



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

MEMORANDUM

September 15, 2017

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: **Monday** September 18, 2017 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on **Monday September 18, 2017 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room D (Third 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 Monday.

*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

e:aacSeptember(aac17)



Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda September 18, 2017

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the July 18, 2017 AAC meeting minutes. There was no meeting in August.
3. The OAG is continuing to work with Office of Human Resources to complete the reclassifications of all OAG staff- The following reclassifications are complete-**John Zawitoski, District Manager MIII**, Karen Walker, OSC, Melissa Steed, PAA. The following reclassifications are still pending-Cathy Yingling, AA I, Jackie Arnold, AA, III, James Harne and Shelly Ingram Resource Conservationist I, II, III, and Jeremy Criss, Director MII.
4. The ZTA 17-06 (formerly ZTA 16-02) public hearing was originally scheduled for September 12, 2017 and it was moved to September 19, 2017 at 1:30 pm. There are three amendments that are proposed. Please see the attached letter from the AAC including a Draft ZTA 17-06 with amendments.
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2017/ZTA%2017-06.pdf>
5. Guest Bob Harris-Attorney with Lerch, Early and Brewer. Bill 2-16 and ZTA 17-03 Accessory Residential Uses-Short Term Rental. This Bill and ZTA are more of a down county issue that has impacted the definition of Bed and Breakfast uses that are also up county.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2016/Packets/20170912_14B.pdf
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2017/ZTA%2017-03.pdf>

Bob is proposing a change in the definition of Bed and Breakfast. **Current definition:** Bed and Breakfast means a detached house that is owner-occupied with no more than 5 guest rooms for rent and customarily serves breakfasts to guests. A Bed and Breakfast is permitted as an accessory use to farming. **Proposed changes to the definition:** The definition should be changed so that someone other than the property owner can operate the Bed and Breakfast. Meals other than breakfast should be allowed and consistent with the practice of Bed and Breakfasts elsewhere.
6. County Council Bill 23-17 Animal Control-Performance Animal-Violations.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2017/Packets/20170918_6.pdf

The MCFB, AAC, MAP and the Agricultural Center submitted jointly signed letters dated August 14, 2017 and again September 5, 2017 to the County Council requesting additional time. The September 11, 2017 Public Safety Committee Work Session was attended by Elrich, Katz and Hucker along with Bill Sponsors Leventhal and Rice. Additionally, Lonnie Luther, John Fendrick, Randy Stabler, Marty Svrcek and Jeremy Criss attended. The Council members used this PS work session to acknowledge that they were granting

additional time as requested by the agricultural community. No vote was taken at the PS work session and a meeting between the County Council and the agricultural community is pending. The County Council and staff acknowledged that they need our help to amend this Bill 23-17.

7. The OAG responded to the County Department of General Services to develop a plan to visit the Site 2 property in White Oak (Former WSSC Sludge Composting Facility). The OAG asked for pictures of the facility, buildings and equipment to assist the agricultural community on items to be salvaged. Stay Tuned!
8. Introduction of Bill 30-17-Weapons-Discharge of Bows-Amendments to conform to the passage of House Bill 313 Reduction of the Safety Zone Distance for bow hunting from 75 yards to 50 yards. Public Hearing is scheduled for September 19, 2017 at 1:30 pm.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2017/Packets/20170912_13B.pdf
9. County DOT installing guard rails on County Roads-Zion Road complaint from Randy Stabler. The OAG has requested a meeting with the County DOT asking them to present the all rural road projects including the installation of guard rails that are pending so the agricultural community can be better informed. Stay Tuned!
10. Follow up from the September 13, 2017 OAG meeting with Department of Police to suggest ways to help escort farmers and their equipment along County roads during the harvest season.
11. Introduction of Bill 28-17- County Minimum Wage-Amount-Annual Adjustment. Public Hearing is scheduled for September 26, 2017 at 7:00 pm.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2017/Packets/20170725_5C.pdf
12. Follow up regarding the request from representatives of WSSC, DC Water, and Blue Drop regarding the marketing of Bloom-an exceptional quality bio solids-based soil amendment. Blue Drop is marketing it to farms, nurseries, gardens, landscapers, and soil blenders in MD and DC now and are interested in learning more about how to reach those markets. The OAG and MSCD have requested a site visit of Blue Plains to see the process for making Bloom. Stay Tuned!
13. Status of the New Appointments to the AAC. The AAC interview committee submitted recommendations to Executive staff on July 28, 2017. Stay Tuned!
14. Update on the Sugarland Road Broadband project-(See attached letter dated August 9, 2017 to Comcast)
15. Local Conservation Workgroup Meeting Wednesday September 27, 2017 @ 8:30 am- The MSCD and NRCS will be hosting a meeting to update farmers on the new requirements for federal and state conservation programs. Please see the attached program agenda.
16. The Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder will be visiting Montgomery County as part of the fall legislative farm tour day on Monday October 16,

2017. The secretary and members from the County Delegation and the County Council will visit Waters Orchard, Sunny Ridge Farm and Waredaca Brewing Company.

- 17.** Next Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting October 17, 201 in Room A. Please see the attached schedule of future AAC meetings due to the closing and reconstruction of the Up County Regional Services Center.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Poolesville Day- September 16, 2017

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-Monday September 18, 2017

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-September 19, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Montgomery County Farm Bureau-Farm to Table Dinner-September 23, 2017

MSCD Conservation Workshop-September 27, 2017 AHFP 8:30 am

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Bd of Directors-October 3, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Montgomery Soil Cons Bd of Supervisors-October 13, 2017 @ 9:00 am-Relocated CEWA

MDA Fall Legislative Farm Tour Day in Montgomery County-Monday October 16, 2017

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 17, 2017 @ 7:00 pm