

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2016

Attendees: Drew Stabler, Pete Driscoll, Ben Allnut, Linda Lewis, Michele Cropp, Paula Linthicum, Jane Evans, Pat Jamison, David Weitzer, Aliza Fishbein, Doug Lechluder, Dennis Kamber

Staff: Jeremy Criss

1. The meeting came to order at 7:00 pm. Happy New Year Celebration.

Thank you to Linda for the amazing food spread and to Michele for the impressive desserts!

2. Introductions

3. Approval of the AAC Minutes from November 17, 2015. *Please note the AAC did not meet in December 2015. (Stabler/Cropp)*

There was a short follow up discussion to the on-farm composting session from a December 3, 2015. Several AAC members were there. Farmers will need to decide whether they want to go the general permit process or scale their operations back to the accessory to farming scale. Everyone should know what the requirements for composting are.

4. Follow up from the December 15, 2015 AAC Sub-committee:

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

The subcommittee has narrowed selected the best definition and the standards.

Limited Use Standards for Private Events on farms including food.

The subcommittee will have another meeting. The goal is for the subcommittee to report to the AAC in March, and then the full AAC will review the recommendation of the subcommittee in April to make a decision to remit to the Council for a proposed zoning text amendment. The group started in March of last year-2015.

Food trucks – trailers prohibited on farms due to Transitory Uses restricted under Section 3.1.5 TDR Prohibitions.

We need to explain to the Council that when the TDR prohibitions were adopted the intent was not to prevent food trucks from coming onto farms for festivals or events.

December 17, 2015 Episode-Made in Montgomery at Butler's Orchard.

The program features another business in the county each month. On Dec. 17th they visited Butler's Orchard. They will soon visit Waredaca Brewing Company. If Ben and Linda would offer to host as part of the Made in Montgomery program, please let Jeremy know and he'll put them in contact.

5. Follow up from Ribbon Cutting at Waredaca Brewing Company – January 19, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

The brewery was granted its permit by DPS under ag education and ag-tourism as an accessory use to farming. The Waredaca opening was packed with people; they have a very nice tasting room.

6. New Farmer on Small Acreage workshops – Scheduled on Thursdays starting January 14-March 31, 2016. Please contact Chuck Schuster for additional details.

(Sufficient information included above)

7. Pre-Harvest Marketing Workshop-January 26, 2016-New Market Fire Hall. Doug Tregoning will be presenting this workshop to interested farmers. Please contact Doug for additional details including \$10.00 registration that will cover refreshments and materials.

(Sufficient information included above)

8. Update on New Office of Agriculture

The Office of Agriculture was effective on October 6, 2015. Office will not function independently until DED is closed sometime this coming spring. Council has requested a PHED Committee work session for February 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm to discuss the Status and Update for the Office of Agriculture and the Ag Pres CIP program and the request from the APAB for alternative funding-WQPC and MNCPPC funding.

The Administration made a decision that the Office of Ag-OAG will not function independently until DED is closed. FY17 would start on July 1, so the thought is that Office of Ag would be moved over by then, so probably in DED until June 30.

CIP = Capital Improvement Program. Last week Executive remitted the CIP to the Council for FY17, including Ag Preservation. Not all of the alternative sources of revenue for Ag Pres have been worked out. WQPC = Water quality protection charge is still pending.

9. The improvements for replacing the phone system and T-1 lines at the AHFP are still moving forward slowly until the permits are issued from MNCPPC, Historical Preservation and DPS. The plan involves transferring all current funding for Verizon phones and T-1 lines to Comcast Business Service for both phones-voice and High Speed Broadband data internet service. There is additional cost savings for both the new phone system and the new internet system due to volume discounts and the two year promotional rates. The rates may increase for year three and beyond. The MDA, FSA, and NRCS will retain their T-1 lines. Please note that if these agencies decide to migrate with Comcast in the future the hubs being installed will accommodate them at their cost.

(Sufficient information included above)

10. The improvements to replace the fire suppression system for the stove downstairs have been completed. The new stove will be installed shortly. These improvements are needed for the UM-Extension to offer food demonstrations for canning.

The new stove hook up should happen shortly.

11. Montgomery County Farm Bureau Projects:

Stay tuned for an Ag Tire Collection Event to be scheduled sometime between now and March 6, 2016. The location to drop off the farm tires will be Derwood Transfer Station. To participate in the program you must have a written letter with you that you are a Farm Bureau member.

It will be open during the week, not during the weekends, because someone needs to be there checking the letters.

On February 8, 2016 from 9:00-11:00 the MCFB and SHA will conduct a Farm Trucking Forum here at the AHFP. The cancellation due to weather is February 22, 2016.

(Sufficient information included above)

12. Announcement for new appointments to the Agricultural Advisory Committee:

The announcement has been released and the deadline to apply is January 27, 2016.

Non-Farmer Members

Eddie Kuhlman – requested new appointment

Aliza Fishbein – requested new appointment

Dennis Kamber – requested new appointment

Farmer Members – Second Term expired December 2015

David Weitzer

David Heisler

Drew Stabler

Jane Evans

Process for requesting waiver for a third term on the County Boards and Committees

If a farmer's second term has expired, the farmer can request a third by doing the following: they need to write a detailed letter to say they're interested in continuing, what their unique skill set is that would contribute to the AAC. Dave Weitzer has requested a waiver for a third term. Normally, farmers serve two three-year terms and non-farmers serve six one-year terms.

Potential New Farmer Members

Eleanor Leak

Henry Garson

Jessica Butts Snyder

Sophia Ruppert or Julie Ruppert

13. Motion to adjourn passes. (Cropp/Linthicum) 8:08 pm