



St. Mary's County Government
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD, AND FORESTRY BOARD
P.O. Box 653, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650
• TELEPHONE 240-309-4021 • Fax 301-475-4414

John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman

Scott Bacon, Vice Chairman

**Ben Beale
David Paulk
Michael Sirk**

**Colleen Corrigan
Steve Reeves
Charles Webb**

**Phil Dorsey
Patrick Russell
Joseph Wood**

**Phil Langley
Jon Shenski
Bruce Young**

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board

October 13, 2016

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, Scott Bacon, Phil Dorsey, Steve Reeves, Charles Webb, and Joe Wood. Also present was Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension, Bruce Young from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, John Hartline from the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC), and Adam Mawyer, Carolyn Laray, Robin Finnacom, Chris Kaselemis, Kathryn Stormont, 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); Bob Prime, Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT); and Merl Evans. Dan Fenton and Bethany Parker from Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) participated via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. It was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum. Minutes from the September 8, 2016 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Beale and seconded by Mr. Reeves.

Old Business

Rural Legacy ó Ms. Greb updated the Board that RC&D is currently moving forward with 4 easements and PTLT is currently working on securing easements on 2 properties.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) ó Ms. Sasscer reported that eight properties that were submitted for the FY2017 easement application cycle were reviewed by the MALPF State Board. These properties had withheld acreage. The Board accepted all of the properties. All other issues, such as survey's etc. have been addressed. Additional information has been submitted for a landowner that is requesting to remove 6 acres around 3 preexisting dwellings.

Farm Tour ó Mr. Parlett briefed the Board on the South St. Mary's County Agri-business Tour that was held on September 27th and included stops at the Norris Brothers/Shillinger Farm, Carroll's Equipment, and Fish the Bay Charters. The lack of attendance from Board members was disheartening. A lot of effort from staff and the tour stop hosts go into organizing these tours. It was suggested that for future tours an invitation be extended to the Southern Maryland Delegation.

Farm Bureau Right to Farm Letter ó Ms. Sasscer informed the Board that staff was planning to meet with the President of the St. Maryø County Farm Bureau to address concerns in the Right to Farm Ordinance. An update will be provided to the Board when available.

New Business

Tourism and Hospitality Master Plan Presentation ó Carolyn Laray and Andrew Ponti from the St. Maryø County Department of Economic Development, Tourism Division in partnership with Dan Fenton and Bethany Parker from JLL gave the Board a presentation via teleconference about the Tourism and Hospitality Master Plan. There are several zoning and other regulations that will need to be addressed as a result of this Plan. The Board had a few discussions regarding the Farm to Table movement/allowing restaurants in the RPD, concern over limiting to 20 events per year in the RPD, and fire marshal concerns with wedding barns.

Annual Report ó Ms. Ledman notified the Board that the deadline for their Annual Report was approaching. Staff will work to compile the Annual Report and the Board will discuss it at the next meeting.

Legislative Proposals ó The Board voted, motioned by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Webb, to send a letter to the Commissioners of St. Maryø County addressing the following issues:

- The Board would like to see the code changed to allow MALPF to utilize REIP funds, it is not logical that DNR which is a state agency can use these funds however MALPF which is also a state agency cannot.
- Mr. Hartline told the Board of suggestions from State Budget Analysts to remove the land preservation funding from the SMADC budget in FY2019.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

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

New Rules and By-laws have been created by the California Farmers Market Board.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

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

The Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board will need to meet to discuss a request from an easement property owner to install solar panels on existing farm buildings.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

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

No updates at this time.

Open Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m., motioned by Mr. Reeves and seconded by Mr. Webb. The next meeting will is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2016 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.