

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee - Agenda July 18, 2023
Office of Agriculture- Jeremy Criss

Call the meeting to Order and Introductions-

Approval of the June 20, 2023, AAC minutes-

1. Bill 40-21, Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems – Amendments

The OAG will continue to monitor this bill, which will be scheduled for a second T&E Committee Work Session.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230307/20230307_3A.pdf

2. Bill 18-22, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments

The County Council tabled this bill, but the OAG will continue to monitor it.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230321/20230321_4G.pdf

3. MDA News Release on the Privatization of the Nutrient Management Program

Natalia Salazar will be representing the Office of Agriculture during the July 17, 2023, meeting that MDA is hosting for farmers and she will report back on what she learned.

4. Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) Report on the Status of Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) and Building Lot Termination (BLT) Easements

There is no update on this OLO Report that will be scheduled before the Planning Housing and Parks Committee after the summer recess and Labor Day weekend. **The OAG is proposing the attached Letter of Intent/Interest** for any farmer that leases farmland that still has retained TDRs as these farmers will need the ability to use these retained TDRs as equity to help purchase the farm. The OAG hopes this approach will enable the MNCPPC to better understand how many TDRs they will need to be planned for in TDR Overlay zones.

5. Update on the October 2023 Retirement of Jeremy Criss, Director of the Office of Agriculture

The position for the new Director of the Office of Agriculture was advertised during the entire month June. The candidates that applied are being reviewed by the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and she will select the members of the interview panel from the farmers and other folks that the OAG provided. The OAG also provided interview questions for consideration we hope that interviews are scheduled soon.

6. Amendments to Chapter 49 Streets and Roads-Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-

On June 20, 2023, the County Council introduced Bill 30-23 to amend the section in Chapter 49, Article 8 on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. The public hearing was on July 11, 2023, the Transportation and Environment Committee work session will take place on July 17, 2023, and action by the full Council will take place on July 25, 2023. **Please see the attached letter from the Agricultural Advisory Committee.**

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230620/20230620_1C.pdf

- 7. The OAG remitted the **attached Report** on the status of Farm Alcohol Production to the County Council. This is the second biennial report since the ZTA 20-01 was adopted in October 2020.
- 8. The Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale will be held this coming weekend-July 22 and 23, 2023. Please see the link below to access the brochure which features 21 farms.
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices/farm-to-table/farm-tour.html>

9. Agricultural Advisory Committee Appointments

Interviews for new AAC candidates were conducted on May 31, 2023. The interview committee was Doug Lechlides, Mike Scheffel, Natalia Salazar, and Jeremy. Since the Administration is three years behind all 15 member appointments to the AAC are needed at the same time. There are several vacancies and we have been informed that the County Council is pushing back on requests for waivers for additional terms. In view of these challenges, I do not believe I will be able to address the new appointments to the AAC before I retire on October 1, 2023.

- 10. **Next Meeting of the AAC is August 15, 2023, at 7:00 pm - Please note that this meeting is during the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair week, and it may be cancelled.**

11. Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board – Rescheduled to July 18, 2023
Agricultural Advisory Committee-July 18, 2023
Annual Farm Tour Weekend – July 22 and 23, 2023
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors – August 11, 2023
Montgomery County Agricultural Fair – August 11-19, 2023
Agricultural Leaders Luncheon – August 14, 2023
MSCD Cooperators Dinner-September 19, 2023 same night as the Agricultural Advisory Committee