2011 Report of the

Agricultural Advisory Committee

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
The Pride of
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Sec. 2B-20. Enforcement of State and County Agricultural Easements.

(a) Any violation of this Chapter or regulations issued under it is a Class A violation. The Department of Permitting Services may issue a citation for any violation of this Chapter or the terms of any agricultural easement.

(b) The Director of Economic Development may take legal action, including seeking injunctive or declaratory relief, to prevent any:

(1) subdivision of land under an agricultural easement that violates this Chapter or an agricultural easement; or

(2) transfer of land, including the transfer of lots to or for the landowner or the landowner's children, that violates this Chapter or an agricultural easement.

(c) The Director may also take legal action to recover any funds obtained from any subdivision or land transfer that violates this Chapter or an agricultural easement, plus costs and a reasonable attorney's fee.

(d) If the creation of an easement under this Chapter conflicts directly with any County law regulating economic activity, noise, or environmental controls, the easement created under this Chapter prevails.

(e) If the creation of an easement under any regulation issued under this Chapter conflicts directly with any applicable County regulation on economic activity, noise, or environmental controls, the easement created under this Chapter prevails. (2008 L.M.C., ch. 37, § 1.)

ARTICLE 6. AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Sec. 2B-21. Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(a) *Definition.* In this Section, "Committee" means the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(b) *Established.* The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(c) *Composition; Term.*

(1) The Committee has 15 voting members.

(2) The Executive should appoint:

(A) 12 members to a 3-year term who are bona fide farmers who represent the total farm community and reflect a variety of farm sizes, geographical locations and agricultural projects, at least 3 of whom must be owner-operators of commercial farm land earning 50% or more of their income from farming, and including:

(i) 1 farm economist; and

(ii) 1 conservationist; and

(B) 3 members who have no significant direct financial interest in farming, to a 1-year term to represent broad non-farm County interests. These members may be appointed to successive terms.

(3) The Committee may designate ex-officio members as necessary.

(4) If a member is appointed to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of the unexpired term.

(d) *Officers, meetings, and compensation.*

(1) The Committee must elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members.

(2) The Committee meets at the call of the Chair. The Committee must meet as often as necessary to perform its duties, but not less than 10 times each year.

(3) A member serves without compensation. However, a member may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates established by the County.

(e) *Duties.*

(1) The Committee must:

(A) advise the Executive and Council on all matters affecting agriculture in the County;

(B) bring matters of particular importance to the attention of the Executive and Council; and

(C) comment on matters referred to it by the Executive and Council.

(f) *Annual Report.* By January 30 of each year, the Committee must submit to the Executive and Council an annual report that:

(1) outlines the activities undertaken the previous calendar year;

(2) identifies problems affecting agriculture in the County; and

(3) make recommendations for government programs that may be necessary to maintain a healthy agricultural economy in the County.

(g) *Advocacy.* The Committee must not engage in any advocacy activity at the State or federal levels unless that activity is approved by the Office fo Intergovernmental Relations.

(h) *Staff.* The Chief Administrative Officer must provide appropriate staff to the Committee. (2009 L.M.C., ch. 26, § 1; 2010 L.M.C., ch. 49, § 1.)

Editor's note—2009 L.M.C., ch. 26, § 2, states: Transition. Section 2B-21, as added by Sec. 1 of this Act, establishes an Agricultural Advisory Committee. This Committee continues the Agricultural Advisory Committee created under Council Resolution 7-1138 and restructured under Council Resolution 8-705. The County Executive may reappoint, subject to Council confirmation, the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Executive should continue to stagger the terms of the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee so that approximately one-third of the terms continue to expire each year.

Listing of 2011 Projects and Accomplishments for the Agricultural Advisory Committee

1. Submitted recommendations to the County Executive regarding new appointments (farmers & non-farmer members) for the new year.

2. Assisted with the installation of a new Agricultural Reserve Sign at Brink Road for the Greater Goshen Civic Association.

3. Provided recommendations to the PHED regarding ZTA 11-01 (Commercial Residential Zones & BLT Program.

4. Provided recommendations to the DED regarding the FY 2012 Capital and Operating Budget.

5. Participated in the March 8, 2010 Annual Meeting with the County Executive.

6. Participated in the February 10, 2011 Annual Meeting with the Montgomery County Farmers Market for the 2011 growing season.

