

**Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee -April 11, 2023**  
Office of Agriculture- Jeremy Criss

**Call the meeting to Order and Introductions-**

**Approval of the March 21, 2023 AAC minutes-**

**Update on the PFAS Article on the Wells #2 and #3 in Poolesville taken offline because they detected Forever Chemicals-PFAS These wells are located towards the center of town and in residential and commercial areas.**

**Timeline of events surrounding this PFAS issue**

January 3, 2023	Community Meeting in the Town of Poolesville
January 9, 2023	Ag Community Leaders and Ag agency staff meeting to develop a proactive strategy
January 26, 2023	Webinar conducted by Bloom representatives on PFAS testing etc.
January 30, 2023	Meeting between PEER, MCA, SCA, OAG, DEP, CEX to review PFAS test results
January 31, 2023	Letter from PEER, MCA, SCA to the CE and Council President on PFAS
February 7, 2023	Follow up meeting for Ag Community Leaders and Bloom representatives
February 8, 2023	DEP Briefing with the CE on the letter from PEER, MCA, SCA
February 16, 2023	The County Executive supports House Bill 319, <i>Environment – Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements</i>
February 21, 2023	The County Attorney reported that MC does not have the authority at this time to ban the application of biosolids on farmland.
February 24, 2023	The OAG has included a new PFAS resource page on our website outlining all of the applicable research on this issue. <a href="https://montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/faq.html">https://montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/faq.html</a>
March 3, 2023	HB 319/SB 158 Pesticides Registration-PFAS Testing and Colby Ferguson does not believe it will move forward in 2023.
March 14, 2023	The Federal EPA has issued a new <a href="#">Enforceable Limits</a> of PFAS in drinking water.
March 28, 2023	The DC Water and Bloom Representatives conducted a tour of the Bloom Biosolids facility with members of the MCFB and Dale Tibbitts from CE.
May 22, 2023	There is a PFAS Summit scheduled for elected officials hosted at DC Waters Headquarters.

**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. On March 7, 2023, the County

Council passed a Resolution to extend the effective date of Bill 40-21. We will continue monitoring this Bill 40-21 that will be scheduled for a second T&E Committee Work Session.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230307/202303073A.pdf>

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

This Bill 18-22 Noise Control-Leaf Removal Equipment was discussed during the T&E Committee work session on February 13, 2023, Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe presented an amendment to permit the use of gasoline blowers for farming uses and agricultural producers. On March 7, 2023, the Full Council voted unanimously to support the amendment to exempt agricultural producers from this Bill 18-22. The Bill 18-22 was scheduled for final reading for a second time on March 21, 2023.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230321/202303214G.pdf>

**Introduction – March 14, 2023 Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan Update - Planning Board Draft** (Orlin)

Public Hearing is scheduled for 4/18/23 at 1:30 p.m.  
TE Committee work session will be scheduled at a later date.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230314/202303145D.pdf>

Found in this link, <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Rustic-Roads-Functional-Master-Plan-Update-Volume-I -The-Plan-Planning-Board-Draft.pdf>

Page 59

Recommendations:

28. To add diversity to the Committee while continuing to give commodity farmers a strong voice, the County Council should revise the membership criteria in Section 49-80 as follows:

*Membership. The County Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the County Council, a Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. In making appointments, the Executive should strive to achieve diversity on the Committee in support of racial equity and social justice. The Committee has nine voting members. Each member must be a resident of the County. The Executive should appoint:*

- (1) three members who operate commercial farmland earning 50 percent or more of their income from farming;*
  - (2) one member who is a representative of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and has been recommended to the Executive by the AAC;*
  - (3) one member who knows rural preservation techniques through practical experience and training;*
  - (4) one member who knows roadway engineering through practical experience and training; and*
  - (5) three at-large members to be drawn from other users of rustic roads. Examples of the at-large members include, but are not limited to: a table crop farmer who does not earn more than 50 percent of their income from farming; an expert in tourism or historic sites along the roads; a member of a religious institution on a rustic road; an operator of an agritourism business, such as a winery, brewery, farm stand, or recreation or entertainment venue on a rustic road; or a person who regularly uses the roads to engage in or reach places for outdoor recreation, such as to bike, boat, kayak, hike, fish, ride horses, or go birding.*
- 

**Agricultural Representatives are needed on the following Boards and Committees**

Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-DOT Staff ????

