



St. Mary's County Government
AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD, AND FORESTRY BOARD
P.O. Box 653, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650
TELEPHONE 240-309-4022

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
December 11, 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, Edward Falta, James Moore, Patrick Russell, Michael Sirk, James Spence, and Joseph Wood. Also present was Bruce Young and Tom Koviak from the St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District, Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension, Dr. Christine Bergmark from the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC) and Donna Sasscer and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included:

Phil Langley, citizen

James B. Norris, St. Mary's County Farm Bureau

Jamie Raley, President, St. Mary's County Farm Bureau

Willy Goddard, St. Mary's County Farm Bureau

Barry Roache, St. Mary's County Farm Bureau

Robin Finnacom, Acting Director, St. Mary's County's Economic Development

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator, St. Mary's County's Government

Brian Lowe, Director, St. Mary's County's Recreation and Parks

George Erichsen, Director, St. Mary's County's Public Works & Transportation

Amy Farrell, Farm Service Agency

Mike Hewitt, Commissioner for St. Mary's County

Phil LaBarro, University of Maryland

Marie Howard, University of Maryland

Robin Cox, University of Maryland

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 November 13, 2014 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Spence.

Old Business

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market – Dr. Bridgett informed the Board that the Commissioners for St. Mary's County's meeting calendar has been approved and that the Finance Department will revise their Budget calendar to reflect. There are currently 2 projects for the FY2016 Capital Improvements Project (CIP) Budget. The first includes parking and site improvements at the Charlotte Hall Library, adding 16 additional parking spaces. The second will be for farmers market improvements on the "Triangle" property which will include the potential for 80 parking spaces with a 30' x 250' open air pavilion. Staff is currently working

with the vendors and their legal counsel to create an entity to manage the property and construct the pavilion. Mr. Parlett expressed the Board's favoring of the Dumas property as it is currently cleared, abuts the trail, does not cross Route 6, and is located within the town center so there would be access to water. Dr. Bergmark updated the Board that SMADC is considering purchasing a property at the county line that is located in both St. Mary's and Charles counties. Possible uses for this property could include: potential new farmer incubation, a farmers' market, slaughter facility, food hub or central distribution center for farm products, and/or shared use commercial kitchen.

Dr. Bridgett stated if this Board wishes to pursue options other than the "Triangle" property as identified in the CIP budget then they may draft a letter to be submitted along with the budget review. Dr. Bridgett also informed the Board that the offer for a lease option on the Dyson property has been withdrawn.

The Board voted to draft a letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to give conceptual support to SMADC's proposal to have a regional agriculture service center. The letter was to be cc'd to SMADC. David Paulk made the motion and Mr. Spence seconded it. All were in favor of the motion.

New Business

Ms. Finnacom gave an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Study (CEDs) process and explained how the County is currently working with the University of Maryland. A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis was completed with the Board and everyone was asked to give their names and contact information so the consultant could reach them if they had more questions.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – Joseph Wood (Chairman), James Moore (Vice Chair), David Paulk, Edward Falta
No updates at this time

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

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

No updates at this time

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. Spence and seconded by Mr. Moore. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2015 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.