



**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Sally Sternbach  
*Acting Director*

**MEMORANDUM**

September 11, 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, September 15, 2015

Please be advised the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, September 15, 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:aacSept(aac15)

**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting  
Agenda – September 15, 2015**

1. Introductions:

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from July 21, 2015. (See Attachment A.) Follow up on Hunting Quarter Road.

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

Council Member Roger Berliner has released his amendments to Bill 52-14 as recommended in his June 16, 2015 memorandum. (See Attachments B) The amendments remove the pesticide ban on private property and they will not put the landscape industry out of business. Roger Berliner has four council members (Berliner, Katz, Rice, and Floreen) that have agreed to support the amended bill. Jeremy spoke with Nancy Navarro's aid following the Agricultural Leaders Luncheon to see if Nancy would support Roger's alternative approach to the Bill 52-14. Roger Berliner has asked to attend the AAC meeting next Tuesday September 15, 2015 at 7:00pm. The T&E Committee has scheduled a work session on Bill 52-14 on September 17, 2015 @ 9:30 am.

4. The AAC Sub-committee met on August 26, 2015 to review the 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. We will continue to review use standards for private events and changes to food safety regulations.

5. Update on the MAEF Mobile Science Lab-The MCPS developed a list of 26 Montgomery County Elementary Schools the lab will visit starting in September. The Back to School Fair on August 29, 2015 included a tour of the Food Fiber and you lab and a majority of the parents and students that attended the fair walked through the lab.

**6. Follow up on the Reorganization of Economic Development**

The County Executive staff is working on the details for creating and staffing the new Office of Agriculture which will be effective on October 4, 2015. The head of the new Office of Agriculture will report to Fariba Kassiri, Chief Administrative Officer. There are concerns for Peter Bang, Chief Operating Officer for the DED being moved to the new Office of Agriculture to provide administrative, budget, personnel support and this decision is still under consideration by the Executive staff. **Please note the Agricultural Services Navigator was abolished with the understanding that Peter Bang would provide the administrative capacity for the Office of Agriculture and Jeremy Criss could then focus on the agricultural programs and services. Peter Bang and Jeremy met with Steve Silverman on August 27, 2015 to ask for his advice and assistance. Steve agreed to call Tim Firestine to discuss the Office of Agriculture.** Six to Twelve months after the Office of Agriculture is effective all of the staff will be subject to a reclassification study to determine if their job classification, grade and salary should be changed.

7. We are working with the County Cable Administrator and Comcast to explore replacing the phone system and T-1 lines at the AHFP. This will involve participation of all agricultural

agencies-MSCD, MDA, NRCS, FSA, UM-Extension and Office of Ag. The plan will involve transferring all current funding for phones and T-1 lines to Comcast for Business phone service and High Speed Broad Band internet.

8. The Equine Resource Conservation Position was announced and the OHR has provided the MSCD the applicants that met the minimum qualifications and need to be interviewed.

9. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 20, 2015@7:00pm

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-September 15, 2015 @7:00pm

Montgomery County Ag Pres. Advisory Board-September 15, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Farm to Table Dinner-September 19, 2015

Delegation of Agricultural Leaders from Colorado-September 23, 2015@ 7:00am

MD/ VA Agricultural Marketing Specialists Conference-September 29-Oct 2, 2015

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-October 6, 2015@7:00pm

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

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 20, 2015 @7:00pm

Close Encounters with Agriculture Bag Party-October 7, 2015