



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Director

MEMORANDUM

April 11, 2014

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Agricultural Services Manager
Department of Economic Development

SUBJECT: The Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Please be advised the Agricultural Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room B at 7:00 p.m.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Agricultural Services web site. Due to the County's paper reduction mandate, please print these attachments out and bring them with you to the meeting.

See you on Tuesday evening.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810

e:aacApril2014(aac14)

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Draft Agenda – April 15, 2014

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from March 18, 2014.
3. Update on the Discussion with Roger Berliner during the March 18, 2014 meeting. Follow up with Council staff Jacob Sesker on the MSCD request for WQPC funding- Public Hearing on WQPC Rate scheduled on April 22, 2014. PHED Committee Work Session for DED FY15 Operating Budget scheduled on April 22, 2014. T&E Committee Work Session for DEP FY15 Operating Budget using WQPC funding scheduled on April 29, 2014.
4. Follow up from Full Council Work Session-FAME Final Report. DED drafted a letter to Council President Craig Rice summarizing what DED is doing for access to markets and increasing technical assistance to farmers. **Part-time Agronomy Educator Position and vacant BDS position-Kristin Fisher may be filled in FY15.**
5. Follow discussion on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. Draft letter from AAC, APAB and RRAC to the County Executive and copied to the Council members and Director of DOT.
6. New Farmer Pilot Program-Beginning Farmer Training workshops ended last week- Equipment Share Program Discussions with MCFB and MSCD-Insurance Requirements. Examples of how the equipment share programs are working in Southern MD with Soil Conservation Districts.
7. Update on Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Period February-April 1, 2014-We only have enough funding for 14. Base BLT price is \$222,000 per BLT and Maximum BLT Price is \$254,000. John Z has received BLT applications for 23 BLTs and he believes that 19-20 may be eligible and ranked.
- State Grant Agreement-Rural Legacy Program-7th Grant Agreement between DNR and the County-\$400,000. Proposing funding could protect an 87 acre farm adjacent to the Town of Poolesville.
8. SHA-Agricultural Tourism Signing Program-The DED is working with owners of On-farm markets Wade Butler and Ben Allnutt and Kelly Groff-CVB.
9. A Public Workshop for High Tunnels and Greenhouses is scheduled for April 29, 2014 from 12:00 to 6:00 pm.
10. May 7, 2014 6:00-9:00 The Montgomery Food Council will conduct a Meet Your Producer event at the Agricultural History Farm Park.
11. New Appointments to the AAC-Doug Lechlinder and Michele Cropp have applied for farmer members. New Appointments to the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-Jean Phillips and Audrey Patton?? have applied for new farmer members.

12. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2014.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

High Tunnel Public Work Shop-April 29, 2014

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-May 6, 2014@7:00pm

Montgomery Food Council-Meet Your Producers-May 7, 2014 6:00pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-May 9, 2014@9:00am

Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Bd-May 13, 2014@7:00pm

UM-Extension Volunteer Recognition-May 14, 2014@5:00 pm

Agricultural Advisory Committee-May 20, 2014 @ 7:00 pm