



John K. Parlett, Jr., Chairman

Scott Bacon, Vice Chairman

**Ben Beale
David Paulk
Michael Sirk**

**Colleen Corrigan
Steve Reeves
Charles Webb**

**Phil Dorsey
Patrick Russell
Joseph Wood**

**Phil Langley
Jon Shenski
Bruce Young**

**Agricultural, Seafood, and Forestry Board
August 11, 2016
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, Scott Bacon, Colleen Corrigan, Phil Langley, Steve Reeves, Patrick Russell, Jon Shenski, Michael Sirk, and Joe Wood. Also present was Ben Beale from the University of Maryland Extension, Bruce Young from the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, and Adam Mawyer, Donna Sasscer, and Lisa Ledman from the St. Mary's County's Economic Development Department. Guests in attendance at the meeting included: Cindy Greb, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) and Andrew Garte, Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT).

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. It was confirmed that there were enough members present to form a quorum. Minutes from the July 14, 2016 were read and approved by the Board, motioned by Mr. Reeves and seconded by Mr. Langley.

Old Business

Rural Legacy ó Mr. Garte briefed the Board that the PTLT & RC&D have met to discuss the administration of future easements. Ms. Greb updated the Board that RC&D is now on the agreement with the Navy to use Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) funds. Ms. Sasscer told the Board that the Commissioners created a new Capital Improvements Project with \$1.9 million dedicated to Rural Legacy. On August 4th there was a public meeting to discuss the expansion of the Mattapan Rural Legacy Area. No citizen concerns were expressed about the expansion of the boundary.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) ó Ms. Sasscer reported that the State is in the process of reviewing the easement applications that were submitted. Currently the State administrator is questioning an application that contains a parcel that is partially in the village center, she is suggesting that this application will have to go before the MALPF Board to approve its submission.

Farm Tour ó The Board would like to host the South St. Mary's County Agri-business Tour on September 20th. Ms. Ledman will confirm this date with the Commissioner's office. Scheduled stops will include the Shillinger Farm, Carroll's Equipment, and Fish the Bay Charters.

New Business

Farm Bureau Right to Farm Letter ó A letter from the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau regarding the definition of agricultural operations used in the County's Right to Farm Ordinance was discussed. The Board has several concerns regarding pets vs. livestock in residential areas, the number of animal allowed on property size is no longer defined in the County's Zoning Ordinance. The Board would like to invite the Farm Bureau President, director of Land Use and Growth Management and the County Attorney to their next meeting to further discuss this issue.

Sub-Committee Reports

Farmers Markets Sub-Committee

Members –David Paulk, Colleen Corrigan, Patrick Russell, and Charles Webb

New Rules and By-laws have been created by the California Farmers Market Board.

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board

Members – Jon Shenski (Chairman), Phil Langley, David Paulk, Steve Reeves, and Patrick Russell

The Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board met after the Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Board Meeting. The Board voted to approve a request to exclude a pre-existing dwelling on the Woodlawn property. This request will be forwarded to the State MALPF Board to review.

Agricultural Reconciliation Committee

Members – Colleen Corrigan, Phil Dorsey, David Paluk, Jon Shenski, and Michael Sirk

No updates at this time.

Open Comment

Mr. Young updated the Board on the Envirothon program. Next year the National Contest will be held in Maryland at Mount St. Mary's College. A \$22,000 grant from MAERDAF was received. There are no funds for the FY17 cost share program, the governor refused to sign, farmers are encouraged to write to the governor. Cover Crop sign ups are complete, there are more acres this year than in the past.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m., motioned by Mr. Reeves and seconded by Mr. Sirk. The next meeting will is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2016 at noon in the Conference Room of the Agriculture Services Center.