

**Zawitoski, John**

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**From:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Sent:** Monday, July 08, 2013 4:04 PM  
**To:** Hoyt, Bob; Shofar, Steven  
**Cc:** Silverman, Steve; Hughes, Jennifer; Kassiri, Fariba; Schaeffer, Matt; 'David Weitzer'; Plummer, David C.  
**Subject:** FW: Follow up to the meeting between the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the County Executive-Sustainable Funding for the DED-Agricultural Services Division  
**Attachments:** AACCEAnnualMeeting4-9-13.doc; Scanned Document From DED\_5035\_1 ; AAC-APAB-DEP.doc

Hello Bob and Steve,

Please find attached the follow up letters regarding the April 9, 2013 Annual meeting between the Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-APAB and the County Executive on future funding for the DED Agricultural Services Division.

The AAC would like to extend an invitation for you to attend a future meeting to discuss this issue.

The AAC met on June 18, 2013 and they recommended the third attached letter be sent to you as a follow up from the recommendations offered by the County Executive in his May 14, 2013 letter.

The AAC meetings for this summer are July 16, 2013 @7:00 pm and August 20, 2013 @7:00 pm.

We meet at the Up-County Regional Services Center in Germantown Room B.

Please let us know if you could attend one of these meetings to discuss how the DED and DEP can establish a partnership to help address the needs of the Agricultural Services Division including the Montgomery Soil Conservation District-MSCD programs and services provided to the rural and agricultural residents of the County.

Thanks J

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Department of Economic Development  
Agricultural Services Division  
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<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices>



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett:

Follow up from the Annual meeting with the  
Agricultural Advisory Committee and the  
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with us on April 9, 2013 to discuss the needs of the DED Agricultural Services Division and the programs and services they provide to the agricultural community.

Our Committee is grateful to you for your continued support to the agricultural community. Paula Linthicum was correct in saying that you always attend our agricultural events and activities and you genuinely listen to us and help us.

It was a good opportunity for updating you on the funding strategy for the DED-Agricultural Services Division that you approved in December 2010. Bob Cissel representing the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-APAB and I explained the details surrounding the projected deficit in FY16 associated with the source of funding for Agricultural Services. Thank you for acknowledging the agricultural community stepping up and providing private contributions of funds for the past two and half years to help the County and Agricultural Services. We hope our unique action will be favorably remembered as budget restorations are considered.

We discussed during our meeting how the upcoming FY15-16 Bi-Annual CIP represents the next step to begin discussions on the projected deficit in FY16 for Agricultural Services expenses and the migration of these expenses back to the County's General Fund. We will need your support once again to make sure your administration understands the importance of protecting the Agricultural Reserve including the programs and services offered by the DED-Agricultural Services Division.

The Committee discussed during the April 16, 2013 monthly meeting the status of Bill 34-12 Stormwater Management-Water Quality Protection Charge. We learned that collections of excise tax on disposable bags are higher than original projections. We also learned that for FY13

a total of \$561,640 of the excise tax on disposable bags is allocated to the DEP-Water Quality Protection Fund. Our Committee questions the decision to allocate these new County resources to DEP in light of the agricultural community private contributions previously mentioned in addition to the projected FY16 deficit in the DED-Agricultural Services Division.

We sincerely hope that as the economy improves the County will reinstate its commitment to the agricultural community and the funding needed to sustain all of the agricultural agencies (Montgomery Soil Conservation District-MSCD and UME-Extension) funded through the DED-Agricultural Services Division. The MSCD is charged with fulfilling the EPA mandate of Chesapeake Bay Cleanup including the County TMDL goals for the rural and agricultural areas of the County. You recently received a proposal from the MSCD Board of Supervisors for allocating a portion of the DEP-Water Quality Protection Charge to the MSCD. Rural property owners including farmers rely on the programs and services offered by MSCD to assist in the implementation of Best Management Practices that are necessary in meeting the TMDL goals. Additional County resources must be allocated to the MSCD for the County to meet the EPA mandate and TMDL goals for restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

