



**THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE**

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

**MEMORANDUM**

June 20, 2016

**TO:** Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)  
**FROM:** Jeremy V. Criss, Agricultural Services Manager  
Department of Economic Development  
**SUBJECT:** June 21, 2016 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on **Tuesday, June 21, 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:aacJune(aac16)

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda June 21, 2016**

1. Meeting called to Order and Introductions
2. Approval of the May 10, 2016 AAC meeting minutes
3. **Update on the Office of Agriculture-OAG:**

The OAG is supposed to function independently starting July 1, 2016. **Stay tuned for details.**

Jackie Arnold will move to the Derwood Office on July 15, 2016.

The FY17 Capital and Operating Budget for the Office of Agriculture-OAG were approved.

The OAG staff and the APAB have continued discussions with DEP.

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 1-5 year nutrient trading scenarios are being discussed.

Farmers will 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 this summer or early fall.

### **New Improvements and Communication Systems at the AHFP**

The construction for Comcast Business Service scheduled to begin June 17, 2016.

The Federal network for FSA and NRSC has been up and down for four 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 FSA, NRCS and MDA will maintain their existing Verizon T-1 lines.

### **Update on the Sugarland Road Pilot Project for Broad Band**

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

Hard working neighbors including (David Weitzer and Dennis Kamber) have achieved a total of **84** Expression of Interest Forms.

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.

### **Agricultural Advisory Committee need for new farmer members**

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

### **ZTA 16-02 Agricultural Zone-Transferable Development Rights Requirements**

The ZTA has yet to be scheduled on the Planning Board agenda-**Stay Tuned**.  
*The OAG may be asked to provide recommendations to the DPS and the MNCPPC on all requests for farm tenant dwellings.*

### **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale event-July 23 & 24, 2016**

The OAG is preparing for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale and there are 21 farms featured. Chris Zawitoski is interviewing all of the farm tour-farmers and posting feature stories for each farm on our web site and face book page.

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

All of the farmers will be also participate in the Farm Tour Trading Cards promotion. Please the attached card that was drafted for Lewis Orchard. We are working to print 5,000 copies of each card and distribute them to each farm for the children to collect from the farmers. We are still working on the terms for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes.

### **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**.

### **Recommendations from the AAC Sub-committee:**

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

Limited Use Standards for Private Events on farms including food.

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

**ZTA 16-04 Agricultural Reserve (AR) Zone- Transitory Uses-** This ZTA will remove the prohibition for Food Trucks and Food Trailers from locating on farms encumbered by Transferable Development Rights TDR easements. The Planning Board work session was June 16, 2016 and they recommended approval. The County Council Public hearing is scheduled for June 21, 2016 at 1:30 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Public Hearing on ZTA 16-04-June 21, 2016 @ 1:30 pm

Agricultural Advisory Committee- June 21, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

HHS/GO Work Session-Food Hub, Kitchen Incubator, MC Food Council, Community Food  
Rescue-June 23, 2016 @ 2:00 pm.

PHED Work Session on ZTA 16-04 June 27, 2016 @ 2:00 pm

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-July 5, 2016 @ 7:00pm

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-July 12, 2016 @ 7:30pm