



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Director

MEMORANDUM

May 10, 2011

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Agricultural Services Manager
Department of Economic Development

SUBJECT: Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 17, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy V. Criss".

Please be advised that the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at the Upcounty Regional Services Center, 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, in Room B at 7:30 p.m.**

The attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Agricultural Services website. Due to the County's paper reduction mandate, please print these attachments out and bring them with you to the meeting.

See you on May 17th.

*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

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**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
Agenda for May 17, 2011**

1. Introductions if needed?
2. Approval of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes from April 19, 2011.
(See Attachment A.) **CE response letter to MCFB-Tree Trimming Concerns- New Process for filing requests for tree trimming through DED-Agricultural Services.**
3. Farmland Preservation Update: BLT Easement Purchase Period-April 1 through May 30, 2011-\$1.5 Million is available for BLT easement acquisitions. Please make an appointment with John Z if you want to apply to the BLT program.
4. The Planning Housing and Economic Development Work Session recommended approval on April 13, 2010 the DED-Agricultural Services operating and capital budget for FY 2012. The Full County Council approved the Agricultural Preservation CIP on May 10, 2011. Cathy Yingling accepted the PAA position assigned to UME and she came back to DED on May 9, 2011.
5. May 17, 2011 Letter from the AAC to the County Council on the proposed changes to the Commercial Residential Zones ZTA 11-01 reducing/eliminating the incentive density for Building Lot Termination BLT Program. (See Attachment B.)
6. Update on the Zoning Rewrite Process: The MNCPPC asked the DED to participate in a special meeting with alternative energy company representatives. The use of solar and wind energy systems represents a permitting issue with the County DPS that will be addressed through a Zoning Text Amendment the County Executive has requested. Solar City is working with Ruppert Companies on 40,000 square feet of free standing solar panels for their headquarters operation.
7. Update on House Bill 209 MALPF Allowable Residential Uses-Child Lots. Montgomery and Baltimore Counties opposed this bill and it did not pass the 2011 Legislative Session. The MDA-MALPF Board of Trustees asked for the legislation to be discussed over the summer.
(See Attachment C.)
8. The Horticultural Work Group staffed by DED has drafted a ZTA to allow Agricultural Processing, Landscape Contractor, and Horticultural Nursery as a conditional use permitted by right in the RDT zone. The size threshold for permitted use is recommended on a sliding scale basis ranging from 2-5-25 acres.
9. Farmers Markets for the 2011 are under way. This year the County has a total of 20 farmers 4 of which are new this year. (See Attachment D.)
10. The 22nd Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale Event is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday July 23 and 24, 2011 from 10:00am to 4:00. There are 12 farms on the tour and we have funding sponsors- MCFB, UME, and MSCD to help share the costs to promote this event.
11. Next scheduled meeting of the AAC is June 21, 2011 @ 7:30 pm in Room B at the UpCounty Regional Services Center in Germantown.
Upcoming Meeting and Events:
UME Volunteer Recognition Dinner May 18, 2011@5:00pm
MALPF program Administrators June 1, 2011@10:00am