

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee
Agenda April 19, 2022

1. Call the meeting to order and introductions.
2. Approval of the March 15, 2022, AAC minutes.
3. **Bill 40-21- Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems - Amendments (McCartney-Green)**

All Agricultural Groups opposed the Bill 40-21 during the November 30, 2021, Public Hearing. The Transportation and Environment- T&E Committee work session is still pending. The Council is working on the CIP and Operating Budgets through April.

4. **ZTA 21-07 Height and Density Allocations for MPDUs-Affordable Housing-**

*As a follow up from Council Member Reimer request to the Office of Legislative Oversight-OLO for a status on the use of both TDRs and BLTs, the OAG met with the staff of the OLO and MNCPPC to begin discussions on the data sets that are kept for TDRs. The OAG responded back to MNCPPC regarding there preliminary findings that only 500 TDRs = 2,500 acres still are retained on properties in the TDR Sending Area. **The OAG does not support his finding.** The OAG found properties totaling 8,000 acres = 4,869 TDRs that are **NOT** encumbered by TDR easements. This figure does not include the properties that still have retained TDRs even though they are encumbered by TDR easements.*

5. **Final Reading of Bill 16-21-Environmental Sustainability- Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards-April 19, 2022**

There have been three T&E Committee work sessions on Bill 16-21. The T&E Committee did not recommend agricultural buildings be exempt from this Bill 16-21. The T&E Committee stated that they would like all buildings 25,000 square feet and larger including churches to be covered by this Bill 16-21. Please see the attached third letter from the AAC to the County Council recommending that Bill 16-21 be amended, and Montgomery County should follow the lead of Washington State and exempt all existing and new agricultural buildings.

6. **Rustic Roads Master Plan Update-**

*The OAG is developing a power point presentation titled **The Rustic Roads Through the Eyes of the Farmer** that will feature pictures of Rustic Roads along with testimonials from farmers regarding their views of the Rustic Roads program and MCDOT maintenance and improvements. There are about 10 farmers that have responded so far. The APAB has prepared a very informative letter outlining the concerns the Board has with the Rustic Roads. The OAG remitted comments to the MNCPPC staff on the Planning Board Briefing document that contains recommends minimizing drainage ditches along the Rustic Roads and it provides recommendations and guidelines for foliage and tree maintenance along Rustic Roads.*

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/RusticRoadsFunctionalMasterPlan1996ocr300.pdf>

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/rustic-roads-master-plans/>

7. **The County Council Recommendation on the FY23 Ag Land Preservation CIP**

On March 29, 2022, The County Council recommended an increase of \$500K in Current Revenue for FY23 to cover the on-going Planning, Design and Supervision-PDS expenses that are not related to CIP that we have been trying to migrate back to the Operating Budget since 2010. The PHED Committee recommended these PDS expenses should be removed from the CIP in FY24. The OAG has shown the CE and the County Council the amounts of local funding allocated to Ag Land Preservation in Frederick, Howard, Carroll, and Baltimore Counties that range from \$2.0 million to \$5.5 million per year.

8. **National Agricultural Day and County Council Proclamation-**

Council members Rice, Navarro, and Friedson sponsored a Proclamation for National Agricultural Day on March 22, 2022, at the beginning of the County Council Work Session. Leaders of the agricultural groups were invited along with the farmers that participate with the Farm to Food Bank Program.

9. **County Executive FY 23 Operating Budget Recommendations March 15, 2022.**

The OAG proposed a new Business Development Specialist – The BDS position will reinstate the BDS position that Kristin Fisher once held and prior to 2010.

The MSCD proposed a new Engineering Position-Technical assistance on small ponds etc. County Staff updates-Cathy Yingling UM-Extension resigned March 31, 2022

Alga Piechocinski-UM Extension-4H retiring April 30, 2022

Linda Walters-UM Extension-Master Gardeners retiring July 2022

Rick Walter, UM-Extension Director retiring October 2022

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-April 19, 2022

Agricultural Advisory Committee-April 19, 2022

PHED Committee-OAG FY23 Operating Budget-April 25, 2022

Poolesville Crossvines Groundbreaking-April 28, 2022

CE update with MAP, MCFB, OAG-April 28, 2022

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- May 3, 2022

Western MD Trucking Forum-SHA-May 10, 2022

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-May 13, 2022