7. Provided recommendations to Montgomery County Delegation on MC7-12 for septic easements to address concerns from the agricultural community and reduce the fragmentation of farmland and MC 16-12 Enforcement of private covenants that restrict agricultural activities and structures.

8. Provided recommendations to MNCPPC Planning Board regarding request to rezone property a Bethesda-TDR receiving area.

9. Conducted and promoted the Annual Buy Local Challenge & 22nd Annual Farm Tour & Harvest Sale in July 2011.

10. Provided recommendations to the Council regarding Bill 29-11 Consolidation & sunset date for County Boards and Committees.

11. Provided recommendations and testimony to the Planning Board.

12. Provided recommendations to the County Executive for

13. Participated in the Agricultural Reserve Conference Planning Committee. The Conference is planned for November 9-10, 2012.

14. Participated in the Annual Agricultural Fair with displays set-up from DED-Agricultural Services and the program for the Agricultural Leaders Luncheon.

15. Provided recommendations to the County Council on ZTA 10-15 Airstrips, Agriculture-RDT Zones.

16. Participated with the Montgomery County Food Policy Council-Advisory Board and Selection Committee.

17. Participated with the T&E Committee regarding trimming of trees by Pepco on Rural and Rustic Roads.

18. Represented the AAC on the Montgomery Countryside Alliance-Agricultural Advisory Committee.

19. Testified at the 2012 State Bill Hearing for the Montgomery County Delegation MC 7-12 (Septic Easements), MC 16-12 (Enforcement of private covenants restricting AG activities & structures.

20. Provided comments on Executive Order 030-11 – Farmland Pres. – Building Lot Termination Program BLT.

21 Provided recommendations regarding House Bill 209 MALPF – Allowable Residential Uses – Child Lots.

22. Provided recommendation regarding the DED ZTA in RDT Zone – Agricultural Processing, Landscape Contractor, & Horticultural Nursery

23. Recommended amendments to Footnote 48 –Non-Agricultural uses in RDT zone where TDR easements encumbered properties (Bed & Breakfast Inn).

24. Attended the MDA Watershed ImplementationWIP Plan – for reducing nutrients in the Chesapeake Bay.

25. Informed the agricultural community on Expedited Bill 8-11 Disposable Bags Tax - Exemptions for farmers markets and bags used for perishable products.

E:11aacprojectsaccomplishments(aac11)

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Montgomery County
Agricultural Reserve

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Director

Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
Revised Agenda
January 18, 2011

1. Introduction if necessary?

2. Approval of the AAC Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2010. (See Attachment A.) Please note: there was no meeting for December.

3. Update from the December 2, 2010 meeting with Ike Leggett on the proposed FY 2012. Budget Reduction Plan for Agricultural Services. (See Attachment B.)

4. AAC letter submitted to the Montgomery County Delegation Bill MC 8-11 Leghold and Body Gripping Traps (See Attachment C.)

5. Zoning Rewrite Process. (See Attachment D.)

6. Follow up from the December 20, 2010 meeting on Sustainable Community Food System. (See Attachment E.)

7. Update on the future of Poole's Store. (See Attachment F.)

8. Update on the Deer Donation Program. (See Attachment G.)

9. Proposed ZTA 10-15 Airstrips in agricultural zone. (See Attachment H.)

10. New Appointments AAC – Interview Committee scheduled for tomorrow-January 19, 2011.

11. Annual meeting of AAC/APAB with the County Executive February 10, 2011 @ 7:00PM –New process for this year.

12. Update from Chuck Schuster, Director of UME in Montgomery County

13. Next scheduled meeting of the AAC February 15, 2011 @ 7:30 pm Room B Upcounty Regional Services Center in Germantown. (See Attachment I-schedule of 2011 AAC meetings) **Please note the time of 7:00 pm pertains to reservation of the room B for these meetings in 2011**

Agricultural Services Division
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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Director

Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
Agenda
February 15, 2011

1. Introductions if necessary? (Please note that Council member Craig Rice may be attending depending on the County Council public hearing schedule)

2. Approval of the AAC Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2011. (See Attachment (A.)

3. Update FY 2011-2012 Budget. DED-Ag Services. Status of PAA position assigned to UME

4. Farmland Preservation Update:
   New Farmland Preservation Brochure will be handed out
   APAB recommendation Appraisal Study determined $375,000 FMV lot value in RDT
   BLT Base Value for BLT = 60% FMV and BLT Max Value for BLT =70 % FMV
   AEP program suspended for FY 2011 due to economic considerations
   County Executive will issue an Executive Order and BLT purchase period will start

5. Update on ZTA 10-15 Airstrips-Agricultural Zones (See Attachment B). The PHED Committee work session is scheduled February 28, 2011.

