use REPI funds like Rural Legacy. Ms. Sasscer has also submitted worksheets to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County for 2 Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) for both the MALPF and Rural Legacy Programs, both PTLT and RC&D would like to have 2 dedicated CIP Projects.

Right to Farm Ordinance ó Chris Kaselemis told the Board that he, Phil Langely, Jamie Raley (President of the St. Maryø County Farm Bureau), and George Sparling met to discuss the proposed changes to the Right to Farm Ordinance. Mr. Sparling do not want to include seafood in the Right to Farm Ordinance, he would rather have a separate Right to Seafood Ordinance if necessary.

Fisher Slaughter Facility - Mr. Fisher received approval from the Board of Appeals for the site approval of his proposed USDA slaughter facility. Mr. Fisher will now need to work with the USDA to bring his facility into compliance.

Annual Report ó The Annual Report has been submitted to the Commissioners of St. Maryø County.

New Business

Election of Officers ó Mr. Reeves was voted as Chairman, nominated by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Langley. Mr. Bacon was voted as Vice Chairman, nominated by Mr. Langley and seconded by Mr. Russell.

Residential Agricultural Animals ó The Board continues to be concerned over the effects of agricultural animals in residential areas. Mr. Hunt, the director of Land Use and Growth Management will be invited to speak at the next meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members –David Paulk, Colleen Corrigan, Patrick Russell, and Charles Webb

Mr. Paulk notified the Board that the annual meeting for the California Farmers Market will be held on January 31st. The market continues to try to diversify products available. Ms. Sasscer updated the Board that the North St. Maryø County Farmers Market held their annual meeting and reported sales at over \$1 million.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – Jon Shenski (Chairman), Phil Langley, David Paulk, Steve Reeves, and Patrick Russell

No updates at this time.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – Colleen Corrigan, Phil Dorsey, David Paluk, Jon Shenski, and Michael Sirk

No updates at this time.

Open Comment

Mr. Young invited the Board to the 75th Anniversary Dinner for the Soil Conservation District on February 24^{at} at 5 pm at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Kaselemis informed the Board that Sue Veith will be joining the Department of Economic Development's staff on July 1st as a part of county staff restructuring.

Mr. Beale invited the Board to attend an Estate Planning Workshop sponsored by the University of Maryland to be held on January 24th.

Mr. Young told the Board that the Governor has restored cost share funds to the State's budget however the legislation can still remove it.

Mr. Kaselemis notified the Board of a grant Morgan State University received to put together an Oyster Trail. There will be an Oyster Trail Listening and Outreach Session at the Calvert Marine Museum on January 30th at 3 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m., motioned by Mr. Webb and seconded by Mr. Langley. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.