

**Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee -October 18, 2022**  
Office of Agriculture- Jeremy Criss

**Call the meeting to Order-**

**Approval of the September 20, 2022, AAC minutes-**

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

*The Bill 40-21 will be discussed during the October 24, 2022, Transportation and Environment Committee. The OAG remitted to the agricultural groups an amended copy of the Bill 40-21 that removes all of the sections that would be burdensome to property owners. The OAG suggests that the agricultural groups need to schedule a meeting with the County Council President Gabe Albornoz to request this Bill be delayed until next year when the new County Council begins.*

**Bill 18-22 Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments-** *This Bill 18-22 was introduced back in June and the Public Hearing was on September 20, 2022. Please see the attached letter from the AAC opposing this Bill 18-22.*

<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**

*The Bill 24-22 Streets and Roads will be discussed during a Work Session with the Transportation and Environment Committee on October 17, 2022. The RRAC is recommending amendments to Bill 24-22 that will increase the number of RRAC committee members from 7 to 9 and remove the income requirements for farmers. Please see the attached letter from the AAC on the amendments to Bill 24-22.*

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2022/20221017/20221017TE1.pdf>

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

*The Office of Legislative Oversight-OLO staff has presented draft sections of the final report and the OAG and MNCPPC are providing comments and additional information. The total supply of TDRs in the AR Zone=Sending Area +4,000 and the total demand from 131 TDR Overlay zones=Receiving Areas 1,117 TDRs. With diminished capacity at 50% this means that only 558 TDRs will be realized in these TDR Overlay Zones. The OAG believes 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. Here is a recent article from the Delmarva Farmer that provides the farmers perspective on the importance of how farmers use the equity from the TDR and BLT programs [Saving suburban farms, and their value – American Farm Publications](#) There is another*

group meeting scheduled for October 26, 2022 and OAG believes the final OLO report should be completed in November.

**Bill 13-22 Buildings-Comprehensive Building Decarbonation scheduled for Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee on October 17, 2022.**

All agricultural groups provided letters to the County Council in opposition. Hans Riemer has provided the language to exempt agricultural and farming uses from Bill 13-22 and added to the existing exemptions for manufacturing, production, crematory, and commercial kitchens.

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2022/20221017/20221017\\_PHED2.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2022/20221017/20221017_PHED2.pdf)

**Rustic Roads Master Plan Update-**

On October 3, 2022, the OAG received the press release for the Rustic Roads Master Plan Working Draft.

Here's the press release:

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

The MNCPPC staff will be presenting The Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan Update Working Draft to the Planning Board on Thursday October 6, 2022, and staff is asking the Planning Board to approve it as the Public Hearing Draft. There is a proposed Planning Board Public Hearing on Thursday, November 17, 2022, with more details to follow.

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.

**County/State Staff updates-**

The new OAG staff replacing Cathy Yingling will be delayed until November 10, 2022, because the CAO requested a month to help recruit a new Executive Administrative Aide.

The new UME staff Arnelle Ngalula Quashine for Alga Piechocinski's Faculty Tenure position started on September 12, 2022.

Rick Walter's Area Extension Director position was announced, two candidates were interviewed, and the UME announced there was a failed search for this position that will be announced again.

The Master Gardeners administrative position to replace Linda Walters was posted and the UME announced there was a failed search for this position that will be announced again.

The 4H Agent Associate that Santana Mays held was finally posted on September 29, 2022.

### **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.

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

Please see the attached report outlining the progress of this program for FY22 where a total of 32 farmers are participating by expanding local food production and selling the food to Manna Food Center for people in need at competitive prices. For the past three years, the funding for F2FB program has been divided into two components-Direct Purchases of Food from participating farmers and Capacity Building Grants to help farmers implement new infrastructure to grow more local food. With the number of participating farmers increasing each year, the funding for Direct Purchases of Food ran out in June of 2022. A decision was made to temporarily suspend the Capacity Building Grants program and move this funding for Direct Purchases of Food. The program partners worked with the County Government to propose a FY23 Supplemental Appropriation totaling \$150,000 to reinstate the Capacity Building Grants component. This Supplemental Appropriation was introduced on October 11, 2022, and we expect the funds will be available in November. The farmers will remit grant applications in November so the funds can be distributed to the highest ranked farmers prior to March 2023 and prior to the 2023 growing season.

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20221011/20221011\\_4J.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20221011/20221011_4J.pdf)

### **Full County Council work sessions on the Thrive 2050 Plan**

There are full County Council work sessions to discuss new chapters on the Environment, Economic Development and Racial Equity and the November 2021 PHED Committee Draft. Please see the attached letter from the Office of Agriculture on the Thrive 2050 PHED Committee draft.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/resources/Thrive2050/index.html>

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Quarterly meeting with CE, MAP, OAG, and MCFB-October 13, 2022

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-October 14, 2022

PHED Committee Work Session- Bill 13-22 Decarbonization-October 17, 2022

T&E Committee Work Session-Bill 24-22 Streets and Roads-October 17, 2022

Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 18, 2022

SCA Event on Regenerative Agriculture-October 22, 2022

T&E Committee Work Session-Bill 40-21 Septic Tank Pump-October 24, 2022

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Dinner Banquet-November 1, 2022

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-November 8, 2022  
Rustic Roads Master Plan Update-Public Hearing-November 17, 2022