

**Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee -June 21, 2022**  
Office of Agriculture- Jeremy Criss

**Call the meeting to Order-**

**Approval of the April 19, 2022, AAC minutes-***Please note there was no meeting in May-*

**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 approved the CIP and Operating Budgets on May 26, 2022, that the Council is on recess until June 13, 2022.*

**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. We learned there were internal reports from 2012 and 2015 from MNCPPC to County Council that were never sent. We believe these reports show that no new TDR/BLT Receiving Areas had been recommended by the Planning Board. This finding helps to further demonstrate that the County has 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](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.
- 42 (E) Agricultural Buildings including but not limited to agricultural buildings used for Agritourism and Farm Alcohol Production.**

### **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 15 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 April 21, 2022, 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. The OAG remitted to the Planning staff the days and times for all of the Agricultural organizations and as of now the Planning staff has only met with the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board.*

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

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

### **FY 23 Operating Budget for the OAG-**

The OAG is working with the Office of Human Resources to fill Cathy Yingling' s position. 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.

On July 1st, the OAG will begin 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.

County/State Staff updates-

Linda Walters-UM Extension-Master Gardeners retiring July 2022

Rick Walter, UM-Extension Director retiring October 2022

**2022 Farm Tour-** The OAG will be sponsoring the 2022 Farm Tour that will be held on 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.

**Next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-** July 19, 2022-

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Agricultural Advisory Committee-June 21, 2022

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- July 5, 2022

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-July 8, 2022

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-July 12, 2022

Agricultural Advisory Committee-July 19, 2022

Montgomery County Farm Tour-July 23 & 24, 2022

MCPS Summer Camps-August 2,3,4, 2022

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair-August 13-20, 2022

Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-August 15, 2022

COG FARM Committee Tour of Ag Reserve-September 9, 2022