

# 2015 Report of the



## Agricultural Advisory Committee



**2015 Annual Report  
Agricultural Advisory Committee  
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## ARTICLE 6. AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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### Sec. 2B-21. Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(a) *Definition.* In this Section, "Committee" means the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(b) *Established.* The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(c) *Composition; Term.*

(1) The Committee has 15 voting members.

(2) The Executive should appoint:

(A) 12 members to a 3-year term who are bona fide farmers who represent the total farm community and reflect a variety of farm sizes, geographical locations and agricultural projects, at least 3 of whom must be owner-operators of commercial farm land earning 50% or more of their income from farming, and including:

(i) 1 farm economist; and

(ii) 1 conservationist; and

(B) 3 members who have no significant direct financial interest in farming, to a 1-year term to represent broad non-farm County interests. These members may be appointed to successive terms.

(3) The Committee may designate ex-officio members as necessary.

(4) If a member is appointed to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of the unexpired term.

(d) *Officers, meetings, and compensation.*

(1) The Committee must elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members.

(2) The Committee meets at the call of the Chair. The Committee must meet as often as necessary to perform its duties, but not less than 10 times each year.

(3) A member serves without compensation. However, a member may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates established by the County.

(e) *Duties.*

(1) The Committee must:

(A) advise the Executive and Council on all matters affecting agriculture in the County;

(B) bring matters of particular importance to the attention of the Executive and Council; and

(C) comment on matters referred to it by the Executive and Council.

(f) *Annual Report.* By January 30 of each year, the Committee must submit to the Executive and Council an annual report that:

(1) outlines the activities undertaken the previous calendar year;

- (2) identifies problems affecting agriculture in the County; and
  - (3) make recommendations for government programs that may be necessary to maintain a healthy agricultural economy in the County.
- (g) *Advocacy.* The Committee must not engage in any advocacy activity at the State or federal levels unless that activity is approved by the Office fo Intergovernmental Relations.
- (h) *Staff.* The Chief Administrative Officer must provide appropriate staff to the Committee. ([2009 L.M.C., ch. 26, § 1](#); [2010 L.M.C., ch. 49, § 1.](#))

**Editor’s note**—[2009 L.M.C., ch. 26, § 2](#), states: Transition. Section [2B-21](#), as added by Sec. 1 of this Act, establishes an Agricultural Advisory Committee. This Committee continues the Agricultural Advisory Committee created under Council Resolution 7-1138 and restructured under Council Resolution 8-705. The County Executive may reappoint, subject to Council confirmation, the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Executive should continue to stagger the terms of the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee so that approximately one-third of the terms continue to expire each year.

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**Listing of 2015 Projects and Accomplishments for the  
Agricultural Advisory Committee**

1. Submitted recommendations to the County Executive for new appointments for both Farmer & non-farmer members for 2015.
2. Provided testimony for the January 15, 2015 County Council Public Hearing on Bill 52-14 Pesticides-Prohibitions and Restrictions. The AAC also participated in the March 2015 T&E Committee Work Sessions.
3. Participated in the February 10, 2015 Annual meeting with the County Executive, the AAC and the APAB.
4. Established a Sub-committee of the Agricultural Advisory Committee to bring industry stakeholders and assist with developing a definition for all alcoholic beverages produced in the Agricultural Reserve and limited use standards for private events on farms. The sub-committee met on May 27, June 24, August 26, and December 15,
5. Participated in recruiting farmers members to the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee.
6. Provided oversight for the agricultural agencies to assist with the New Farmer Project regarding beginning Farmer Training and technical assistance to the new farmers on new properties and administration of the farm equipment share program.
7. Co-sponsored a public meeting on March 4, 2015 in the Poolesville Town Hall to propose high speed internet and broadband service in the Agricultural Reserve.
8. Represented the AAC during a meeting with County Executive and Leaders of the Agricultural Industry to discuss the termination of the DED and creation of the Office of Agriculture to replace the Agricultural Services Division programs and agricultural agency staff.
9. Participated and promoted the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale July 25-26, 2015 with 19 participating farms.
10. Participated in the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Agricultural Fair August 14-22, 2015 with displays set-up from Agricultural Services, Soil Conservation District, UM-Extension and the County Farm Bureau.
11. Participated in the program for the August 17, 2015 Agricultural Leaders Luncheon.
12. Participated in the September 3, 2015 Soil Conservation District Cooperators Dinner.
13. Participated in the September 19, 2015 Farm Bureau Food to Table Dinner at an Equestrian facility in Poolesville.
14. Assisted the League of Women Voters on their Agricultural Fact Sheet.