6. New Appointments to AAC are pending: Interviews of new candidates January 19, 2011

7. Follow up on the February 10, 2011 Annual AAC & APAB meeting with County Executive. (See Attachment C. e-Alert regarding Pepco)

8. Update on the Zoning Rewrite Process: A group of agricultural representatives will be meeting with staff representatives of MNCPPC on March 7, 2011 to review the draft recommendations on the agricultural zones.

9. Update on Poole's Store and Farm and Home Business: Outcome of the January 29, 2011 Open House and Public meeting.

10. Next scheduled meeting of the AAC is March 15, 2011 @ 7:30pm in Room B at the Upcounty Regional Services Center in Germantown.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Winter Agronomy Meeting February 23, 2011 (See Attached Agenda)

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Mo Co Countryside Alliance Ag Producers Summit February 25, 2011 (See Attached Flyer)
Deer Management Lecture Series February 28, 2011 (See Attached Flyer)
SB 582 Atrazine Study, SB 487 Fertilizer Use Act, SB 544 Ches Bay Nitrogen Reduction Act

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Montgomery County
Agricultural Reserve

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
Agenda
March 15, 2011

1. Introductions if necessary?

2. Approval of the AAC Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2011. (See Attachment A.)

3. Update FY 2011-2012 Budget. DED-Ag Services. The PAA position assigned to UME was posted and closed on March 4, 2011-Four candidates are being rated for consideration.

4. Farmland Preservation Update:
   County Executive approved Executive Order 030-11 (See Attachment B.)
   BLT purchase period to be announced

5. Update on Planning Board proposed changes to the Commercial Residential CR Zone- This CR zone is one of the BLT receiving zones for increasing FAR. (See Attachment C.)

6. Update on ZTA 10-15 Airstrips-Agricultural Zones-The PHED Committee approved with amendments. (See Attachment D.)

7. Follow up on the ACC recommendations surrounding Tree Trimming (See Attachment E.)

8. New Appointments to AAC – The County Executive appointments should be confirmed by the County Council this month.

9. Update from the March 7, 2011 meeting on the Zoning Rewrite Process: Group of agricultural representatives met with MNCPPC to review draft recommendations on the agricultural zones.

10. A Horticultural Green Industry Work Group was created at the request of DED Director, Steve Silverman and met on March 9, 2011. The work group will recommend changes to the Zoning regulations for agricultural processing, Nursery-agricultural operations in attempt to help the horticultural green industry.

11. Update on MC17-11 which is HB 536 Septic Easements in Montgomery County-March 11, 2011 Hearing with House Environmental Matters (See Attachment F.)

12. 2010 Annual Report of the Agricultural Advisory Committee
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/ded/agservices/pdffiles/publications/Annual_Reports/AAC/2010/aac_2010_annual_report.pdf

13. Next scheduled meeting of the AAC is April 19, 2011 @ 7:30pm in Room B at the Upcounty Regional Services Center in Germantown.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Agricultural Marketing Professional AMPS meeting with AMPS from VA March 29, 2011.
Annual Montgomery Weed Control Meeting-March 31, 2011
Farm Bureau Board of Directors April 5, 2011

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Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
Agenda for April 19, 2011

1.Introduction of new members.(See Attachment A for updated list of AAC members)

2.Approval of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes from March 15, 2011. (See Attachment B.)

3.Farmland Preservation Update: BLT Easement Purchase Period was announced April 1, 2011 through May 30, 2011-$1.5 Million is available for BLT easement acquisitions. (See Attachment C.)

4. Follow up from the Planning Housing and Economic Development Work Session on the DED-Agricultural Services operating and capital budget for FY 2012. (See Attachment D.)

5. Update on the proposed changes to the Commercial Residential Zones ZTA 11-01and the linkage with the Building Lot Termination BLT Program. (See Attachment E.)

6.Discussion surrounding MCPS property in Potomac rented by Nick Maravell-Nick's Organics. The DED has been asked to explore an alternative location for the 2012 growing season.

