



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Director

MEMORANDUM

January 16, 2015

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

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

SUBJECT: The Agricultural Advisory Committee and Agricultural Preservation Advisory
Board Meeting Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Please be advised the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be meeting on
**Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook
Road Germantown in Room A 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:aacJan20(aac15)

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda – January 20, 2015

1. Introductions:

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from December 16, 2014. (See Attachment A.)

3. The Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14 is supported by 5 Council members (Leventhal, Floreen, Reimer, Navarro, and Elrich). The first public hearing was Thursday January 15, 2015 at 7:30 pm with the T&E Committee. The AAC-Doug Tregoning and the MCFB-Lonnie Luther were signed up to testify. There is a second public hearing tentatively scheduled for February 12, 2015. The T&E Committee Work Session is scheduled for March 16, 2015.

(See Attachments B.)

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2014/Packets/201410284C.pdf>

4. Supplemental Appropriation for the Agricultural Land Preservation CIP-\$1.0 million from the Crown Farm Annexation Agreement for a pending Agricultural Easement acquisition. The public hearing is scheduled for January 27, 2015.

5. The Tour of farms with Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson will be held weather permitting on the afternoon of January 30, 2015. The tour of farms on the east side of the County includes Robert Stabler-Pleasant Valley Farm, Pam Saul-Rolling Acres Farm, Wade Butler-Butlers Orchard, and John Fendrick-Woodbourne Creamery.

6. Update on the Positions approved for FY15 Operating and Capital Budget:

The Ag Business Navigator-BDS position (Kristin Fisher) On December 3, 2014, the OHR Director approved waiver to by-pass veteran with Preferential Hiring status. DED reviewed the 32 applicants that met the minimum requirements and then the County implemented a hiring freeze on December 12, 2014. A memorandum requesting exemption from hiring freeze is pending that will request the position be advertised again since four months have passed since the August deadline to apply.

Agronomy Educator for UM-Extension contractor The Contract was approved and Doug prepared testimony for Pesticide Bill 52-14 and he is organizing the Winter Agronomy Update and speakers.

New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) The Ad was released December 2, 2014 closed on December 15, 2014. The County implemented hiring freeze December 12, 2014. A memorandum requesting exemption from hiring freeze is pending.

7. New Appointments to the AAC-Need to find farmer member to replace Tim McGrath and the Annual Meeting with CE, AAC, and APAB is scheduled February 10, 2015 @ 8:00 pm

8. NEW MDE Regulations for Storm water management on agricultural buildings
(See Attachment C.)

9. High Speed Broad band in the Rural and Agricultural areas. David Weitzer and his neighbors followed up from the December 8th meeting with stakeholders to discuss expanding Broadband high speed internet access to the Poolesville area of the Ag Reserve.
(See Attachment D.)

10. Update on the New Zoning Code and the continued need for new Uses in the AR Zone
(See Attachment E.)

11. Updated Farm Directory

The DED-Agricultural Service updated the Farm Directory and we are requesting assistance to make corrections to the farms that are listed and help to reach out to those farms that still need to be listed.

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ag services/Resources/Files/publications/2015_farm_directory.pdf

12. Three Grant Opportunities:

The USDA-Rural Development offers a Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program annually (last year's information can be found at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_vapg.html)

The **MARBIDCO** also has an annual matching grants overlay program, providing up to 15% of the matching funds required under the USDA VAPG (with a maximum of \$11,250 for planning grants and \$25,000 for working capital grants). We expect the USDA NOFA to be announced sometime in February with a 45-day application submission deadline. MARBIDCO's application deadline will be 14 days in advance of USDA's deadline. **MARBIDCO** www.marbidco.org

The 2015 Kathleen A. P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program-Eligibility
<http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/MathiasAg14.htm>

13. Next Meeting of AAC February 17, 2015 @ 7:00 pm **Meeting in Room B.**

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation \$1.0 million to the Ag Pres CIP-January 27, 2015

Planning Board Tour of farms-January 30, 2015 All Day

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-February 3, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-February 10, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-February 13, 2015@ 9:00am

Agricultural Advisory Committee-February 17, 2015@ 7:00pm

Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis-February 18, 2015

Winter Agronomy Update-February 25, 2015-Urbana Fire Hall