15. Provided testimony to the County Council ZTA 15-06 Rural Cluster Zone-Land Uses-to assist Pat's Outdoor and Farm Equipment business.
16. Participated with the Close Encounters with Agriculture program where 3,530 4<sup>th</sup> graders and 638 adults visited the Ag History Farm Park to learn about farming and where their food comes from.
17. Represented the AAC during the November 10, 2015 Montgomery County Farm Bureau Banquet.
18. Participated in the December 3, 2015 Public Meeting and Forum for On-farm Composting in partnership with the Montgomery County Food Council.
19. Participated in the December 7, 2015 Up-County Citizens Advisory Board- Land Use and Quality of Life committees.

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Revised 10/5 /15

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – January 20, 2015**

1. Introductions:

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from December 16, 2014. (See Attachment A.)

3. The Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14 is supported by 5 Council members (Leventhal, Floreen, Reimer, Navarro, and Elrich). The first public hearing was Thursday January 15, 2015 at 7:30 pm with the T&E Committee. The AAC-Doug Tregoning and the MCFB-Lonnie Luther were signed up to testify. There is a second public hearing tentatively scheduled for February 12, 2015. The T&E Committee Work Session is scheduled for March 16, 2015. (See Attachments B.)

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2014/Packets/201410284C.pdf>

4. Supplemental Appropriation for the Agricultural Land Preservation CIP-\$1.0 million from the Crown Farm Annexation Agreement for a pending Agricultural Easement acquisition. The public hearing is scheduled for January 27, 2015.

5. The Tour of farms with Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson will be held weather permitting on the afternoon of January 30, 2015. The tour of farms on the east side of the County includes Robert Stabler-Pleasant Valley Farm, Pam Saul-Rolling Acres Farm, Wade Butler-Butlers Orchard, and John Fendrick-Woodbourne Creamery.

### **6. Update on the Positions approved for FY15 Operating and Capital Budget:**

The Ag Business Navigator-BDS position (Kristin Fisher) On December 3, 2014, the OHR Director approved waiver to by-pass veteran with Preferential Hiring status. DED reviewed the 32 applicants that met the minimum requirements and then the County implemented a hiring freeze on December 12, 2014. A memorandum requesting exemption from hiring freeze is pending that will request the position be advertised again since four months have passed since the August deadline to apply.

Agronomy Educator for UM-Extension contractor The Contract was approved and Doug prepared testimony for Pesticide Bill 52-14 and he is organizing the Winter Agronomy Update and speakers.

New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) The Ad was released December 2, 2014 closed on December 15, 2014. The County implemented hiring freeze December 12, 2014. A memorandum requesting exemption from hiring freeze is pending.

7. New Appointments to the AAC-Need to find farmer member to replace Tim McGrath and the Annual Meeting with CE, AAC, and APAB is scheduled February 10, 2015 @ 8:00 pm

8. NEW MDE Regulations for Storm water management on agricultural buildings  
(See Attachment C.)

9. High Speed Broad band in the Rural and Agricultural areas. David Weitzer and his neighbors followed up from the December 8th meeting with stakeholders to discuss expanding Broadband high speed internet access to the Poolesville area of the Ag Reserve.  
(See Attachment D.)

10. Update on the New Zoning Code and the continued need for new Uses in the AR Zone  
(See Attachment E.)

11. Updated Farm Directory

The DED-Agricultural Service updated the Farm Directory and we are requesting assistance to make corrections to the farms that are listed and help to reach out to those farms that still need to be listed.

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices/Resources/Files/publications/2015\\_farm\\_directory.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices/Resources/Files/publications/2015_farm_directory.pdf)

12. Three Grant Opportunities:

The USDA-Rural Development offers a Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program annually (last year's information can be found at [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp\\_vapg.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_vapg.html))

The **MARBIDCO** also has an annual matching grants overlay program, providing up to 15% of the matching funds required under the USDA VAPG (with a maximum of \$11,250 for planning grants and \$25,000 for working capital grants). We expect the USDA NOFA to be announced sometime in February with a 45-day application submission deadline. MARBIDCO's application deadline will be 14 days in advance of USDA's deadline. **MARBIDCO** [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org)

The 2015 Kathleen A. P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program-Eligibility  
<http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/MathiasAg14.htm>

13. Next Meeting of AAC February 17, 2015 @ 7:00 pm **Meeting in Room B.**

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation \$1.0 million to the Ag Pres CIP-January 27, 2015

Planning Board Tour of farms-January 30, 2015 All Day

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-February 3, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-February 10, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-February 13, 2015@ 9:00am

Agricultural Advisory Committee-February 17, 2015@ 7:00pm

Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis-February 18, 2015

Winter Agronomy Update-February 25, 2015-Urbana Fire Hall

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – February 17, 2015**

1. Introductions:

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from January 20, 2015. (See Attachment A.)

3. Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14 (Leventhal, Floreen, Reimer, Navarro, and Elrich). Public hearing was Thursday January 15, 2015 at 7:30 pm with the T&E Committee. The AAC-Doug Tregoning, MCFB-Lonnie Luther and Eric Spates- MAP testified. Second public hearing was last night February 12, 2015.

T&E Committee Work Session is scheduled for March 16, 2015.

4. Follow up from the Annual Meeting of County Executive-APAB and AAC- February 10, 2015. Please refer to (Attachment B.) for the meeting agenda.

The 2014 Annual Report of the AAC is posted on line:

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/aac\\_annual\\_reports/2014AACannalreportcomplete.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/aac_annual_reports/2014AACannalreportcomplete.pdf)

5. January 30, 2015 Tour of farms with Planning Board Members. The tour included Robert Stabler-Pleasant Valley Farm, Pam Saul-Rolling Acres Farm and John Fendrick-Woodbourne Creamery. Four of the Five Planning Bd Members attended along with Council member Hans Reimer.

### **6. Updated Farm Directory**

The DED-Agricultural Service updated the Farm Directory and we are requesting assistance to make corrections to the farms that are listed and help to reach out to those farms that still need to be listed.

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/publications/2015\\_farm\\_directory.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/publications/2015_farm_directory.pdf)

7. New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) The Ad was released December 2, 2014 closed on December 15, 2014. The County implemented hiring freeze December 12, 2014. The exemption has been approved by the OMB and CAO approval is pending.

8. Continued Discussion on amendments to the Zoning Regulations that would allow, production of Beer, Hard-Cider, and Distilled Spirits and associated tasting rooms, private events like birthday parties, Bar mitzvahs, and weddings on farms in the AR zone as limited use accessory to farming. A Subcommittee of the AAC will be formed with industry represents-Jessica Butts, Phil Muth, Steven Fistere, Susan Butler, Washington White, etc. (See Attachment C.)

9. The County Council approved the Supplemental Appropriation for the Agricultural Land Preservation CIP-\$1.0 million from the Crown Farm Annexation Agreement for a pending Agricultural Easement acquisition.

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – March 17, 2015**

1. Introductions:

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from January 20, 2015. (See Attachment A.) *Please note the February 17, 2015 AAC meeting was cancelled due to the County Government being closed.*

3. Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14 (Leventhal, Floreen, Reimer, Navarro, and Elrich). Public hearings were January 15, 2015 and February 12, 2015. The AAC-Doug Tregoning, MCFB-Lonnie Luther and Eric Spates- MAP testified. T&E Committee Work Sessions are scheduled for March 16 and 30, 2015 at 9:30 am. (See Attachment B.)

4. Follow up from the Annual Meeting of County Executive-APAB and AAC- February 10, 2015. Please refer to (Attachment C.) for the meeting agenda.

The 2014 Annual Report of the AAC is posted on line:

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/aac\\_annual\\_reports/2014AACannualreportcomplete.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/aac_annual_reports/2014AACannualreportcomplete.pdf)

5. January 30, 2015 Tour of farms with Planning Board Members. The tour included Robert Stabler-Pleasant Valley Farm, Pam Saul-Rolling Acres Farm and John Fendrick-Woodbourne Creamery. Four of the Five Planning Bd Members attended along with Council member Hans Reimer. Follow up message from Hans Reimer regarding no-till farming. (Attachment D.)

### **6. Updated Farm Directory**

The DED-Agricultural Service updated the Farm Directory and we are requesting assistance to make corrections to the farms that are listed and help to reach out to those farms that still need to be listed. Please list of AAC members-farms that are listed in the Directory (Attachment E.)

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/publications/2015\\_farm\\_directory.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/publications/2015_farm_directory.pdf)

7. New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) The hiring exemption was approved and the interviews were conducted on March 13, 2015.

8. Continued Discussion on amendments to the Zoning Regulations that would allow production of Beer, Hard-Cider, and Distilled Spirits and associated tasting rooms, private events like birthday parties, Bar mitzvahs, and weddings on farms in the AR zone as limited use accessory to farming. A Subcommittee of the AAC will be formed with industry represents-Jessica Butts, Phil Muth, Steven Fistere, Susan Butler, Washington White, etc. (See Attachment F.)

9. The County Council approved the Supplemental Appropriation for the Agricultural Land Preservation CIP-\$1.0 million from the Crown Farm Annexation Agreement for a pending Agricultural Easement acquisition.

10. Follow up on the Poolesville meeting-High Speed Internet in Ag Reserve-March 4, 2015. The meeting was attended by representatives from Verizon and Comcast and 40 people living along Sugarland, Partnership and Montevideo Roads. Cost Proposals are pending.