7.House Bill 536 regarding septic easements did not pass. The bill was approved by both the House and Senate Committees (See Attachment F.)and the bill sat on the Senate Floor for 7 hours waiting for a final vote and the 2011 session ended. The DED and DPS worked out all of the amendments with MDE and CBF. Once the MDE COMAR regulations are adopted septic easements will be prohibited.

8.Update on House Bill 209 MALPF Allowable Residential Uses-Child Lots. Montgomery and Baltimore Counties opposed this bill (See Attachment G.)

Upcoming Meetings and Events:
WIC/FMNP Training for farmers/vendors April 19, 2011@11:00am
Earth Day Tree Planting by MSCD April 22, 2011 Closed Oaks Landfill
Zoning Rewrite Process-Renewable Energy April 26, 2011@3:00 pm
Regional Ag work Group in Loundon C. VA April 29, 2011

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Montgomery County
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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
Agenda for May 17, 2011

1.Introductions if needed?

2.Approval of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes from April 19, 2011.
(See Attachment A.) **CE response letter to MCFB-Tree Trimming Concerns- New Process for filing requests for tree trimming through DED-Agricultural Services.**

3.Farmland Preservation Update: BLT Easement Purchase Period-April 1 through May 30, 2011-$1.5 Million is available for BLT easement acquisitions. Please make an appointment with John Z if you want to apply to the BLT program.

4. The Planning Housing and Economic Development Work Session recommended approval on April 13, 2010 the DED-Agricultural Services operating and capital budget for FY 2012. The Full County Council approved the Agricultural Preservation CIP on May 10, 2011. Cathy Yingling accepted the PAA position assigned to UME and she came back to DED on May 9, 2011.

5. May 17, 2011 Letter from the AAC to the County Council on the proposed changes to the Commercial Residential Zones ZTA 11-01 reducing/eliminating the incentive density for Building Lot Termination BLT Program. (See Attachment B.)

6. Update on the Zoning Rewrite Process: The MNCPPC asked the DED to participate in a special meeting with alternative energy company representatives. The use of solar and wind energy systems represents a permitting issue with the County DPS that will be addressed through a Zoning Text Amendment the County Executive has requested. Solar City is working with Ruppert Companies on 40,000 square feet of free standing solar panels for their headquarters operation.

7. Update on House Bill 209 MALPF Allowable Residential Uses-Child Lots. Montgomery and Baltimore Counties opposed this bill and it did not pass the 2011 Legislative Session. The MDA-MALPF Board of Trustees asked for the legislation to be discussed over the summer.
(See Attachment C.)

8. The Horticultural Work Group staffed by DED has drafted a ZTA to allow Agricultural Processing, Landscape Contractor, and Horticultural Nursery as a conditional use permitted by right in the RDT zone. The size threshold for permitted use is recommended on a sliding scale basis ranging from 2-5-25 acres.

9.Farmers Markets for the 2011 are under way. This year the County has a total of 20 farmers 4 of which are new this year. (See Attachment D.)

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10. The 22nd Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale Event is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday July 23 and 24, 2011 from 10:00am to 4:00. There are 12 farms on the tour and we have funding sponsors- MCFB, UME, and MSCD to help share the costs to promote this event.

11. Next scheduled meeting of the AAC is June 21, 2011 @ 7:30 pm in Room B at the UpCounty Regional Services Center in Germantown.

Upcoming Meeting and Events:

UME Volunteer Recognition Dinner May 18, 2011@5:00pm
MALPF program Administrators June 1, 2011@10:00am

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Montgomery County
Agricultural Reserve

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Director

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
Revised Agenda for June 21, 2011

1. Introductions if needed?

2. Approval of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes from May 17, 2011. (See Attachment A.)

3. Farmland Preservation Update: BLT Easement Purchase Period-April 1 through May 30, 2011- We received a total of 7 applicants and the APAB recommended the ranking of these applicants on June 14, 2011.

4. The Application of Footnote 48 for certain non-agricultural uses in the RDT zone. Examples: Bed and Breakfast and Renewable Energy Distribution Systems-Solar panels. (See Attachment B.)

5. Proposed Changes to the State Nutrient Management Regulations-Chuck Schuster

6. Follow Up from the June 8, 2011 meeting with Council Member Nancy Floreen-Amendments to Forest Conservation Law Chapter 22A-5 Exemptions- David Weitzer

7. Discussion surrounding the costs of Deer Vehicle Collisions in certain states: (See Attachment C.)

8. Notice surrounding the Allen Family Foods claiming bankruptcy. (See Attachment D.)

9. MDA Agricultural Workgroup meeting on the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Thursday July 7, 2011 from 9:00 to 12:00. (See Attachment E.)

