

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee -February 21, 2023
Office of Agriculture- Jeremy Criss

Call the meeting to Order and Introductions-

Approval of the January 17, 2023 AAC minutes-

Update on the PFAS Article on the Wells #2 and #3 in Poolesville taken offline because they detected Forever Chemicals-PFAS These wells are located towards the center of town and in residential and commercial areas.

Timeline of events surrounding this PFAS issue

January 3, 2023	Community Meeting in the Town of Poolesville
January 9, 2023	Ag Community Leaders and Ag agency staff meeting to develop a proactive strategy
January 26, 2023	Webinar conducted by Bloom representatives on PFAS testing etc.
January 30, 2023	Meeting between PEER, MCA, SCA, OAG, DEP, CEX to review PFAS test results
January 31, 2023	Letter from PEER, MCA, SCA to the CE and Council President on PFAS
February 7, 2023	Follow up meeting for Ag Community Leaders and Bloom representatives
February 8, 2023	DEP Briefing with the CE on the letter from PEER, MCA, SCA The County Executive supports House Bill 319, <i>Environment – Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements</i>

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/investigations/toxins-in-poolesville-drinking-water/65-292eae8d-f798-4203-8b55-496bdf3a28e2>

Here is another article regarding the WSSC Bloom product containing PFAS.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2021/05/25/pfas-pfos-forever-chemicals-garden-fertilizers/7418828002/>

Bill 40-21- Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems - Amendments (McCartney-Green)

During the October 24, 2022, Transportation and Environment Committee work session several questions were raised that DEP staff did not have all the information. We are monitoring the County Council for another T&E Committee work session to be scheduled.

Bill 18-22 Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments-

This Bill 18-22 Noise Control-Leaf Removal Equipment was introduced on June 21, 2022, and the Public Hearing was on September 20, 2022. Some of the agricultural groups remitted letters to the County Council opposing the Bill 18-22 which prohibits gasoline leaf blowers. The T&E Committee

work session was held on February 13, 2023, and Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe presented an amendment to permit the use of gasoline blowers in the Agricultural Reserve. We are hopeful the actual language for this amendment will be available for the next work session.

Office of Legislative Oversight on the Status of TDRs and BLTs -

The Legislative Oversight-OLO report was scheduled before the County Council Planning Housing and Parks Committee work session February 13, 2023. Please see the attached briefing document. There will be another Planning Housing and Parks Committee work session once the FY 24 Budgets are approved.

UME Staff updates-

The UME has selected Lynn Rubin as the New Area Extension Director.

The UME has selected Shawn Saco as the New Master Gardeners administrative assistant.

The UME has selected Catherine Savage as the New 4H Agent Associate.

FY 23 Operating Budget for the OAG:

The County OHR is working on the job offer the New MSCD Engineering Position-Technical assistance on small ponds.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

New and Beginning Farmers Training-February 2- April 6, 2023

Agricultural Advisory Committee-February 21, 2023

Annual Agronomy Update-February 22, 2023

6th Annual Farmers Forum-February 23, 2023

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-March 7, 2023

On-Farm Composting Workshop-March 9, 2023

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-March 10, 2023

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-March 14, 2023