11. MAEF Mobile Science Lab (MAEF-Trailer) built for Montgomery County and rotated to County Schools. Meeting with County Council President is scheduled for March 24, 2015.  
(See Attachment G.)

12. Nutrient Trading Outreach Meeting for County Farmers-March 20, 2015 @ 9:30 am AHFF  
(See Attachment H.)

**13. Farmland Preservation Update** (See Attachment I.)

14. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting March 21, 2015 @7:00pm **Room A.**

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Sup-March 13, 2015@ 9:00am

T&E Committee on Bill 52-14 Pesticides March 16, 2015@ 9:30 am

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-March 16, 2015@ 7:00pm

Agricultural Advisory Committee-March 17, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-March 19, 2015@ 7:00pm

Nutrient Trading Outreach Meeting-March 20, 2015@ 9:30 am

Annual Meeting of Montgomery Weed Control, Inc.-March 26, 2015@9:30 am

Annual Montgomery County Farmers Market Meeting Training May 5, 2015Upcoming

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – April 21, 2015**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from March 17, 2015. The minutes will be available prior to meeting.
3. Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14 (Leventhal, Floreen, Reimer, Navarro, and Elrich). T&E Committee Work Sessions were held on March 16 and 30, 2015. George Leventhal said that during his remaining 3 years on the Council agriculture will not be impacted by the Pesticide Prohibition and Marc Elrich responded that agriculture will be discussed next?
4. New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) James Harne has accepted the position and he will migrate from MDA to the County-MSCD in May 2015. The MDA PIN for James Harne position will not be funded and will not be eliminated. The MSCD will need to propose alternative funds to fill this MDA position. The Position was recommended in the FAME report.
5. Ag Services Navigator-Solicitation for contractor will be released Thursday 4-9-15 and close 4-23-15. The Position was recommended in the FAME report.
6. *Please note no progress has been made on this Subcommittee due to other assignments.* Continued Discussion on amendments to the Zoning Regulations that would allow production of Beer, Hard-Cider, and Distilled Spirits and associated tasting rooms, private events like birthday parties, Bar mitzvahs, and weddings on farms in the AR zone as limited use accessory to farming. The AAC agreed for a Subcommittee of the AAC to be formed with industry represents-Jessica Butts, Phil Muth, Steven Fistere, Susan Butler, Washington White, Greg Glen, Jr. etc.
7. MAEF Mobile Science Lab (MAEF-Trailer) built for Montgomery County and rotated to County Schools. Meeting with County Council President Leventhal was held on March 24, 2015 and he recommended the program and budget be located in DED-Ag Services. The PHED Committee work session on the DED-Ag Services budget was held on April 17, 2015. The item is recommended for the reconciliation list.
8. Farmland Preservation Update-APAB Follow up from APAB Retreat April 7, 2015
9. Future of Department of Economic Development-Agricultural Services (Handouts at meeting)
10. Farm Directory Update-AAC members-farms that are not listed.
11. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting May 19, 2015@ 7:00pm Room A.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Agricultural Advisory Committee-April 21, 2015@ 7:00pm

Annual Montgomery County Farmers Market Meeting Training May 5, 2015@ 10:00am

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-May 5, 2015@ 7:00pm  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Sup-May 8, 2015@ 9:00am  
Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-May 12, 2015@ 7:00pm

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – May 19, 2015**

1. Introductions:
  2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from April 21, 2015. (See Attachment A.)
  3. Follow up on the Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14. (AAC Letter regarding Noxious Weeds in Front of the Up-County Regional Services Center will be handed out at the meeting) and Recent developments surrounding the Montgomery County Farm Bureau-MCFB. (See Attachments B.)
  4. Ag Services Navigator-Solicitation for contractor closed on 4-23-15 and one proposal was submitted. The Position was recommended in the FAME report. Discussion on the status of the Contract for the Contractor.
  5. The first meeting of the AAC Subcommittee is scheduled for May 27, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations to allow production of Beer, Hard-Cider, and Distilled Spirits and associated tasting rooms, private events like birthday parties, Bar mitzvahs, and weddings on farms in the AR zone as limited use accessory to farming. The Subcommittee of the AAC will be represented by the following individuals-Jessica Butts, Phil Muth, Steven Fistere, Susan Butler, Washington White, Greg Glen, Jr. Robert Butz, Tim McGrath, Paul Poto, Caroline Taylor, Beth Daley, Sophia Watkins, and County agency representatives from the DPS, DHHS,UCCAB, and DED. (See Attachment C.)
  6. MAEF Mobile Science Lab (MAEF-Trailer) built for Montgomery County and rotated to 30 Montgomery County Elementary Schools each year. The County Council approved this FY16 Budget item totaling \$61,000 per year to build, haul, and staff the lab and make it available in time for the County Agricultural Fair in August. (See Attachment D.)
  7. AAC Letter of support for ZTA 15-06 Rural Cluster Zone-Land Use and Setbacks-Patricia Dunn of Pat's Outdoor Equipment. (See Attachment E. The AAC letter of support will be handed out at the meeting)  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2015/ZTA%2015-06.pdf>
  8. New Appointments to the AAC- Patrick Brown to replace Tim McGrath, Jim Frazer to replace Charlotte Ruppert McGhee??. Debbie Benson to request reappointment??
  9. Future of Department of Economic Development-Agricultural Services-Review of the May 14, 2015 Press Release from the County Executive and the legislation remitted to the Council.  
[http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR\\_details.asp?PrID=14850](http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=14850)
- Follow up discussion from the May 18, 2015 meeting with the County Executive (See Attachment F.)
10. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting June 16, 2015@ 7:00pm Room A.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Agricultural Advisory Committee-May 19, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-June 2, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-June 9, 2015@

