



THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2016

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)
FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Agricultural Services Manager
Department of Economic Development
SUBJECT: April 19, 2016 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on **Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room A at 7:00 pm.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Agricultural Services web site. Due to the County's paper reduction mandate, please print these attachments out and bring them with you to the meeting.

I hope to see you on Tuesday evening.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810

e:aacApril(aac16)

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda April 19, 2016

1. Meeting called to Order and Introductions
2. Approval of the January 19, 2016 AAC meeting minutes-Please note there was no meeting in February and due to the joint meeting of the AAC and APAB on March 15, 2016 the minutes still need to be approved.
3. Approval of the March 15, 2016 AAC meeting minutes

Presentation by Aliza Fishbein- JD/Masters of Public Health student at the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland. Aliza is conducting research on the background of and current status of composting in Montgomery County, Maryland. The ultimate goal is to come up with recommendations for expanding composting in the county. Aliza was born and raised in Montgomery County and this research will be presented to the Montgomery Food Council. Aliza is also involved in the county's agricultural community.

4. Update on the Office of Agriculture-OAG

On April 27, 2016 the PHED Committee will hold a work session to discuss the FY17 Operating Budget for the Office of Agriculture-OAG.

The Office of Agriculture is allocated a total of \$1,671,967 in County funding and consists of 9 positions-people that total 8.5 FTE.

<u>Source of Funding</u>	<u>Personnel Costs</u>	<u>Operating Costs</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>FTE</u>
General Fund	636,560	365,397	1,001,957	4.15
Water Quality Prot	217,199	102,801	320,000	2.1
<u>Capital Fund</u>	<u>245,409</u>	<u>104,591</u>	<u>350,000</u>	<u>2.25</u>
Totals	1,099,168	572,789	1,671,967	8.5

OAG will not function independently until DED is closed sometime this coming spring. The Agricultural Services will continue to operate under the DED until it closes. *Please note the last I heard the DED will not be closing down until June 30, 2016.*

The Ag Pres CIP program proposed appropriation for FY17 is \$1.1 million for easement acquisitions. The OAG has been following up on the Ag Pres Advisory Board request for new funding from the WQPC. The DEP is not recommending WQPC funding for the FY17 cycle and has asked for additional time to explore how a partnership with OAG can be achieved. The OAG will inform the APAB and AAC on the recommendations from the DEP.

5. Briefing with the Planning Board on the Building Lot Termination Program

The Planning Board conducted a briefing for the BLT program on April 7, 2016. The OAG staff attended the briefing and informed the Planning Board on the progress with the program. A total of 3,475 acres of TDR easement properties have been further protected terminating a total of 41 rooftops-BLTs (30 Public and 11 Private) and an additional 6 projects involving partial BLTs have been processed. The Planning staff announced there are several projects in various stages and phases of approval that will result in a total demand of 74 BLTs for BLT incentive density.

6. New Improvements and Communication Systems at the AHFP

New communication systems are still in the works for the ag agencies in Derwood. The Access Agreement was held up in Parks legal office because they wanted language in the Contract that would allow termination with Comcast at any time with no liability. Comcast found this language unacceptable given their \$40 K investment to run the cable up the driveway.

All of the utilities have been surveyed and marked.

The existing Verizon phones will be replaced with Comcast Business Service.

All phone numbers for agricultural agency staff will be the same.

The existing Verizon T-1 lines will be replaced for OAG, UM-Extension and the MSCD.

The FSA, NRCS and MDA will maintain their existing Verizon T-1 lines.

7. We are still looking for more new farmer members to serve on the AAC to replace the following folks: Drew Stabler, Jane Evans, David Heisler

David Weitzer requested a waiver for a third term

Eleanor Leak requested a first term

8. Please see the article and picture in the MCFB newsletter on the County Council Proclamation for National Agriculture Day. Presented by Council members Berliner, Rice and Navarro.
9. The Council is looking for new Planning Board member to replace Amy Presley (Republican or Independent) and deadline to apply is April 20, 2016.

10. ZTA 16-02 Agricultural Zone-Transferable Development Rights Requirements.

Follow up from the PHED Work Session March 21, 2016 on the ZTA.

Do to the push back from MCA and SCA the ZTA 16-02 was sent back to the Planning Bd.

There will also be an amendment to the subdivision regulations for the covenant recorded on the farm remainder of the subdivision when a farm tenant dwelling exists.

Follow up from April 7, 2016 meeting with George Leventhal, APAB and MAP. George suggested the agricultural community needs to talk with MCA and SCA to discuss a possible legislative solution.

11. **Ag Education Outreach Team**-Gene Kingsbury, Greg Glen, Caroline Taylor, Doug Tregoning and Jeremy Criss are working with high school students. Poolesville High School- January and Damascus High School and Sherwood High Schools-March. Field trips to farms for Damascus students is scheduled for April 20, 2016 and Sherwood High School students for May 3, 2016. The students will be visiting Rock Hill Orchard, Laytonsville Landscaping and Sod and Ruppert's Nursery.

12. Follow up from the MSCD Pasture Walk and training-April 6, 2016. 25 folks attended.

13. Recommendations from the AAC Sub-committee:

A. Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities- Fruit and Grain based Alcoholic beverages.

B. Limited Use Standards for Private Events on farms including food.

C. Food trucks-trailers prohibited on farms due to Transitory Uses restricted under Section 3.1.5 TDR Prohibitions. *Please note that Council member Hans Riemer asked Council Staff Attorney to draft a ZTA that would permit food trucks on farms that are encumbered by TDR easements.*

14. Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-RRAC Proposed Language for Farmer members

Follow up from the March 15, 2016 joint meeting of the AAC and APAB. The groups did not support the proposed language for farmer members on the RRAC. The AAC recommended the County revisit the policy that requires members of Boards and Committee to only serve on one board or committee at a time. A letter from the AAC to the Executive Staff will be handed out at the meeting.

- (1) 3 members who are owner-operators of [[commercial]] agriculturally-assessed farmland earning [[50 percent]] \$10,000 annually (in 2015 dollars) or more of their gross income from farming, one of whom is a representative of the Agricultural Advisory Committee;

15. Update on the Sugarland Road Pilot Project for Broad Band-March 21, 2016 meeting

16. Rescheduling the next Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting- May 17, 2016 7:00 pm

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Annual Farmers Market Training- April 15, 2016 @ 9:00 am
Public Safety Committee-Deer Management-April 18, 2016 @ 1:30 pm.
Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-April 19, 2016 @7:00pm
Ag Education Outreach-Damascus High School-April 20, 2016
Regional Agricultural Work Group-April 26, 2016
PHED Work Session on the OAG FY17 Operating Budget-April 27, 2016
Ag Education Outreach-Sherwood High School-May 3, 2016
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-May 3, 2016 @7:00pm
Shady Grove Farmers Market-Ribbon Cutting-May 4, 2016
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Bd-May 10, 2016 @ 7:30pm
Montgomery Soil Conservation District-May 13, 2016 @ 11:00am
Flocks and Farms Festival-May 22, 2016 Black Hills Regional Park