



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

December 14, 2018

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: December 18, 2018 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **December 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**

We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A.

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the November 20, 2018 AAC meeting will be available prior to our meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*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.



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
December 18, 2018 Agenda**

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from November 20, 2018.
3. The OAG drafted letters for the MCFB President Michele Cropp and APAB Chairman Michael Jamison to County Executive Marc Elrich requesting a meeting to discuss proposals for farmland preservation funding. The APAB recommends that collections of County Agricultural Transfer Taxes and Water Quality Protection Charge funding be allocated for farmland preservation easements.
4. We received the proposed bill (Statewide Bill) from Delegate Eric Luedtke which proposes to remove the State Section 13-305 which allows developers to avoid paying the Agricultural Transfer Taxes. The hearing will be in Annapolis.
5. Update on Farm Alcohol Production Facilities. The Council will introduce a new ZTA 18-14 that will allow Farm Alcohol Production in the RE-1 and RE-2 Residential zones as an accessory use to farming.
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2018/ZTA%2018-14.pdf>
6. The Montgomery County Farm Bureau conducted their annual Conference in OC December 4-6, 2018. The OAG is working on the new policies adopted by the Maryland Farm Bureau to prepare for the 2019 MD Legislative Session.
7. The Agricultural members of the Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-ASAC met on December 7, 2018 to prepare responses to recommendations from the consultant. They may be another meeting of the ASAC after the holidays.
8. The Sugarland Broadband Pilot construction along Partnership Road is almost completed. Comcast is waiving the installation costs to the residents including the long runs up their drive ways for hooking up the service. Comcast is working to schedule construction along the Sugarland Road after the holidays. We have made progress in obtaining signed easements from some of the hold outs along the pilot. Several residents have expressed interest to assist in replicating the success of the Sugarland Pilot into other areas of the Agricultural Reserve. <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html>
9. The OAG is working on a Family Farms promotion for Montgomery County. If Kira Tregoning (Doug Tregoning's daughter) contacts you, please respond back as this will help us to promote Montgomery County Agriculture and the wonderful farming families that we have.
10. Agricultural Legislative Luncheon-scheduled for Tuesday December 18, 2018 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

11. The Linthicum family will receive the Governor's Agricultural Hall of Fame Award for this year. See the attached letter.
12. Update on the FY19 2% Savings Plan for the OAG totaling \$ 14,583. Update on the FY20 4 % Budget Reduction for OAG totaling \$38,888.
13. Next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-January 15, 2019 at the Up-County Regional Services Center-12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown, MD 20874 Room A.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Chesapeake Farm to Table Presentation-Beckie Gurley-December 17, 2018@7:00pm
Ag Legislative Luncheon-December 18, 2018-12:00-2:00 pm-Linthicum Farm
Ag Advisory Committee-December 18, 2018 @ 7:00pm-Up County Regional Center
Ag Preservation Advisory Board-January 8, 2019 @7:00pm Up County Regional
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-January 8, 2019@ 7:00pm-AHFP
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-January 11, 2019@ 9:00am
Ag Advisory Committee-January 15, 2019 @ 7:00pm-Up County Regional Center