

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee -November 15, 2022
Office of Agriculture- Jeremy Criss

Call the meeting to Order-

Approval of the October 18, 2022, AAC minutes-

Bill 40-21- Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems - Amendments (McCartney-Green)

During the October 24, 2022, Transportation and Environment Committee work session several questions were raised that DEP staff did not have all the information. Another T&E Committee work session will be scheduled, and we do not expect this legislation to be scheduled until the new County Council begins after the holidays.

Bill 13-22 Buildings-Comprehensive Building Decarbonation scheduled for a second Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee on November 3, 2022.

During the November 3, 2022, PHED Committee Work Session, the Committee agreed to exempt all farming uses as defined in Chapter 59 Zoning including Farm Alcohol Production. The Bill is scheduled for a full Council Work Session on Tuesday November 15, 2022.

Bill 18-22 Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments-

This Bill 18-22 Noise Control-Leaf Removal Equipment was introduced on June 21, 2022, and the Public Hearing was on September 20, 2022. Some of the agricultural groups remitted letters to the County Council opposing the Bill 18-22. A County Council work session has not been scheduled yet.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220920/202209209.pdf>

Bill 24-22 Streets and Roads-Amendments from the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee

During the October 17, 2022, Transportation and Environment Committee work session the Bill 24-22 Streets and Roads was discussed. Some of the agricultural groups remitted letters to the County Council opposing the RRAC amendments to Bill 24-22. The Committee agreed to delay the RRAC recommended amendments to Bill 24-22 that would increase the number of RRAC committee members from 7 to 9 and remove the income requirements for farmers. The Committee agreed to assign the RRAC recommended amendments to the Rustic Roads Master Plan process that is currently underway including the Planning Board public hearing on November 17, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

Rustic Roads Master Plan Update-

Here's the press release for the November 17, 2022, Planning Board Public Hearing:

[Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan Working Draft to be presented to the Planning Board on October 6 - Montgomery Planning](#)

Please see the attached draft letter from Doug Lechliger outlining his personal views of the Rustic Roads Program.

*Lori Larson has agreed to present the power point presentation titled **The Rustic Roads Through the Eyes of the Farmer** that features pictures of Rustic Roads along with testimonials from farmers regarding their views of the Rustic Roads program and MCDOT maintenance and improvements.*

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

Comments on the Draft Office of Legislative Oversight-OLO report are due back to OLO staff on November 16, 2022. The Chapter 5 Summary of Findings and OLO Recommendations is still pending.

The findings from this report will show that the County Government and MNCPPC have not proposed new receiving capacity for TDRs for the past 10 + years. The findings will also show that the imbalance of TDRs in the sending area is more than three times higher than the total TDR capacity in receiving areas. The OAG is hopeful that the new Planning Board and new County Council will help to address the imbalance of TDRs that has existed since the program began.

UME Staff updates-

Chuck Schuster has been selected to serve at the Acting/Interim Area Extension Director that Rick Walter held.

The Master Gardeners administrative position to replace Linda Walters was posted a second time and it closed on October 28, 2022, and the applicants are under review.

The 4H Agent Associate position that Santana Mays held was posted on September 29, 2022, and it closed on October 28, 2022, and the applicants are under review.

*University of Maryland Extension is seeking to fill **ten (10) Tech Extension Educator/Navigator** positions, with one position at each of the following county Extension office locations:*

- *Central Maryland (1 position in Montgomery or Howard County)*

Jeremy does not know where this position will be assigned Montgomery or Howard County?

FY 23 Operating Budget for the OAG:

The BDS position that Kristin Fisher once held and prior to 2010 was posted and the closing date is October 25, 2022.

The MSCD Engineering Position-Technical assistance on small ponds was posted September 29, 2022, by OHR and only one candidate applied. The OHR will post this position again.

Update on the FY22 Farm to Food Bank-F2FB Program-

Please see the attached announcement and requirements for the Capacity Building Grants.

Proposal on Corn Stover/Fodder used as an alternative clean energy:

During the summer, the Office of Agriculture-OAG started to hear about an initiative promoted by Johnny Jamison. This initiative would consist of commodity farmers redirecting corn residue/stover/fodder as an alternative clean source of energy and not residue management/soil amendments. Please note that the OAG is not promoting this initiative; and the OAG has agreed to make sure the agricultural community and agricultural groups are aware of this initiative and to conduct a survey for farmer interest etc. Please see the attached description of this project that was prepared by Allan Marega of Global Supply Solutions, LLC.

Next Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

December 20, 2022, at 7:00 pm

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 15, 2022
Rustic Roads Master Plan Update-Public Hearing-November 17, 2022
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-December 8, 2022-Location???
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-December 9, 2022
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-December 13, 2022-Cancelled
Agricultural Advisory Committee-December 20, 2022