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Sup-May 12, 2015@ 9:00am

**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting  
Agenda – June 16, 2015**

1. Introductions:

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from May 19, 2015. (Attachment A)

**3. Follow up on the Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14.**

Response from Council President Leventhal regarding the AAC letter to the CE-Noxious Weeds in front of the Up-County Regional Services Center. Discussion of letters from Council Member Roger Berliner to area hospitals and the Maryland Attorney General. (Attachment B)

The T&E Committee will conduct the third Work Session on Bill 52-14 on June 15, 2015 @ 9:00 am.

4. Follow up from the May 27, 2015 meeting of the AAC Subcommittee for Proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations to allow production of Beer, Hard-Cider, and Distilled Spirits and associated tasting rooms, private events like birthday parties, Bar mitzvahs, and weddings on farms in the AR zone as limited use accessory to farming. The next meeting is still pending as additional research and editing is needed to the draft summary of uses and standards. (Attachment C)

5. Developments on the MAEF Mobile Science Lab built for Montgomery County and rotated to 30 Montgomery County Elementary Schools each year. Doug Tregoning, Tom Hartsock, Caroline Taylor and Jeremy Criss are working on the details to have the lab ready for the upcoming school semester this fall.

6. Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale-July 25-26, 2015 19 farms are on the Tour this year and we are working with MSCD, MCFB, UM-Extension on promotional funding for the event.

7. New Appointments to the AAC- Patrick Jamison to replace Tim McGrath, We still need to find a replacement for Charlotte Ruppert McGhee, Debbie Benson has not yet requested reappointment??

**8. Future of Department of Economic Development-Bill 25-15**

Follow up from the May 18, 2015 meeting with the County Executive

Ag Services Navigator-Solicitation for contractor was put on hold-the CAO requested this position remain open for potential DED staff that may be RIFFed.

The Bill 25-15 was introduced on May 21, 2015 and proposes the creation of the Office of Agriculture- the Public Hearing was June 9, 2015 and the PHED Committee Work Sessions are scheduled for June 18, 2015 and June 22, 2015 @ 3:00 pm. The APAB, AAC, and MSCD

provided letters to the County Council and David Weitzer presented testimony at the public hearing. (Attachment D)

9. Next meeting of the AAC is scheduled for July 21, 2015 @ 7:00pm in Room A.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-July 7, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-July 14, 2015@ 7:00pm

Agricultural Advisory Committee-July 21, 2015 @ 7:00 pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Sup-August 14, 2015@ 9:00am

County Agricultural Fair-August 14-22, 2015

Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-Monday August 17, 2015 at 12:00 noon.

**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting  
Agenda – July 21, 2015**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from June 16, 2015. (See Attachment A.)
3. Follow up on the Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14.

Council Member Roger Berliner has drafted his own bill that removes a Pesticide Ban and it promotes education, notification and awareness on the use of pesticides. It is my understanding that Roger Berliner has four council members (Berliner, Katz, Rice, and Floreen) that have agreed to support his new bill. Once a fifth council member agrees to sign on to the new bill it will be considered further in September after the Summer Recess.

4. Follow to the AAC Sub-committee- June 24, 2015 meeting. The group of industry representatives suggests the County adopt a new term called Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities to cover the production of fruit based alcohol beverages-Wine and Hard Cider and production of grain based alcohol beverages Beer and Distilled Spirits. The group is continuing to discuss the standards that will permit private events on farms as a limited use and conditional use. The next meeting will be devoted to better understanding the State and County food facility regulations that are difficult to meet for permitting the sale of food on farms.

