

**Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee
Agenda March 15, 2022**

1. Call the meeting to order and introductions.
2. Approval of the February 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 March.

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. This includes the Development Right Fund that was created as a safety net if developers did not purchase TDRs. The Development rights Fund was sunset in 1995 because developers purchased TDRs. The last TDR status report was done in 2008.

5. **Follow up on Bill 16-21-Environmental Sustainability- Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards**

There have been two T&E Committee work sessions on Bill 16-21 and a third is scheduled for March 14, 2022. The letter from the AAC to the County Council recommended that Bill 16-21 should be amended, and Montgomery County should follow the lead of Washington State and exempt all existing and new agricultural buildings.

6. **Beginning Farmer Course-** The Beginning Farmer Course will start Thursday, February 10, and run for a total of 9 weeks. For more information, visit the registration website. The local in-person classes will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Topics will include soils, crop planning, financing, equipment, permits and licenses, and pest management. The OAG will participate on April 7, 2022 to review the County permitting and licensing requirements.

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

Mike Scheffel and Jeremy Criss are preparing a power point presentation that will feature pictures of Rustic Roads along with testimonials from farmers regarding their views of the Rustic Roads program and MDCOT maintenance and improvements. The APAB has prepared a very informative letter outlining the concerns the Board has with the Rustic Roads. *Please see the attached message and guidelines on 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/>

8. **Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation-**

The MALPF will accept easement applications on July 1, 2022, and there are some limited opportunities for funding in Round Two which require matching funds from the County. Anyone interested in exploring this opportunity please contact Mike Scheffel in the OAG to understand the requirements and the deadlines.

9. **PHED Committee Recommendation on the FY23 Ag Land Preservation CIP** On March 7, 2022 PHED 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.

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

11. **County Executive FY 23 Operating Budget Recommendations** will be released on March 15, 2022.

OAG and the MSCD Operating Budget-Status of requested new positions.

County Staff updates-Cathy Yingling UM-Extension resigning March 31, 2022

Rick Walter, UM-Extension Director retiring July 2022

12. **The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee** is April 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm. We should discuss conducting this meeting in person and held at the Up County Regional Services Center in Germantown.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Agricultural Advisory Committee-March 15, 2022

Sherwood High School Farm Tours-March 16, 2022

National Agriculture Day with the County Council-March 22, 2022

Community Solar Webinar-OAG, MCA, MC Green Bank-March 24, 2022

Annual Montgomery Weed Control Board of Directors-March 25, 2022

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

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-April 8, 2022

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-April 12, 2022