



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

MEMORANDUM

May 11, 2017

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: May 16, 2017 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on **May 16, 2017 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room A (First Floor) at 7:00 pm.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*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
May 16, 2017

1. Meeting called to Order and Introductions.
2. Approval of the March 15, 2017 AAC meeting minutes. There was no meeting in April.
3. The County Council recommended approval last week on the FY18 Operating Budget for OAG. No additional funding was allocated for FY18. All adjustments are planned for FY19. Click on the link below to access the OAG Budget packet.
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5023&meta_id=137958
4. During the PHED Committee work session on April 26, 2017, I discussed the \$50,000 study for Agritourism (*See Summary Below*) that the Planning Board is proposing. The OAG web site shows how many farms are already conducting Agritourism and Agricultural Education events on their farms as approved by the County Department of Permitting Services-DPS. I explained how the AAC subcommittee conducted four meetings in calendar year 2015 and the recommendations were not submitted to the Full AAC. In calendar year 2016, the DPS started to approve several farms for Agritourism and Agricultural Education events and this was the primary reason the AAC subcommittee was discontinued. I told the PHED Committee how the MNCPPC study will most likely propose ways to limit ag education and ag tourism events on farms from what DPS is currently approving.

April 24, 2017 PHED Committee Work Session on MNCPPC Budget Agri-Tourism Study - \$50,000. This study land use and zoning strategies that would address common issues affecting agri-tourism, breweries, micro-distilleries, culinary tourism and the farm-to-table movement. The study would recommend strategic solutions rather than relying on ad hoc zoning text amendments to address the land use issues created by these uses. Stakeholder involvement from Visit Montgomery, the Office of Agriculture, MCEDC, and other organizations will be critical to the success of the project.

5. The Office of Human Resources and the Office of Management and Budget have approved the reclassification of the vacant MSCD manager to a Management Leadership Series MIII position. The OAG will be working with OHR on the announcement to fill this vacant position as soon as possible.
6. Both House Bills to help reduce deer herds in the County were passed. The AAC has forwarded letters of thanks to the each of the Delegates and Senators that spearheaded these bills. The OAG met with the Deer Management Work Group to begin promoting the new deer hunting regulations associated with the HB 310-Sunday Hunting and HB 313-Archery Safety Zone Deer Hunting Bills for MC.
7. Both Memorandum of Understandings MOUs with the University of Maryland-Extension and the Montgomery Soil Conservation District have been approved. These MOUs will help everyone to understand how these agencies work with the County OAG including the financial resources and deliverables for all parties.

8. The Urban Agricultural Tax Credit applications for eligibility will be submitted by September 1, 2017 for this year only. In the future, the applications must be submitted by April 1st of each year. One application is pending so far.
9. We are still waiting for the Council to finish and approve of the FY18 budget so they can focus on other issues like the ZTA 16-02 regarding AR Zone-TDR requirements for Dwellings accessory to farming like Farm Tenant Dwellings. We are still waiting to see if the ZTA will be assigned a new number and start the public process over.
10. On May 2, 2017, the OAG took the members of the Montgomery County Food Council, Visit Montgomery, and DPS staff on a tour of four farms. See the attached program that was handed out. The OAG proposes to conduct three to four farm tours annually where different types of farms will be chosen. Tours of farms will help to educate the public on the good conservation work that farmers are doing as well as provide opportunities to further promote the Ag Reserve. If you are interested in showing your farm to the public, please let us know. The OAG reserved a 45-foot Ride-On-Bus to accommodate the guests.
11. John Z and I will have met with the attorneys from (Whiteford, Taylor and Preston) handling the legal challenge that Pulte Homes filed against the County Government for Ten Mile Creek amendments to the Clarksburg Master Plan.
12. New Appointments to serve on the AAC-See Attached summary
13. 2017 Farmers Markets in Montgomery County.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices/Resources/Files/Farmers_Markets/2017farmersmarketflyerDRAFT.pdf
14. The OAG is working on the 2017 Farm Tour for July 22 & 23, 2017. We have 17 farms on the Farm Tour this year as compared to 21 farms last year. We are also working on a new marketing initiative to cosponsor with Visit Montgomery, a Self-Guided Farm Tour throughout the growing season for farms that are normally open to the public during the months April through November.
15. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting-June 20, 2017 @ 7:00pm.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

MARBIDCO-UM-Ext Upper Southern MD Ag Business Providers Forum-May 10, 2017
Agricultural Advisory Committee-Tuesday May 16, 2017 @ 7:00pm
UM-Extension-Volunteer Recognition Dinner-May 17, 2017
Montgomery Soil Conservation Bd of Supervisors-May 19, 2017 @ 9:00am-**rescheduled**
Stakeholder Gathering-Advance Composting in Frederick Co. May 22, 2017
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Picnic-June 4, 2017 @
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-June 6, 2017 @ 7:00pm
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-June __, 2017 @ 7:00pm-**rescheduled**
Agricultural Advisory Committee-Tuesday June 20, 2017 @ 7:00pm
Montgomery Soil Conservation Bd of Supervisors-June 23, 2017 @ 9:00am-**rescheduled**