10. Discussion regarding the State Highway Administration outreach to some agricultural producers in April 2011. The SHA is requesting permission to enter certain farms to perform environmental analysis for phosphorus and sediments from direct or indirect roadway runoff. (See Attachment F.)

11. Complaints surrounding tree trimming conducted by Pepco along rural roads. (See Attachment G.)

12. Brochure handed out for the 22nd Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale Event will be provided. The Farm Tour is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday July 23 and 24, 2011 from 10:00am to 4:00. There are 12 farms on the tour and we have funding sponsors contributing a total of $2,000 - MCFB, UME, and MSCD to help share the costs to promote this event.

13. Hand out new version of the Agricultural Reserve Resource Guide. The County DED contributed $3,000 for the printing costs of this brochure.

14. Next scheduled meeting of the AAC is July 19, 2011 @ 7:30 pm in Room B at the UpCounty Regional Services Center in Germantown.

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Montgomery County
Agricultural Reserve

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
Agenda for July 19, 2011

1. Introductions if needed?

2. Approval of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes from June 21, 2011. (See Attachment A.)

3. Farmland Preservation Update: BLT Easement Purchase Period-April 1 through May 30, 2011- The DED-APAB made BLT easement offers to three property owners involving 308 acres, 7 BLTs to be terminated at an estimated cost of $1.7 million. Once the offers are accepted the title reports will be ordered and the BLT easement purchase contract will be submitted to the property owners. Stay tuned for more.

4. Follow up discussion surrounding the Application of Footnote 48 for certain non-agricultural uses in the RDT zone. Examples: Bed and Breakfast, Transitory use, Fire station, (publicly supported), Home occupation, (registered), Swimming pool, (private), and the proposed Renewable Energy Distribution Systems-Solar panels. (See Attachment B. to be handed out at the meeting.)

5. Follow Up meeting at MNCPPC held on July 13, 2011 regarding the June 8, 2011 meeting with Council Member Nancy Floreen-Amendments to Forest Conservation Law Chapter 22A-5 Exemptions-Agricultural activities-(See Attachment C.)

6. Discussion surrounding the costs of Deer Vehicle Collisions in certain states: (See Attachment D.)

7. Follow up from the MDA Agricultural Workgroup on the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Thursday July 7, 2011 from 9:00 to 12:00.

8. Follow up from the June 30, 2011 meeting surrounding Montgomery Countryside Alliance Complaints on tree trimming conducted by Pepco along rural –Rustic Roads. Outcome from the Monday July 18, 2011 Transportation and Environment Committee Work session on Pepco's Tree Trimming Program. (See Attachment E.)

9. Horticultural Green Industry Work Group meeting on Wednesday July 21, 2011 to review the DED staff Draft ZTA.

10. Agricultural Leaders Luncheon on Monday August 15, 2011 at 12:00. Please RSVP by August 3, 2011 by sending back the post card.

11. The August 16, 2011 AAC meeting will be cancelled because of County Fair week.

12. Next scheduled meeting of the AAC is September 20, 2011 @ 7:30 pm in Room B at the UpCounty Regional Services Center in Germantown.

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Joint Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board
Agenda for September 20, 2011

1. Introductions:

2. Discussion with Dean Cheng-I Wei of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the University of Maryland

<u>If Time Permits we will consider the items listed below</u>

3. Approval of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes from July 19, 2011. (Attachment A. to be handed out at the meeting)

4. Farmland Preservation Update: BLT Easement Program- Three BLT easement offers were made to three property owners involving 308 acres, 7 BLTs to be terminated at an estimated cost of $1.7 million. All three property owners accepted the offers and the title reports were ordered. We are working with several attorneys and developers regarding opportunities for the private BLT program in the White Flint and Twin Brook areas.

5. Follow up on the Application of Footnote 48 for certain non-agricultural uses in the RDT zone. Examples: Bed and Breakfast, Transitory use, Fire station, (publicly supported), Home occupation, (registered), Swimming pool, (private), and the proposed Renewable Energy Distribution Systems-Solar panels. (See Attachment B. to be handed out at the meeting.)

