



Steve Reeves., Chairman
Scott Bacon, Vice Chairman

Ben Beale
Lynn Klug
Michael Sirk

Colleen Corrigan
John K. Parlett, Jr
Charles Webb

Phil Dorsey
Alan Polk
Joseph Wood

Phil Langley
Patrick Russell
Bruce Young

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
November 8, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center. Members in attendance were Steve Reeves, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, Lynn Klug, Alan Polk, Patrick Russell, Michael Sirk, and Joseph Wood. Also present were Donna Sasscer Lisa Ledman, and Sue Veith from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included: Jamie Raley, President of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau, Cindy Greb from the Southern Maryland Resource and Conservation Development (RC&D); and Andrew Garte from the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT).

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. It was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum. Minutes from the October 11, 2018 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Dorsey and seconded by Mr. Polk.

New Business

None.

Old Business

Proposed Ordinance on Commercial Dock Use – Mr. Reeves distributed a letter that was received from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County requesting the Board's input on the matter of the Proposed Ordinance on Commercial Dock Use. While the Board feels that this moratorium may not be the best answer to the problem it does recognize there is a problem. The Board would like to see the State offer landowners the first right of refusal of an aquaculture lease on areas that would directly impede the landowners. There is concern that there are not adequate maps available to show current and potential leases issued by the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). There is also concern that the time provisions in the leases are not being enforced. It is the Board's notion that the newly elected Delegate to the southern portion of the County does not share the same views on this subject as the current/previous Delegate. The Board also discussed the possibility of a newly created tax credit for affected landowners. A motion to draft a letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County stating the above issues was made by Mr. Dorsey, and seconded by Mr. Russell.

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market Relocation – Ms. Veith updated the Board that the staff met with a subcommittee of vendors with a new building design that was appealing to the vendors. Staff is currently working on a site plan that will be presented to the subcommittee on November 26th. Staff will then work on a cost estimate for the December Board meeting.

SMADC Regional Agriculture Center – Ms. Sasscer told the Board that there were no updates at this time on the Request for Proposals (RFP). SMADC continues to work with the State Attorney General's Office. Mr. Russell questioned if individual landowners would be able to submit for the RFP or if it would only be open to the Counties. Ms. Sasscer will have Ms. Hampton-Watson update at the next Board Meeting.

Rural Legacy – Mr. Garte invited the Board to attend the Public Information Meeting to expand the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area. The meeting will be held on November 20th at 6 pm at the Charlotte Hall Library. Mr. Garte also has plans to meet with County staff to better define the proposed expansion boundary. Ms. Greb has submitted 4 packages to the State for consideration for the FY18 grant funding award, she has 2 additional packages to submit. Ms. Sasscer told both PTLT & RC&D that the County CIP Budget requests were due to her by the Thanksgiving holiday so that she could submit proper paperwork by the December 1st deadline.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) – Ms. Sasscer stated that there were no updates at this time.

Zoning Uses – Mr. Reeves announced that this topic was being postponed for discussion at the December Board Meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – John Parlett, Colleen Corrigan, Patrick Russell, and Charles Webb

No update at this time.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – Phil Langley, Alan Polk, Steve Reeves, Patrick Russell, and Joseph Wood

No update at this time.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – Colleen Corrigan, Phil Dorsey, Steve Reeves, Michael Sirk, and Joseph Wood

No update at this time.

Open Comment

Mr. Raley updated the Board on a letter that the Farm Bureau had submitted to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in December 2017 requesting legislation be added to create a Right to Seafood Ordinance. This legislation was not included in the 2018 Legislative Package and the Commissioners reached out to Farm Bureau to see if it should be included with the 2019

Legislative Package. Due to the impending aquaculture lease issues, Farm Bureau declined to have this proposal included.

Mr. Raley also invited the Board to attend the Economic Development Commission's meeting on November 14th at 6 pm to listen to an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). There will be a similar update on the CEDS at the November 27th Farm Bureau Meeting that the Board is also invited to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m., motioned by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Dorsey. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2018 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.