



John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman
David Paulk, Vice Chairman
Phil Dorsey **Adam Dyson** **Dr. Edward Falta** **James Moore**
Jon Shenski **Michael Sirk** **James Spence** **Melissa Thompson** **Joseph Wood**

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
February 20, 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, Phil Dorsey, Dr. Edward Falta, Jon Shenski, James Spence, Michael Sirk, David Paulk, and Joseph Wood. Also present was Tom Kouak and, Bruce Young from the St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District, and Robin Finnacom, Donna Sasscer, and Barbara Moyer from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m. Attendance was called and it was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum. Minutes from the January 9, 2014 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Spence.

Old Business

Agriculture Services Center – As stated at the last meeting the project is currently estimated at \$25,000 to \$30,000 over budget due to the request to have more offices than open floor space. Permits have been submitted and the project will be put out to bid to get the project done within budget but it may not be feasible. The project should be complete by the end of June 2014.

Rural Legacy - A letter was sent to the Board of County Commissioners on December 11, 2013, expressing discontent with the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust and the possibility of partnering with the local Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Board. Staff will be giving an update to the commissioners on the Land Trust issue. It has taken 11 months to go to settlement on a property, which at this point is unreasonable. Inspections are being conducted without contacting the owners of the property before arriving at the property.

Farmers Market – the North St. Mary's County Farmers Market had its annual meeting in December. There was approximately \$900,000 in sales last year at the market. At this meeting the vendors explored options of layout of a building on the "Triangle" Property that is adjacent to the Library & Three Notch Trail. Mr. Parlett is concerned that the "Triangle" Property is not sufficient in size and would like to see other parcels with room for future growth considered before money is invested into this 2 acre parcel.

New Business

Charlotte Hall Library- Is in the CIP budget for project planning to address relocation of Home Grown Farmers Market. Now that the farmers market has use of a credit card machine sales have increased by \$8,500. This machine is also used for wic coupons and the independence card. We are trying to set up an evening meeting with The Farm Bureau and the Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Board to discuss communication issues. There are approximately 900 members in St. Mary’s County and about 38,000 members in Maryland that support the Farm Bureau.

Southern States – The Southern States in Charlotte Hall is in the process of attempting to expand its facility. There is an issue with one parcel that is zoned 3 different ways. A Zoning Amendment is forthcoming to the Board of County Commissioners. Since the last meeting this business has had a fire and is in the process of rebuilding. They have a temporary showroom set up and are open for business

The 2014 Meeting Schedule will stand as follows:

January 9, 2014	July 10, 2014
February 13, 2014	August 14, 2014
March 13, 2014	September 11, 2014
April 10, 2014	October 9, 2014
May 8, 2014	November 13, 2014
June 12, 2014	December 11, 2014

GUEST: Kenneth Druce - USSi

Mr. Druce proposes that technology and agriculture coming together for the betterment of the county farming industry by introducing drones (an unmanned aircraft) to fly over the fields and collect data to help the farmers.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – Joseph Wood (Chairman), James Moore (Vice Chair), David Paulk, Edward Falta
Joe Wood recommends moving forward with plans to expand Charlotte Hall Farmers Market

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

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

Would like a public announcement about MALPF applications

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

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

No updates at this time

Open Comment

Ms. Finnacom received a letter from Maryland Department of Agriculture in regards to the horse industry looking for land to place an educational center. Ms. Finnacom and Ms. Sasscer are currently working with the County's Recreation and Parks division and the Greenwell Foundation.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m., motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Dorsey. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2013 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.