



Montgomery County, MD
Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
Regular Meeting Agenda
January 20, 2026

1. Introductions
2. Approval of the November 18, 2025, AAC minutes
3. Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) and Building Lot Termination (BLT) Programs

The OAG will open a 2026 public BLT easement purchasing program and accept applications from January 12 to February 13, 2026. To be eligible, a property must: 1) be in the Agricultural Reserve (AR Zone); 2) have a minimum of 50 acres; 3) have at least 50% of its area in USDA soil capability classes I-III; 4) must be outside County water/sewer categories 1, 2, and 3; and 5) must have a sewage disposal area(s) approved on a final well and septic plan. The landowner must obtain a current Well and Septic Approval Letter from the Department of Permitting Services (DPS), even if he/she already has prior septic approval.

If anyone would like to receive the application packet or more information, please contact the OAG Agricultural Preservation Program Administrator, Mike Weyand, at Michael.Weyand@montgomerycountymd.gov or 301-590-2856.

4. [SB0931/HB1036](#), Public Utilities – Generating Stations – Generation and Siting
No update since November 2025
5. Maryland Department of the Environment stormwater management regulatory update

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is in the process of [updating the State's stormwater management regulations](#) and requested public comment through an [Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(ANPRM\)](#).

The AAC, Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board, and Montgomery County Farm Bureau submitted comment letters to MDE. The four groups agreed on several points, including that stormwater management requirements for agricultural and agritourism development should take into account the unique nature of farm operations and that the soil conservation districts should have the authority to provide stormwater management guidance.



Eight County Councilmembers submitted a letter to MDE with similar recommendations, as did the District 15 State Delegation.

6. Visit Montgomery Rural Branding project

Visit Montgomery recently shared with the project stakeholders the recommendations they received from Civic Brand on how to brand and promote the rural area of the county. This grant-funded project is targeted at bringing in visitors by highlighting the area's agricultural, outdoor recreation, and historic tourism opportunities. Civic Brand's recommendations included options for a branding term and tag line for the rural area of the county, but Visit Montgomery has not yet shared the final decisions on these. The spirit of Civic Brand's messaging recommendation was to highlight the uniqueness and authenticity of the Ag Reserve and surrounding areas, increase meaningful connections between visitors and the land, and educate the public on the county's farm-to-table products.

7. Junior Achievement of Greater Washington

This organization operates an educational center at Thomas Edison High School called Finance Park. This center teaches MCPS 7th graders about financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship by simulating a shopping center where the students must "shop" for food and other necessities within their budgets.

The OAG entered into an agreement with Junior Achievement to fund the buildout and maintenance of an agricultural "store front", which will teach students about the Agricultural Reserve, agricultural products, and careers in agriculture. The County held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for this project on January 9.

8. County Executive's policy recommendations for data centers

The County Executive has drafted legislative and policy recommendations for data centers in the county and is requesting input from the AAC. These recommendations were emailed to the Committee.

9. Maryland legislative session

The Maryland General Assembly will convene from January 14 to April 13. Some expected bills affecting agriculture include one to encourage local procurement by Montgomery County Public Schools.



10. Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) Report

As required by the county code, the CERB conducted a review of the County's boards, committees, and commissions and submitted a report to the County Executive and Council. For the AAC, they provided the following comment and recommendation:

Comment: The Committee is more community-based and includes stakeholders such as the Revenue Authority, Manna, and the County Fair. It was noted that non-farmer members only serve one-year terms, which may limit continuity. The Committee is active and well-run, with a strong focus on community engagement.

Recommendation: After careful analysis and consideration of available information, the CERB recommends that this Committee continue. The CERB further recommends that non-farmer members should serve longer than one year, and the Committee should keep the community informed of activities in the Agricultural Reserve.

11. The next meeting of the AAC will be held on February 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm via Microsoft Teams.

12. Upcoming meetings and events:

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting: February 3, 2026
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board meeting: February 10, 2026
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board meeting: February 13, 2026
Food Producer Farmer Forum: February 25, 2026, Agricultural History Farm Park