

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee -July 19, 2022
Office of Agriculture- Jeremy Criss

Call the meeting to Order-

Approval of the June 21, 2022, AAC minutes-

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 OAG believes the Council will schedule this Bill after the summer recess in September.

Office of Legislative Oversight on the Status of TDRs and BLTs -

The OAG staff and MNCPPC are working together to review and update the status on the use of both TDRs and BLTs. The OAG is encouraged by the MNCPPC responses regarding their preliminary findings. We are getting closer to the number of remaining TDRs in both the Sending Area=Agricultural Reserve Zone and the TDR Receiving Areas = Overlay Zones. The MNCPPC has reported that no new TDR/BLT Receiving Areas had been recommended by the Planning Board for over 10 years. This finding helps to further demonstrate that the County Government and MNCPPC have deemphasized the use of both TDRs and BLTs.

Introduction of Bill 13-22 Buildings-Comprehensive Building Decarbonation-Public Hearing July 26, 2022, at 1:30 pm.

This is another climate change bill similar to Bill 16-21 where the AAC requested all existing and new agricultural buildings should be exempt and the County Council ignored this recommendation.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220614/20220614_3E.pdf

On the bottom of page (2) the Exemptions sections begins on line 27 and carries over to page (3).

27 (c) **Exemptions.** All-electric building standards do not apply to new
28 construction, major renovations, or additions in:
29 (1) the emergency backup systems of buildings that require an
30 emergency system and hence backup power;
31 (2) buildings primarily used by a utility regulated by the Maryland
32 Public Service Commission for the generation of electric power or
33 steam;
34 (3) applications for building permits submitted to the Department

- 35 prior to the effective date of the regulation;
- 36 (4) district combined heat and powers facilities; and
- 37 (5) buildings used for the following uses, as defined in Chapter 59:
- 38 (A) Manufacturing and Production uses;
- 39 (B) Crematory;
- 40 (C) Life Sciences; [and]
- 41 (D) Commercial Kitchens **and**
- 42 (E) Agricultural Buildings.**

Rustic Roads Master Plan Update-

Please see the attached messages from MNCPPC dated July 15, 2022, outlining the progress and status of the Rustic Roads Master Plan Update. Additional comments are due to MNCPPC on July 25, 2022.

*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 15 farmers that have responded so far.*

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

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

County/State Staff updates-

The recruitment announcement to fill Cathy Yingling position was released and 42 candidates have applied by the July 14, 2022 deadline.

The OAG is working with Rick Walter UM-Extension to create a contract for Alga Piechocinski.

The OAG is working with Rick Walter UM-Extension to find a replacement for Santana Mays who is now working in Baltimore County Extension-4H. Santana will continue to us help us in MC for the spring show, 4H camps, and County Ag Fair to weigh in animals.

The OAG is working with Rick Walter UM-Extension to find a replacement for Linda Walters.

FY 23 Operating Budget for the OAG-

The OAG is working with the Office of Human Resources to:

Fill the BDS position that Kristin Fisher once held and prior to 2010.

Fill the MSCD Engineering Position-Technical assistance on small ponds etc.

2022 Farm Tour- The OAG will be sponsoring the 2022 Farm Tour that will be held on this Saturday July 23 and Sunday July 24, 2022, featuring a total of 19 farms. The Brochure is at the print shop and should be available next week. This year's Farm Tour will feature a New APP: where visitors can download Visit Montgomery's Adventure Planner App to access a special farm tour digital passport.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Agricultural Advisory Committee-July 19, 2022
Montgomery County Farm Tour-July 23 & 24, 2022
MCPS Summer Camps-August 1, 2, 3, 2022
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- August 2, 2022
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-August 9, 2022
Montgomery Soil Conservation District-August 12, 2022
Montgomery County Agricultural Fair-August 13-20, 2022
Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-August 15, 2022
Agricultural Advisory Committee-August 16, 2022, Cancelled due to the County Ag Fair
COG FARM Committee Tour of Ag Reserve-September 9, 2022