



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

MEMORANDUM

July 15, 2016

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

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on **Tuesday, July 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.

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:aacJuly(aac16)



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting REVISED Agenda
July 19, 2016**

1. Meeting called to Order and Introductions
2. Approval of the June 21, 2016 AAC meeting minutes

3. Update on the Office of Agriculture-OAG:

The OAG began to function independently on July 1, 2016.

The OAG is listed as Agricultural Services on the County Government Home page.

The OAG is listed as the first Executive agency.

We have nearly completed the moving of 14 work stations to better organize agency staff.

Jackie Arnold will move to the Derwood Office on July 25, 2016.

The FY17 Capital and Operating Budget for the Office of Agriculture-OAG are effective.

All contracts with the OAG have been executed for FY17:

Montgomery Weed Control, Inc.

The Deer Donation Program-William F. Willard Farms LLC

The Mobile Science Lab-MAEF and MCPS

The OAG staff met again with DEP on July 14, 2016-WQPC funding for Ag Preservation.

The DEP exploring how farmers can assist with the County's MS4 permit

Short-term need for MS4 is due to the delayed stream restoration and reconstruction.

Short term 1-3 year nutrient trading scenarios are being discussed.

Farmers need to ask MSCD for Baseline Assessment on their farm \$500 incentive payment.

So far about 6 farmers have requested Baseline Assessments

OAG and DEP will develop process and documents.

DEP and OAG will report back to the Council T&E/PHED Committees on October 20, 2016.

4. New Improvements and Communication Systems at the AHFP

The construction for Comcast Business Service is almost complete.

The construction may need to be redone at the bridge crossing due to the bridge being replaced.

The Federal network for FSA and NRSC networks have been up and down for seven weeks.

The Federal Government wants to maintain the T-1 lines that do not always work.

The Federal Government wants new voice over internet phones that can only work if their network actually works.

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 MDA has expressed interest in migrating to Comcast Business Service for internet.

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

5. Update on the Sugarland Road Pilot Project for Broad Band

The Comcast Company decided to build the infrastructure in the pilot area for free.

The construction schedule is pending.

There is total of 95 residents in the area that includes 15 businesses.

The AAC and OAG will begin discussions with other interested Ag Reserve communities. We need a group of neighbors in each community that are willing to make this happen.

6. Agricultural Advisory Committee need for new farmer members

The County Executive Staff has moved forward on the appointments to the AAC.
The OAG recommended that two farmer member positions will remain vacant at this time.
The County Council is scheduled to confirm the AAC appointments on August 2, 2016.
The appointments to the AAC are as follows:
Eleanor Leak-new farmer member appointed for a first term
David Weitzer-farmer member and Farm Economist appointed for a third term
Aliza Fishbein-non-farmer member appointed for third term
Dennis Kamber-non-farmer member appointed for a first term
Eddie Kuhlman-non-farmer member appointed for fifth term

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

The ZTA has yet to be scheduled on the Planning Board agenda-**The MNCPPC staff has indicated they hope to have a draft ZTA distributed to everyone by mid-September.**
The OAG may be asked to provide recommendations to the DPS and the MNCPPC on all requests for farm tenant dwellings.

8. 27th Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale event-July 23 & 24, 2016

The 27th Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale is coming up and there are 21 farms featured. All 21 farmer owners were interviewed and feature stories are posted on social media. Please see the copies of the Farm Tour Brochure.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agfarmtour.html>

Farm Tour Trading Cards were developed for all 21 farms-please see the set of cards. The Farm Tour Trading Cards Contest Rules and guidelines are posted.

9. County Council Proclamation-Drew Stabler-Good Steward Award-National Corn Growers Association

The County Council-George Leventhal will honor Drew Stabler of Sunny Ridge Farm for the Good Steward Award from the National Corn Growers Association. **Stay tuned.**

10. Recommendations from the AAC Sub-committee:

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

The sub-committee has proposed Limited Use Standards for Private Events on farms.

11. ZTA 16-04 Agricultural Reserve (AR) Zone- Transitory Uses

The County Council approved ZTA 16-04 on July 12, 2016.
Food Trucks and Food Trailers are now allowed on Farms encumbered by TDR easements.

Please see the Letter of Support from the AAC on ZTA 16-04.

12. Bill 28-16 Solid Waste (Trash) Strategic Plan to Advance Composting, Compost Use and Food Waste Diversion:

Please see the letter of support for the AAC for Bill 28-16.

The Public Hearing is June 19, 2016 @ 1:30pm.

Aliza Fishbein will testify at the public hearing representing the AAC to discuss the letter of support and the findings from her research.

13. AAC recommendation on proposed changes to the State of Maryland hunting regulations:

The Montgomery Agricultural Producers-MAP has been working with the County Council and Executive staff to propose specific changes to the Maryland Hunting regulations.

The propose changes are as follows:

1. Reduced Archery Hunting Safety Zone from 100 yards to 50 yards
2. Expanding Sunday deer hunting on private lands (Going beyond the current two Sundays during the deer hunting season)
3. Extending hunting season by one month through February
4. Adding an additional week for deer hunting with a shotgun (as suggested by Bob in our call this morning)

The propose changes are outlined in the draft letter from the AAC for consideration.

14. Follow up to the discussion on minimum wage requirements for agricultural workers.

15. **Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting** is September 20, 2016 @ 7:00pm.
Please note there will be no AAC meeting in August since it is scheduled the same week as the County Agricultural Fair.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Public Hearing Bill 28-16-Comprehensive Plan to Advance Composting and Food Waste Diversion-July 19, 2016 @ 1:30 pm

Agricultural Advisory Committee- July 19, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

27th Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale-July 23 & 24, 2016

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-August 2, 2016 @ 7:00pm

County Agricultural Fair-August 5-13, 2016

Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-August 15, 2016

