

(Attachment C.)

Criss, Jeremy

From: Criss, Jeremy
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 10:36 AM
To: Criss, Jeremy; 'Woody Woodroof'; 'Ben Allnutt'; 'Callum Murray'; 'Chuck Schuster'; 'David Heisler'; 'David Weitzer'; 'Doug Lechluder'; 'Doug Tregoning'; 'Eddie Kuhlman'; 'Fred Lechluder'; 'Gary Marx'; 'Gene Walker'; 'George Lechluder'; 'Jane Evans'; 'Jane Hunter'; 'Jane Seigler'; 'Jim Clifford'; 'Linda Lewis'; 'Lois Stoner'; 'Nancy Aldous'; 'Patrick Brown'; 'Patrick Brown'; 'Randy Stabler'; 'Robert Beall'; 'Tim McGrath'; 'Tom Linthicum'; 'Vince Berg'; 'Wade Butler'; 'William Willard'; 'klewis@ruppertcompanies.com'; 'Pam Saul'; 'Lonnie Luther'; 'rdraver@aol.com'; 'bastabler@aol.com'; 'Randy Stabler'; 'BCISSEL@aol.com'; 'bergvh@starpower.net'; 'bruce.connelly@nist.gov'
Cc: Steed, Melissa; Zawitoski, John; 'Cheng-I Wei'
Subject: Follow up to the Special Agricultural Advisory Committee and Working Group Meeting Tuesday November 1, 2011

Hello Everyone,
I am attaching the message that was sent to Dean Wei thanking him and his staff for attending the above referenced meeting and the Dean's response.
Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks Jeremy

Jeremy V. Criss
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Department of Economic Development
Agricultural Services Division
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Derwood, Maryland 20855
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11/10/2011

(Attachment C)

Criss, Jeremy

From: Cheng-I Wei [wei@umd.edu]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2011 4:55 PM
To: Criss, Jeremy
Cc: Nick T. Place; Thomas H. Miller; Jennifer Thorn Bentlejewski; Karen D. Reddersen; Christine K. Lothen-Kline; weitzer@erols.com; Loretta P. Carstens; Ann G. Wylie; Beverly C. Rodgeron
Subject: Re: Follow up from our November 1, 2011 meeting

Dear Jeremy:

Thanks for the help and support. We know we are in a very challenging time of the US history. However, we are very confident that we are going to do even a better job helping the stakeholders applying efficiency and useful technology in addition to our outstanding faculty and staff.

My team members and I are always available for discussion of the concerns that our stakeholders have. I want to have that channel of communication open all the time and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Cheng-I Wei

On Nov 3, 2011, at 12:45 PM, "Criss, Jeremy" <Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov> wrote:

Hello Dean Wei, Nick, Tom, Jennifer, Karen and Christine,

On Behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) we want to thank you for attending the meeting on November 1, 2011.

We understand that you traveled a long way to attend this meeting and that you returned home very late.

After you left the meeting the farmers discussed what they heard and they were very impressed with the presentations that Jennifer, Karen and Christine provided.

Everyone agreed that the UME did an excellent job in selecting all three of these AEDs.

The AAC has a better understanding of how this UME-AED cluster plan is working in other areas of the state.

The AAC is optimistic this UME-AED approach can work for Montgomery County.

The AAC still has some concerns and reservations surrounding the UME-AED although they decided to not stand in the way of the UME to implement it.

Thank you again for your time and please let us know if you have any questions.

Jeremy

11/10/2011

(Attachment C.)



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

December 7, 2011

Dr. Cheng-I Wei, Dean
Dr. Nick Place, Associate Dean
College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences
University of Maryland Extension
1296 Symons Hall
College Park, Maryland 20742-5551

Dear Drs. Wei and Place:

Thank you both for meeting with me on November 17, 2011 to discuss the status of the University of Maryland Extension-UME staffing plan and Area Extension Director-AED plan. I thought the discussion was both informative and helpful for me to better understand how the UME is addressing the current environment with limited resources.

As you know, I have closely monitored the discussions between the UME and the agricultural community regarding these plans. It was interesting to learn that while the agricultural community still has some concerns and reservations surrounding the AED, they are not opposing the Area Extension Director for Montgomery, Frederick and Howard Counties.

It has come to my attention following the meeting that the agricultural community is most interested in restoring the Agricultural Extension Agent position that has been vacant since July of 2010 when Doug Tregoning retired. While Montgomery County has the highest population in the State and we are very proud of our agricultural industry that encompasses nearly one third or 93,000 acres of the County. It is important for all citizens to know that agriculture is still the number 1 industry in the State of Maryland. Agriculture represents the foundation that our country was built upon and this foundation was built by farmers and the Extension programs offered by the Land Grant Colleges throughout the United States.

I encourage you to work with Jeremy Criss to develop a strategy that will restore an Agricultural Extension Agent for the program cluster which includes Montgomery, Frederick, and Howard Counties to be collectively funded by these counties and the State.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett,
County Executive

cc: Jeremy Criss, Agricultural Services Manager, DED