The AAC would like to thank you again for meeting with us and we look forward to working with you on the future funding strategy for the Agricultural Services Division and the agricultural agencies funded through the Division.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Weitzer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Weitzer, Chairman

Steve Silverman, Director, DED

Jennifer Hughes, Director, OMB

Members of the AAC and APAB



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

May 14, 2013

David Weitzer, Chairman  
Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Agricultural Services Division  
18410 Muncaster Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855

Dear Mr. Weitzer: *David*

Thank you for your letter outlining the funding needs of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (APAB) which we discussed during our meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

As you outlined in your letter, revenues from the excise tax on disposable plastic bags have exceeded the original FY13 projection. Though this situation has created additional revenues for the County, the manner in which we may spend revenues from the bag tax is defined in law. Under current law, revenues from the bag tax must be deposited into the Water Quality Protection Fund and be used to fund County Stormwater Management activities.

Your letter also specifically noted the Montgomery Soil Conservation District and the UME-Extension and their work towards improving Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals for rural and agricultural areas of the County and also restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The County is engaged, through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in similar efforts related to the County's MS4 permit.

To address the increased needs of both the AAC and APAB we discussed, I recommend both boards continue to consult DEP during their formulation of their Operating and CIP budgets to discuss how the rural and agricultural work you described could compete with other budget priorities in the Water Quality Protection Fund. Formulation of the FY15 DEP Operating and CIP budgets will begin this summer.

David Weitzer, Chairman  
Agricultural Advisory Committee  
May 14, 2013  
Page Two

To discuss the County's Stormwater Management program and the related budget, please contact Steve Shofar in the Department of Environmental Protection at 240-777-7736 or via e-mail at [steven.shofar@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:steven.shofar@montgomerycountymd.gov).

I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isiah Leggett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "I" and "L".

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

c: Steve Silverman, Department of Economic Development  
Robert Hoyt, Department of Environmental Protection  
Jennifer Hughes, Office of Management and Budget  
Fariba Kassiri, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer  
Matt Schaeffer, Office of Management and Budget

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## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 8, 2013

Bob Hoyt, Director  
Department of Environmental Protection  
255 Rockville Pike  
Rockville MD, 20850

Dear Mr. Hoyt:

Follow up recommendation from the County Executive as outlined in his letter dated May 14, 2013

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, we want to invite you and Steve Shofar to attend a future meeting of our committee to discuss the future source of funding for the Agricultural Services Division which includes the Montgomery Soil Conservation District-MSCD.

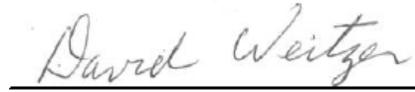
Attached you will find a letter dated April 19, 2013 addressed to the County Executive that summarizes the discussion from the Annual meeting of the AAC and the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-APAB. Also attached you will find the May 14, 2013 response letter from the County Executive recommending that we consult with DEP on the needs of the AAC and the APAB.

During our meeting we would like to discuss the County Code Chapter 19 Erosion, Sediment Control and Storm Water Management as it relates to the Water Quality Protection Funds-WQPF. We would like to discuss how to identify the Montgomery Soil Conservation District as a recipient for portions of WQPF in partnering with the DEP for the purposes of Storm Water Management-SWM practices implemented in the rural and agricultural areas of the County. This recommendation would enable the MSCD to receive annual allotments of WQP funding that is needed for the MSCD to fulfill the EPA mandate of the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup including the County TMDL goals for the rural and agricultural areas of the County.

The AAC is aware of how the County Council has approved Resolutions that appropriate portions of the WQPF to County agencies like MNCPPC-Resolution No. 17-152 and DOT for the purposes of Storm Water Management and we would like to better understand how this Resolution process can be initiated for the benefit of the MSCD.

Please let me know if you and Steve can attend one of our meetings either on July 16, 2013 or August 20, 2013. The AAC meets at the Up-County Regional Services Center in Germantown starting at 7:00 pm in Room B.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Weitzer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

David Weitzer, Chairman

Cc: Members of the AAC and the APAB