



**Steve Reeves., Chairman**

**Scott Bacon, Vice Chairman**

**Ben Beale  
Lynn Klug  
Michael Sirk**

**Colleen Corrigan  
John K. Parlett, Jr  
Charles Webb**

**Phil Dorsey  
Alan Polk  
Joseph Wood**

**Phil Langley  
Patrick Russell  
Bruce Young**

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**Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board  
September 13, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**

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**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 Steve Reeves, Colleen Corrigan, Phil Langley, Lynn Klug, John Parreltt, Alan Polk, Patrick Russell, Michael Sirk, and Joseph Wood. Also present were Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension, Bruce Young from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District; and, Chris Kaselemis, Donna Sasscer Lisa Ledman and Sue Veith, from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included: Dr. Rebecca Bridgett the St. Mary's County Administrator, Randy Guy the President of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Shelby Watson-Hampton from the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC), Jamie Raley the President of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau, Cindy Greb from the Southern Maryland Resource and Conservation Development (RC&D); Dudley Lindsey from the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT); Roy Alvey a candidate for Commissioner of St. Mary's County.

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 August 9, 2018 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Langley.

**New Business**

BoardDocs Implementation ó Dr. Rebecca Bridgett gave the Board a presentation on the benefits of using BoardDocs as an electronic meeting management software. This will increase citizen engagement and also aide in transparency. The Board will need to establish a timeline for accepting agenda items and posting its agenda. The Board also discussed options of moving the location of its meetings to the Commissioners Meeting Room, where there is the capability to have the meetings recorded. Mr. Parlett questioned if all Board members would be uncomfortable with being televised (dress code vs. working farmers). Mr. Wood stated that the Agriculture Service Center is a better location for the Board's meetings because of the resources at this location. Mr. Reeves inquired if the set-up of the Commissioner's Meeting Room would be conducive to conversation/discussion which currently takes place at the Board's round table vs. the public hearing setting. Ms. Corrigan suggested the possible use of a service like GoTo Meeting or the like, however an assessment of equipment in the conference room would need to

be done. Mr. Raley also asked for clarification about County department heads and staff attending/presenting at non-county meetings. Dr. Bridgett responded that there is a process which agencies can go through the County Administrative Office to request public presentations.

### **Old Business**

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market Relocation ó Ms. Veith updated the Board that the staff met with current vendors of the market. The vendors complained that the proposed stalls are too small and confining. Staff re-sketched the draft layout and will present it again to the vendors on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Parlett asked if the LUGM interpretation of a farmers market building being limited to 5,000 sqft and that any agricultural use should not be considered commercial. Mr. Kaselemis will discuss this with LUGM staff. Ms. Greb updated the Board that Southern Maryland RC&D was awarded the 2 MEARDAF grants that they applied for. Mr. Young said that the Soil Conservation District Board has agreed to help with trail engineering where necessary for this project.

SMADC Regional Agriculture Center ó Ms. Watson-Hampton updated the Board that the new Request for Proposals (RFP) is expected to go out in 6-8 weeks to the 5 Southern Maryland Counties. Ms. Sasscer told the Board that the Fisher Slaughter Facility is scheduled to go back before the Board of Appeals for approval to build an additional receiving area (this approval will be for the receiving area only as they have previous approval for the original facility).

Rural Legacy ó The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced grant awards for this year, RC&D/Mattapan received \$1,050,000 and PTLT/Huntersville received \$866,000. Ms. Greb stated that RC&D continues to work towards settlement on 5 easements. Ms. Lindsey updated the Board that PTLT is continuing to work on outreach to interested landowners for a potential expansion of the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area and is planning to hold an informational meeting in October or November. Additionally PTLT is seeking additional funding at the County level for an easement in the Mattapan Rural Legacy Area using their FY15 grant funding.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) ó Ms. Sasscer stated that there were no updates at this time.

Zoning Uses ó Ms. Veith updated the Board that the workgroup has completed its draft updated to the Zoning Uses table. This document will be shared with the Tourism Regulatory Task Force.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

*Members –John Parlett, Colleen Corrigan, Patrick Russell, and Charles Webb*

Ms. Sasscer told the Board that the Home Grown Farm Market's Lease was to be renewed in October. Ms. Parlett motioned, seconded by Mr. Russell, for the Board to draft a letter to the

Commissioners requesting a 2 year lease to allow for the lease to be timed with the completion of the North St. Mary's County Farmers Market in hopes that one entity could be considered to administer both markets. Ms. Sasscer also updated the Board that the Home Grown Farm Market LLC has \$138,000 remaining from funds originally received for construction of the market. The LLC is considering using these funds to make the building climate controlled, updating the commercial kitchen area, or building a pavilion for additional capacity/events. Ms. Sasscer stated that there should be a master plan created for the Shannon Farms property and that the Market should be a part of this plan. Ms. Sasscer also told the Board of the Health Department regulations that will be coming online next year, all food trucks will need a base of operation/dump facility. Mr. Morris from the Health Department has approached the LLC about food trucks using the Home Grown Farm Market as their base of operations. Mr. Parlett questioned if the septic has the capacity to support this.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

*Members – Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Steve Reeves, Patrick Russell, and Joseph Wood*

Members will meet at the conclusion of this meeting.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

*Members – Colleen Corrigan, Phil Dorsey, Steve Reeves, Michael Sirk, and Joseph Wood*

No update at this time.

### **Open Comment**

Mr. Young told the Board that the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District held an agriculture Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) phase III meeting to refine the WIP II goals and to account for an additional 1.3 million pounds of Nitrogen that has been allocated to the Maryland agriculture sector.

Mr. Young also updated the Board has received a grant to purchase a new manure spreader for their equipment rental program.

Mr. Beale invited the Board to join the Farm to School event being held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at White Marsh Elementary School. There will be 3 stations for all students to attend and he is looking for volunteers to bring equipment.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m., motioned by Mr. Parlett and seconded by Mr. Langley. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2018 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.