5. Update on the MAEF Mobile Science Lab built for Montgomery County and rotated to 30 Montgomery County Elementary Schools each year. Doug Tregoning, Tom Hartsock, Caroline Taylor are working closely with MCPS staff who have agreed to make the scheduling arrangements to the lab to be moved to each school.

6. See the brochures for the Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale-July 25-26, 2015. There are 19 farms are on the Tour this year and we are working with MSCD, MCFB, UM-Extension on promotional funding for the event.

**7. Follow up on the Reorganization of Economic Development-(See Attachment B.)**

The County Council approved Bill 25-15 to terminate the Department of Economic Development this coming October 2015. The Bill also created the Office of Agriculture as a new County Executive agency effective October 1, 2015. Peter Bang, Chief Operating Officer for the DED may be moved to the new Office of Agriculture to provide administrative, budget, personnel support and this decision is still under consideration by the Executive staff.

8. Fiscal Year 2016 Saving Plan has imposed a 2% reduction for most County Agencies. All new initiatives and vacant staff positions identified for FY16 will be removed. The Ag Services Navigator position may not be filled. The MAEF Mobile Lab is proposed for removal although the DED is negotiating with the OMB to keep the program due to the support from the MCFB and the potential to help fund the lab. (See Attachment C.)

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Agricultural Advisory Committee-July 21, 2015 @ 7:00 pm

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-August 4, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-August 11, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Sup-August 14, 2015@ 9:00am

County Agricultural Fair-August 14-22, 2015

Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-Monday August 17, 2015 at 12:00 noon.

**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting  
Agenda – September 15, 2015**

1. Introductions:

2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from July 21, 2015. (See Attachment A.) Follow up on Hunting Quarter Road.

**3. Follow up on the Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14**

Council Member Roger Berliner has released his amendments to Bill 52-14 as recommended in his June 16, 2015 memorandum. (See Attachments B) The amendments remove the pesticide ban on private property and they will not put the landscape industry out of business. Roger Berliner has four council members (Berliner, Katz, Rice, and Floreen) that have agreed to support the amended bill. Jeremy spoke with Nancy Navarro's aid following the Agricultural Leaders Luncheon to see if Nancy would support Roger's alternative approach to the Bill 52-14. Roger Berliner has asked to attend the AAC meeting next Tuesday September 15, 2015 at 7:00pm. The T&E Committee has scheduled a work session on Bill 52-14 on September 17, 2015 @ 9:30 am.

4. The AAC Sub-committee met on August 26, 2015 to review the new term called Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities to cover the production of fruit based alcohol beverages-Wine and Hard Cider and production of grain based alcohol beverages Beer and Distilled Spirits. We will continue to review use standards for private events and changes to food safety regulations.

5. Update on the MAEF Mobile Science Lab-The MCPS developed a list of 26 Montgomery County Elementary Schools the lab will visit starting in September. The Back to School Fair on August 29, 2015 included a tour of the Food Fiber and you lab and a majority of the parents and students that attended the fair walked through the lab.

**6. Follow up on the Reorganization of Economic Development**

The County Executive staff is working on the details for creating and staffing the new Office of Agriculture which will be effective on October 4, 2015. The head of the new Office of Agriculture will report to Fariba Kassiri, Chief Administrative Officer. There are concerns for Peter Bang, Chief Operating Officer for the DED being moved to the new Office of Agriculture to provide administrative, budget, personnel support and this decision is still under consideration by the Executive staff. **Please note the Agricultural Services Navigator was abolished with the understanding that Peter Bang would provide the administrative capacity for the Office of Agriculture and Jeremy Criss could then focus on the agricultural programs and services. Peter Bang and Jeremy met with Steve Silverman on August 27, 2015 to ask for his advice and assistance. Steve agreed to call Tim Firestine to discuss the Office of Agriculture.** Six to Twelve months after the Office of Agriculture is effective all of the staff will be subject to a reclassification study to determine if their job classification, grade and salary should be changed.

7. We are working with the County Cable Administrator and Comcast to explore replacing the phone system and T-1 lines at the AHFP. This will involve participation of all agricultural

agencies-MSCD, MDA, NRCS, FSA, UM-Extension and Office of Ag. The plan will involve transferring all current funding for phones and T-1 lines to Comcast for Business phone service and High Speed Broad Band internet.

8. The Equine Resource Conservation Position was announced and the OHR has provided the MSCD the applicants that met the minimum qualifications and need to be interviewed.

9. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 20, 2015@7:00pm

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-September 15, 2015 @7:00pm

Montgomery County Ag Pres. Advisory Board-September 15, 2015@ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Farm to Table Dinner-September 19, 2015

Delegation of Agricultural Leaders from Colorado-September 23, 2015@ 7:00am

MD/ VA Agricultural Marketing Specialists Conference-September 29-Oct 2, 2015

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-October 6, 2015@7:00pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Sup- October 9, 2015@ 9:00am

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 20, 2015 @7:00pm

Close Encounters with Agriculture Bag Party-October 7, 2015

**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting  
Agenda – October 20, 2015**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from September 15, 2015. (See Attachment Draft Minutes)

**3. Follow up on the Council Work Session approving the Pesticide Bill 52-14 (6 to 3 Vote)**

What happens next? There is a movement to include this legislation on the November 2016 Ballot for the County voters to decide. The Legislative History read out loud by Council President Leventhal outlined below may be considered to determine whether the agricultural community-MCFB has legal standing in the case of a court challenge.

*Addressing the concerns of the agricultural community*

*Bill 52-14, as we propose to amend it, takes a belt-and-suspenders approach to ensuring that agriculture is not impacted by the Bill in any way. In every area where there are additional restrictions or requirements on pesticide use, there is an express exception for agriculture.*

*The use restrictions in Section 33B-10 of the Bill, which are identical on County-owned and private property, apply only to “lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas and children’s facilities (including the grounds of children’s facilities).” The definition of the term “lawn” is critical here: “lawn” does not include “agricultural land” and, further, does not include a “garden.” “Garden” is defined in the Bill as “an area of land used to cultivate food crops, flowers, or other ornamental plants.” These two exclusions from the definition of “lawn,” should ensure that any impact on agriculture, whether on County-owned or private property, will be avoided. However, we have heard the concerns of the agricultural community, and to ensure that there is absolutely no ambiguity, Section 33B-10(c)(8) provides an express exception to the restrictions “to control pests while engaged in agriculture.”*

*Section 33B-12 of the Bill generally prohibits the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on all County-owned property by County employees and contractors, but subsection 33B-12(b)(1) of the section includes an express exception “to control pests while engaged in agriculture.”*

*Section 33B-14 requires the Parks Department to implement a pesticide-free parks program develop pesticide usage protocols to minimize pesticide use, but also includes an express exception from any restriction at subsection 33B-14(d)(7) “to control pests while engaged in agriculture.”*

*I understand that objections to the bill remain strong in the agricultural community but I hope this explanatory language will assist in clarifying the application of the new law in the future.*

The Lawn Care Industry is contemplating taking the County to court. The MCFB has already gone on record to the Council that they may also take legal action on the bill.

4. Follow up on the AAC Sub-committee-Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities- Fruit and Grain based Alcoholic beverages. Events on farms providing food and the request for food trucks-

trailers that are prohibited due to Transitory Uses restricted under Section 3.1.5 TDR Prohibitions. (See Attached follow up from the August 26, 2015 meeting.)

### **5. Update on the New Office of Agriculture**

The Office of Agriculture was effective on October 4, 2015. The OHR has provided instructions to Jackie Arnold to begin making the entries into the ERP System for payroll including both Peter Bang and Jackie Arnold for a total ten positions. The final decisions on reclassifications for Peter, Jackie and Jeremy are still pending. The County Code Chapter 2-B has yet to be posted on line with the amendments reflecting the June 30, 2015 adoption of Bill 25-15. The head of the new Office of Agriculture will report to Fariba Kassiri, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer. An announcement regarding the Office of Agriculture is pending the final decisions from the County Executive staff on the staffing details, classifications, and organizational structure. A letter from Leaders of agricultural community was forwarded to the County Executive requesting a meeting.

6. We are working with the County Cable Administrator and Comcast Business Service to explore replacing the phone system and T-1 lines at the AHFP. This will ideally involve participation of all agricultural agencies-MSCD, MDA, NRCS, FSA, UM-Extension and Office of Ag. The plan will involve transferring all current funding for phones and T-1 lines to Comcast Business Service for both phones-voice and High Speed Broad Band-data internet service.

7. Update on the Pilot Project to expand high speed internet to the Agricultural Reserve east of the Town of Poolesville. (See the attached email from Dennis Kamber)

8. There are 5 applicants for the Equine Resource Conservation position (Eddie Franceschi) that were interviewed last week.

9. Our Close Encounters with Agriculture starts on Monday October 12- 30, 2015.

10. Follow up from the October 19, 2015 Ag Preservation Advisory Board briefing with the County Executive to discuss alternative funding for farmland preservation programs and the FY17-21 CIP Budget submission.

11. The Maryland Agricultural Commission and the Secretary of MDA will be touring four farms in Montgomery on October 20, 2015. The farms are Eric Spates-Stoney Castle Farm, Wade and Susan Butler-Butlers Orchard, Craig Ruppert-Ruppert Nurseries, and Gary Mangum-Bell Nursery.

