



St. Mary's County Government
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD, AND FORESTRY BOARD
P.O. Box 653, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650
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John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman

David Paulk, Vice Chairman

Phil Dorsey

Adam Dyson

Dr. Edward Falta

James Moore

Patrick Russell

Jon Shenski

Michael Sirk

James Spence

Melissa Thompson

Joseph Wood

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
October 9, 2014
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, Patrick Russell, Jon Shenski, Michael Sirk, James Spence, and Joseph Wood. Also present was Bruce Young from the St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District, Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension, and Donna Sasscer and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included Sharon Saez from the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTWLT) and John Quade who represents Mr. Sloan on behalf of his property in Mechanicsville. 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 September 18, 2014 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Sirk.

Old Business

Rural Legacy – Sharon Saez from the PTWLT introduced herself as the new Executive Director for the Land Trust. She is from Compton and will have a local presence with the Land Trust. Her missions with the Land Trust include educating volunteers and public outreach.

Mechanicsville School Site – Mr. Parlett recused himself from any decisions about the proposed Mechanicsville School Site as he has property in the area he has asked to be considered for a school site. John Quade, who represents Mr. Sloan the owner of the proposed school site in Mechanicsville, spoke to the Board on behalf of Mr. Sloan. The Board would like to invite the School Board to a future meeting to discuss how this site was selected since they believe it is contrary to the goals, policies and regulations set forth by county policies. Specifically the Board would like more information on the exhausted search process, to see a preliminary plan for the project, and information on how it was determined that a location in the northern part of the county was necessary when most of the growth is in the central part of the county. The Board would also like to invite the Farm Bureau to attend this meeting.

Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Program – The Board would like to address this issue with the School Board when they attend a future meeting. The Board is

concerned that there was not sufficient interest in the high schools this year for this program to begin when other schools in more urban areas (Southern High School and Gywn Park High School) are at capacity for participation. The Board would also like reassurance that the funding that was put in place for this program this year will be available to use next year when the program hopefully will begin.

Envirothon – Mr. Young updated the Board on the status of the Envirothon program. Due to the budgeting concerns from the teachers and the cut of the stipend for after school activities, the teacher involvement is greatly impacted. This in addition to the delayed roll-out of the CASE program sends a negative message to the agriculture community. The Board would like to address this issue with the School Board when they attend a future meeting.

Agriculture Service Center Open House – The Board was reminded that the Agriculture Service Center Open House is scheduled for October 14th. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony from 11 am until noon and then the open house is from noon until 3 pm.

New Business

None.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

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

The Home Grown Farm Market is at maximum occupancy for indoor vendors and is doing well this season.

The California Farmers Market is also doing well and has extended their hours into November. The North St. Mary's County Farmers Market is still faced with complaints about the parking problem. Funds for the farmer's market project have been allocated in the FY16 Capital Improvement Budget, however the Board is concerned that the selected location limits the growth of the market. The Board would like to extend an invitation to the County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, and the Director of Public Works and Transportation, George Erichsen, to a future meeting to discuss the County's selection process and future plans for this market.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

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

The Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board met after the Board meeting and voted to approve a Child Lot Request for the Magnani Property. The Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board will meet at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss a tenant lot request and a child's lot request.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – James Moore (Chairman), Michael Sirk (Vice Chair), Phil Dorsey, Adam Dyson, & Jon Shenski

No updates at this time

Open Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m., motioned by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Spence. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.