Water Quality Advisory Work Group-DEP Staff [Amy.Stevens@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Amy.Stevens@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
*Travis Gorleski has requested to serve at the agricultural representative of the WQAWG.*

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-OAG Staff [Mike.Scheffel@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Mike.Scheffel@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
*Non-Farmer Member-Nick Deluca*  
*Farmer Member-John Fendrick-Replace with Randy Stabler*  
*Farmer Member-Michael Jamison*

Agricultural Advisory Committee-OAG Staff [Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)

The Administration has not processed an **announcement like the one that is attached** for AAC appointments for over two years. Moving forward, this outcome of delaying will result in all 15 AAC members will need action taken annually on the status of their appointments. This outcome is in conflict with the County Code Chapter 2B as outlined below where the AAC appointments are supposed to be staggered so that only 1/3 of the AAC members would need action taken annually.

**Sec. 2B-21. Agricultural Advisory Committee.**

(h) *Staff.* The Chief Administrative Officer must provide appropriate staff to the Committee. (2009 L.M.C., ch. 26, § 1; 2010 L.M.C., ch. 49, § 1; 2015 L.M.C., ch. 36, § 1.)

**Editor’s note**—2009 L.M.C., ch. 26, § 2, states: Transition. Section 2B-21, as added by Sec. 1 of this Act, establishes an Agricultural Advisory Committee. This Committee continues the Agricultural Advisory Committee created under Council Resolution 7-1138 and restructured under Council Resolution 8-705. The County Executive may reappoint, subject to Council confirmation, the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. **The Executive should continue to stagger the terms of the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee so that approximately one-third of the terms continue to expire each year.**

Farmer Members- **Announcement is attached and the deadline to apply is April 26, 2023**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Doug Lechliden</i>       | <i>Third term expired on 12-31-2022-Replace with Mathew Lechliden</i>            |
| <i>Susan Butler</i>         | <i>Deceased-Replace with Tim Hussmann</i>  |
| <i>Angie McNally</i>        | <i>first term expired on 12-31-2021-Replace with Michael Protas</i>              |
| <i>Pete Driscoll</i>        | <i>second term expired on 12-31-2020-Request Waiver for 3<sup>rd</sup> term?</i> |
| <i>Patrick Jamison</i>      | <i>second term expired on 12-31-2020-Request Waiver for 3<sup>rd</sup> term?</i> |
| <i>Eleanor Leak</i>         | <i>second term expired on 12-31-2021-Request Waiver for 3<sup>rd</sup> term?</i> |
| <i>James (Russ) Allnutt</i> | <i>second term which will end on 12-31-2025-Request reappointment</i>            |
| <i>Ben Butler</i>           | <i>second term which will end on 12-31 2023-Request reappointment</i>            |
| <i>Amanda Cather</i>        | <i>second term which will end on 12-31-2025-Request reappointment</i>            |
| <i>Jordan Cissel</i>        | <i>second term which will end on 12-31-2025-Request reappointment</i>            |
| <i>Jane Evans</i>           | <i>second term which will end on 12-31-2024-Request reappointment</i>            |
| <i>Lori Larson</i>          | <i>second term which will end on 12-31-2024-Request reappointment</i>            |

Non-Farmer Members

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>Aliza Silver</i> | <i>Aliza’s 7<sup>th</sup> term ended on 12-31-2021-Request reappointment</i> |
| <i>John Brewer</i>  | <i>John’s 1<sup>st</sup> term ended on 12-31-2021 -Request reappointment</i> |
| <i>Debra Tropp</i>  | <i>Debra’s 1<sup>st</sup> term ended on 12-31-2022-Request reappointment</i> |

**Farm Tire Recycling Program for Montgomery County**

The County DEP and DOT are scheduling a farm tire recycling program on Earth Day Weekend for both Saturday and Sunday 9:00 to 2:00 pm.

**Saturday April 22nd – Crabbs Branch Depot**  
17000 Crabbs Branch Way  
Rockville, MD 20855

**Sunday April 23rd – Poolesville Depot**  
19200 Jerusalem Road  
Poolesville, MD 20837

**\*\*Only farm tractor tires and smaller tires are acceptable – NO OTR solids or wheel loader tires are allowed.**

**Update on the October 2023 Retirement of Jeremy Criss, Director of the Office of Agriculture**

The Montgomery County Food Growers Association and Agricultural Advisory Committee remitted the **attached letters** to the County Executive, CE staff and County Council recommending the process to replace Jeremy Criss.

**Next AAC Meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2023**

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

- New and Beginning Farmers Training-February 2- April 6, 2023
- Agricultural Advisory Committee-April 11, 2023
- Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-April 14, 2023
- Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-May 2, 2023
- Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-May 9, 2023
- Montgomery County Farm Bureau Picnic-June 11, 2023