12. The Annual Farm Bureau Banquet is November 10, 2015.

13. MoCo Food Council/Office of Agriculture-Public Forum-On Farm Composting December 3, 2015 (See Attached Draft Survey to the agricultural community)

14. New Appointments to the Agricultural Advisory Committee confirmed by the County Council (See Attachment for confirmations)

15. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting November 17, 2015.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Close Encounters with Agriculture starts-ends October 12-30, 2015

Maryland Ag Commission-MDA Secretary farm tour October 20, 2015

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 20, 2015 @7:00pm

Annual MCFB Banquet Dinner November 10, 2015@6:00 pm

Montgomery County Ag Pres. Advisory Board-November 10, 2015@ 7:00pm????

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Sup- November 13, 2015@ 9:00am

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 17, 2015 @7:00pm

MOCO Food Council-Forum-Opportunities for on-farm composting December 3, 2015

**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Agenda – November 17, 2015**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from October 20, 2015. (See Attachment Draft Minutes)
3. Follow up on the AAC Sub-committee-Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities- Fruit and Grain based Alcoholic beverages. Events on farms providing food and the request for food trucks-trailers that are prohibited due to Transitory Uses restricted under Section 3.1.5 TDR Prohibitions. Discussion on Made in Montgomery-Proposed by Council members Leventhal, Elrich, and Riemer.

**4. Update on the New Office of Agriculture**

The Office of Agriculture was effective on October 6, 2015. The OHR moved all positions into the Office of Agriculture to approve time cards in the ERP System for payroll. The final decisions on reclassification for the Office of Agriculture administrative support reflects a Program Manager II Grade 25 position that will not provide an opportunity for Peter Bang to migrate. The County Code Chapter 2-B has yet to be posted on line with the amendments reflecting the June 30, 2015 adoption of Bill 25-15. The head of the new Office of Agriculture will report to Fariba Kassiri, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer. An announcement regarding the Office of Agriculture is pending the final decisions from the County Executive staff on the staffing details, classifications, and organizational structure. A letter from Leaders of agricultural community was forwarded to the County Executive requesting a meeting. An email response to the letter was sent from the Director of the Office of Human Resources.

5. We are working with the County Cable Administrator and Comcast Business Service to replace the phone system and T-1 lines at the AHFP. This will involve participation of all agricultural agencies-MSCD, MDA, NRCS, FSA, UM-Extension and Office of Ag for Voice over Internet phones only. The USDA (NRCS and FSA) will maintain their T-1 line internet capacity. The plan will involve transferring all current funding for phones and T-1 lines to Comcast Business Service for both phones-voice and High Speed Broad Band-data internet service. There is cost savings on the new phone system and a small cost increase each month on internet for a new system that will actually work.

6. The Interview Panel recommended to the Office of Human Resources that a job offer be made to one of the candidates (Shelly Ingram) for Equine Resource Conservation position that Eddie Franceschi formerly occupied. The conditional job offer was made to Ms. Ingram and the start date with orientation should be after the holidays?

7. Follow up from the October 19, 2015 Ag Preservation Advisory Board briefing with the County Executive to discuss alternative funding for farmland preservation programs and the FY17-21 CIP Budget submission. The DED submission consisted of \$1.5 million per year for the Biannual CIP- \$500k Water Quality Protection Charge, \$500k Current Revenue-(County Ag

Transfer tax or Investment Income from tax) \$500k from MNCPPC Legacy Open Space Program. The APAB recommended \$2.0 million per year.

8. MoCo Food Council/Office of Agriculture-Public Forum-On Farm Composting December 3, 2015 **(See Attached Survey to the agricultural community)**

9. Forum on Ending Obesity in Montgomery County-December 9, 2015 **(See the attached summary for the Forum)**

10. University of MD-Extension-Managing Avian Influenza-December 16, 2015 6:00 pm **(See the attached summary and purpose for the meeting)**

11. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting December 16, 2015???

#### **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Made in Montgomery-Meeting with Council members-November 16, 2015

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 17, 2015 @7:00pm

Montgomery Ag Producers-MAP Bd of Directors meeting with CE-November 18, 2015

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-December 1, 2015@7:00pm

MOCO Food Council-Forum-Opportunities for on-farm composting December 3, 2015

Montgomery County Ag Preservation Advisory Board-December 8, 2015-7:00 pm

Forum on Ending Obesity in Montgomery County- December 9, 2015@ 9:30 am

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-December December 11, 2015 9:00 am

Holiday Party for the Agricultural History Farm Park December 14, 2012@ 12:00 pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-December 15, 2015 @7:00pm ???

University of Maryland-Managing Avian Influenza-December 16, 2015@ 6:00 pm