



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Sally Sternbach
Acting Director

MEMORANDUM

July 20, 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, July 21, 2015

Please be advised the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, July 21, 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

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**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
Agenda – July 21, 2015**

1. Introductions:

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from June 16, 2015. (See Attachment A.)

3. Follow up on the Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14.

Council Member Roger Berliner has drafted his own bill that removes a Pesticide Ban and it promotes education, notification and awareness on the use of pesticides. It is my understanding that Roger Berliner has four council members (Berliner, Katz, Rice, and Floreen) that have agreed to support his new bill. Once a fifth council member agrees to sign on to the new bill it will be considered further in September after the Summer Recess.

4. Follow to the AAC Sub-committee- June 24, 2015 meeting. The group of industry representatives suggests the County adopt a new term called Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities to cover the production of fruit based alcohol beverages-Wine and Hard Cider and production of grain based alcohol beverages Beer and Distilled Spirits. The group is continuing to discuss the standards that will permit private events on farms as a limited use and conditional use. The next meeting will be devoted to better understanding the State and County food facility regulations that are difficult to meet for permitting the sale of food on farms.

5. Update on the MAEF Mobile Science Lab built for Montgomery County and rotated to 30 Montgomery County Elementary Schools each year. Doug Tregoning, Tom Hartsock, Caroline Taylor are working closely with MCPS staff who have agreed to make the scheduling arrangements to the lab to be moved to each school.

6. See the brochures for the Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale-July 25-26, 2015. There are 19 farms are on the Tour this year and we are working with MSCD, MCFB, UM-Extension on promotional funding for the event.

7. Follow up on the Reorganization of Economic Development-(See Attachment B.)

The County Council approved Bill 25-15 to terminate the Department of Economic Development this coming October 2015. The Bill also created the Office of Agriculture as a new County Executive agency effective October 1, 2015. Peter Bang, Chief Operating Officer for the DED may be moved to the new Office of Agriculture to provide administrative, budget, personnel support and this decision is still under consideration by the Executive staff.

8. Fiscal Year 2016 Saving Plan has imposed a 2% reduction for most County Agencies. All new initiatives and vacant staff positions identified for FY16 will be removed. The Ag Services Navigator position may not be filled. The MAEF Mobile Lab is proposed for removal although the DED is negotiating with the OMB to keep the program due to the support from the MCFB and the potential to help fund the lab. (See Attachment C.)

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Agricultural Advisory Committee-July 21, 2015 @ 7:00 pm

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-August 4, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-August 11, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Sup-August 14, 2015@ 9:00am

County Agricultural Fair-August 14-22, 2015

Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-Monday August 17, 2015 at 12:00 noon.