6. Status of the Horticultural Green Industry Work Group and ZTA meeting July 20, 2011.

7. Follow up from the August 30, 2011 Agricultural Producers Summit sponsored by MCA.

8. Next scheduled meeting of the AAC is October 18, 2011 @ 7:30 pm in Room B at the UpCounty Regional Services Center in Germantown.

9. Please note that the November 15, 2011 AAC Meeting will be cancelled because it is on the same night of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Dinner that starts at 6:30 pm –Agricultural Center Fair Grounds.

E:aacseptember2011mtg.(acc2011)

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting

Agenda

October 18, 2011

1. Introductions: If needed

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from July 19, 2011. (See Attachment A.)

3. Approval of the AAC Minutes from September 20, 2011 – (to be handed out at the meeting).

4. Follow-up on the Council staff response regarding Application of Footnote 48 for certain non-agricultural uses in the RDT zone – TDR Easements. (See Attachment B.)

5. Status of the Horticultural Green Industry Work Group ZTA.

6. Follow-up discussion of the proposed UME-AED staffing plan and meetings from September 20, 2011 and October 5, 2011. (See Attachment C.)

7. County Council Bill 29-11 sponsored by George Leventhal. The Bill will establish sunset dates and consolidation of Boards, Committees, and Commissions. Public Hearing October 18, 2011 @ 1:30 p.m. (See Attachment D.)

8. Farmland Preservation Update – (See Attachment E.)

9. FY 2013 Operating Budget – Recommendation reduction of general fund is 10% and equates to $50,000 for Agricultural Services Division.

10. County Council HHS Committee - Establishing a Montgomery Food Council October 20, 2011.

11. The AAC **November 15, 2011** meeting will be **cancelled** because it is on the same night as the Montgomery County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Dinner.

12. The **next meeting of the AAC** is scheduled for Tuesday **December 20, 2011**.

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e:aacOctobermtg2011(aac11)

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda -December 20, 2011

1. Introductions: If needed

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from October 18, 2011. (See Attachment A.)
   Please note the November 15, 2011 AAC meeting was cancelled due to the Annual MCFB.

3. Status of the Horticultural Green Industry Work Group ZTA. (See Attachment B.)
   November 16, 2011 meeting with Council Members Rice and Floreen
   December 21, 2011 meeting with the County Executive

4. Follow-up discussion of the proposed UME-AED staffing plan and meetings from the November 1, 2011 meeting. The Dean met with the County Executive on November 17, 2011. The Dean would like to meet with the agricultural community again after the holidays. (See Attachment C.)

5. County Council Bill 29-11 Boards, Committees, and Commissions-Sunset and Consolidation sponsored by George Leventhal. The Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee recommended the Bill should not be enacted and the Full Council supported this recommendation. (See Attachment D.)

6. New Appointments to the Agricultural Advisory Committee- We need two farmer representatives to replace Tom Linthicum and Gene Walker. The Rustic Roads Advisory Committee also needs a farmer representative to replace Fred Lechlider.
   (See Attachment E.)

7. Follow up from the December 5, 2011 Public Hearing with the Montgomery County Delegation on 2012 Bills- MC 7-12 Septic Easements (HB 536) and MC 16-12 Enforceability of Recorded Covenants for Ag activities and structures on TDR Easement Properties- MCFB Resolution No. 1. (See Attachment F.)

8. **Farmland Preservation Update:**

   The BLT program serialized the first BLT-001 and the easement settlement is scheduled. Two additional BLT easement settlements are scheduled after the new year. Totals-3 BLT easement settlements-308 acres-7 BLTs terminated-Average cost $245K/BLT.
   The AEP program easement purchase period after the holidays-$1,600/acre Base AEP price.

9. FY 2013 Operating Budget – Recommendation reduction of general fund is 1.9% and equates to $120,000 for the DED. Agricultural Services share of the reduction is pending.

10. Bill 8-11 Excise Tax on Disposable Carryout Bags-Effective January 1, 2012-a bag provided for perishable items or at the point of sale at a seasonal events such as farmers market, street fair, yard sale or by occasional retailer are all exempt. This would include on-farm markets.
(See Attachment G.)

11. Application for Rezoning in Bethesda to remove TDR receiving area. (See Attachment H.)

12. The next meeting of the AAC is scheduled for Tuesday January 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm

e:aacDecemberrmtg2011(aac11)