



John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman
David Paulk, Vice Chairman
Phil Dorsey **Adam Dyson** **Dr. Edward Falta** **James Moore**
Jon Shenski **Michael Sirk** **James Spence** **Melissa Thompson** **Joseph Wood**

Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
March 20, 2014
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 John Parlett, David Paulk, Dr. Edward Falta, James Moore, Jon Shenski, Michael Sirk, James Spence, and Joseph Wood. Also present was Bruce Young from the St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District, Jamie Raley from the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau, Sue Veith from the St. Mary's County Land Use and Growth Management Department and Robin Finnacom, Donna Sasscer, and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance were Patrick Russell, Jim Grube and Tucker Grube. The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. It was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum. Minutes from the February 20, 2014 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Wood.

Old Business

Agriculture Services Center – The build-out is moving along and completion should be by the end of May 2014. Staff from the Maryland Cooperative Extension will be appearing before the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday to request an additional \$39,000 in funds to complete the project.

Rural Legacy – Mr. Parlett appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to request changing the local sponsor of the FY15 Rural Legacy Application to the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Board. This action motivated the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTWLT) to open lines of communication with the Commissioners; Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Board, and the RC&D. The PTWLT is now requesting to partner with RC&D. They would also like to meet with this Board to discuss their current initiatives. A letter will be drafted to invite them to our May meeting to discuss current progress. This Board would also like to hear from local landowners who have recently completed easements with PTWLT.

Home Grown Farm Market – The Home Grown Farm Market will open for the season the first Saturday in April. There were 31 vendors over the course of 2013. Recently the lease

agreement was amended to allow for Recreation and Parks to use a side area for practice soccer fields on days when the market is not open.

North St. Mary's County Farmers Market – A timeline of the space was given as the library was built first, then the farmers market was created and the parking lot was expanded, finally the trail with no additional parking. The Board would like to see Recreation and Parks help provide facility support since they are now partners in the problem. Ms. Sasscer told the Board of property across the street from the library that the family is looking to sell or lease. The site is 2 acres but adjacent to another property the Board has already looked at for moving the market. The Board suggests that staff from the Library, Department of Economic and Community Development, Department of Public Works and Transportation, and Recreation and Parks meet to determine how to co-exist.

New Business

Aquaculture – Mr. Jim Grube told the Board of an individual who is interested in leasing a signification acreage from DNR for oyster farming on the bottom and surface of Calvert Bay (75 ac). To date there have been legal notices posted and an information meeting held however there has been no opportunity for the public to voice their concerns:

Impact of level of oyster farming on property owners

Effect on tourism

Land rush on water lease

Impeded access to Calvert Creek

The Board agreed that the Board of County Commissioners should be made aware of this matter and advised staff to contact the County Administrators office.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members – Joseph Wood (Chairman), James Moore (Vice Chair), David Paulk, Edward Falta

No updates at this time

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – James Spence (Chairman), James Moore (Vice Chair), Adam Dyson, David Paulk, Joseph Wood

Will meet at conclusion of this meeting to discuss child lot requests and proposed land swap request.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – James Moore (Chairman), Michael Sirk (Vice Chair), Phil Dorsey, Adam Dyson, & Jon Shenski

No updates at this time

Open Comment

On April 14, 2014 between 8 am – 10 am there will be a Round Table meeting with Bob Schaller at the Agriculture Service Center to talk about diversification of the County.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m., motioned by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Wood. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2014 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.