



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Director

MEMORANDUM

October 10, 2012

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

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

SUBJECT: Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Please be advised that the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room B at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting 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 October 16, 2012.

*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 –October 16, 2012

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from August 21, 2012. (See Attachment A.)
Please note the September 18, 2012 AAC meeting was cancelled due to severe weather
3. Follow up from the County Council bus tours of the Agricultural Reserve:
Tuesday September 4, 2012 Eastern Agricultural Reserve farm visits to Rolling Acres Farm-Equestrian operation, Sunny Ridge Farm-Grain and Beef operation, Ruppert Nurseries-Nursery and Landscape operation.
Friday September 7, 2012 Western Agricultural Reserve farm visits to Lewis Orchard-Table Food crop operation, Jamie and Kathy Jamison and Sons-Grain operation
4. Discussion regarding Orientation of new AAC members: Woody Woodroof
5. Discussion on the August 6, 2012 Announcement for the New Farm Pilot Project-September 17, 2012 review of 18 applicants-October 18, 2012 Deadline for Training and Mentoring opportunities.
6. The MNCPPC conducted a Work Session on Monday October 15, 2012 @ 7:00 pm on the proposed changes to Agricultural and Rural zones. The AAC provided comments to the MNCPPC on the Consolidated Draft for the Zoning Rewrite Process on September 11, 2012 and October 4, 2012. The MCFB also provided a letter dated September 7, 2012 to MNCPPC regarding concerns in the residential zones. (See Attachments B.)
7. Update-Agricultural Reserve Conference-Farming at Metro's Edge- January 11-12, 2013
<http://www.farmingatmetrosedge.com/>

The three panels are as follows:

Navigating the Economic Future of Our Region's Agriculture
Keeping Agriculture Viable in a World of Growing Environment Concerns
Building Organizational Policies and Public Support for Farming and Farm Communities.

Most of you received a Save the Date message sent to the agricultural community and several individuals have agreed to be panelist as part of the Round Table discussions.

8. AAC correspondence for August 2012: (See Attachments C.)
August 21, 2012 letter to Chair of the Planning Board-Treatment of septic areas for calculation of forest conservation mitigation.
August 21, 2012 letter to the President of the Council-Amendment to create new condition of approving record plats of subdivisions prohibiting private covenants that restrict agricultural uses and activities on RDT zoned land encumbered with TDR easements.

9. The DED-ZTA for agricultural and horticultural uses permitted by right in the RDT zone is moving again. Some of the stand alone uses are identified in the Zoning Rewrite Process (agricultural processing which includes the products of forestry, a grain elevator, milk plant, products of forestry, mulch and compost production and manufacture) as conditional uses requiring a special exception. The AAC recommends these uses should be included within the definition of Farm to imply they are permitted by right as accessory uses to the farm. The DED-ZTA proposes to permit all of the above uses by right in addition to animal slaughtering, landscape contractor, horticultural nursery. The MCA has provided support to the MNCPPC for small scale animal slaughtering which involve cutting and wrapping meat.

10. The County Council members with Districts encompassing the Agricultural Reserve (Roger Berliner, Craig Rice, and Nancy Navarro) requested a meeting with the AAC to understand the priorities of the AAC. This meeting was held on October 8, 2012 and David Weitzer, Eddie Kuhlman and Jeremy attended. The priority items of the AAC that were discussed are outlined below:

April 18, 2012-Recommendation on the Development Impact Tax applied to accessory dwellings, accessory building and accessory structures

June 8, 2012-Recommendation on Bill 16-12 Trees-Utility Vegetation Management-Rural and Rustic Roads

June 19, 2012-Recommendation to the University of Maryland-Agronomy Educator Position for the Central MD Cluster-Frederick, Howard, and Montgomery Counties

August 21, 2012-Recommendation for Subdivision Amendment-New Condition of Approving Record Plats of Subdivision

October 4, 2012-Recommendation on the Zoning Rewrite Process

Response to Bill 32-11 Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee

11. The AAC is scheduled to meet on November 20, 2012 @ 7:00pm in Germantown

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery County Food Policy Council-October 17, 2012@4:00pm

Montgomery Co Farm Bureau Bd of Directors-Tuesday November 6, 2012@7:00pm

Montgomery Co Farm Bureau Annual Dinner-Tuesday November 13, 2012@6:30pm

Montgomery Co Ag Preservation Advisory Board-Tuesday November 13, 2012@7:30pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-Friday November 16, 2012@9:00am

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