



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

MEMORANDUM

May 11, 2018

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)
FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture
SUBJECT: May 15, 2018 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **May 15, 2018 at the at 7:00 pm.**

We will be meeting at the Agricultural History Farm Park-Multipurpose Room.

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the April 17, 2018 AAC meeting will be available prior to our meeting.

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.

e:aacMay(aac18)



Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
May 15, 2018

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions.
2. Approval of the April 17, 2018 AAC Meeting Minutes.
3. The County Council PHED Committee reviewed the ZTA 18-01 Solar Collection System that proposes 2-megawatt community solar in all zones with exception to Agricultural Zone. Accessory Solar (120% of onsite energy consumption) will continue to be allowed in the Agricultural Reserve-AR zone. The AAC submitted a letter in support of the ZTA 18-01 and recommended that ground mounted solar installations should **NOT** be located on prime and productive soils. The PHED Committee discussed adding the AR zone for community solar, but they voted against including the ag zone now.
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=132&event_id=7735&meta_id=155058
4. The County Council has introduced ZTA 18-03 Farm Alcohol Production-Standards. The public hearing is scheduled for May 15, 2018. The AAC submitted a letter supporting the ZTA with the understanding that amended will be offered that tethers the use to farming.
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=14831&meta_id=152429
5. The County Council Introduced ZTA 18-04 proposed by the County Executive-Non-Conforming uses in place prior to October 2014 can be expanded. The public hearing is scheduled for May 15, 2018. This Davis Airport is the subject of the ZTA.
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=14831&meta_id=152431
6. Follow up on the DNR proposed changes to the 2018-2019 hunting regulations. The County Council, AAC, MAP, and the MSCD forwarded letters to the DNR recommending that Montgomery County be designated as a Suburban Deer Archery Zone and exempt from the proposed reductions in bag limits for both antlered and antlerless deer. Jeremy confirmed with MD DNR staff today that they have all of the letters from the agricultural groups.
http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/Comments/Hunting_Seasons/HUNT_Season_Comments.aspx
7. There have been five Agritourism Study Advisory Committee meetings (November 29, 2017, January 17, 2018, February 21, 2018, April 2, 2018 and April 18, 2018). The next meeting is May 16, 2018. The Agritourism Advisory Committee has discussed many ideas related to events and activities on farms, but they have no agreements on specific recommendations. The MNCPPC staff proposed how the Agritourism review and approval

process will link with Heritage Montgomery Management Plan with the Transportation section of MNCPPC including Rustic Roads.

8. Promotion of Gleaning food to be donated to people in need with the benefits of the Tax Credit for donating food. The following farmers have indicated they will work with Community Food Rescue to donate food this season. Lewis Orchard, Butlers Orchard and Red Wiggler Community Farm. <http://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2017/09/11/food-donation-tax-credit-pilot-program-now-in-effect-southern-maryland-farmers-eligible-for-up-to-5000-state-tax-credit/>
9. We are working to schedule an event on July 20, 2018 for celebrate the 50th Anniversary and Recognition of Conservation Tillage including no till farming in the County. The event will consist of an optional tour of farms in the morning with a luncheon (capped attendance of 250 people x \$20 per person = \$5,000) and short program at the County Agricultural Fair. The OAG is looking for funding sponsors for the luncheon. We have the following groups contributing up to \$500- OAG, MSCD, MCFB, UM-Extension, Willard Agri-Service. We are still working on sponsorship funding from Mid Atlantic Farm Credit, Gladhill Tractor and Mercer Grain and any other farmers that wish to contribute.
10. On April 25, 2018, The Transportation and Environment Committee agreed with the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation regarding the replacement of the Zion Road bridge. The Council T&E Committee DOT recommends that a new two-lane bridge will replace the existing one lane bridge. Jeremy wants to thank the farmers that attended the T&E Committee Work session. Doug Lechluder, Michele Cropp, Tom Linthicum, JB Debnam, Todd Greenstone, Eric Spates, Bob Cissel. Please see page three in the T&E Committee packet below.
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=14943&meta_id=154688

Update from the May 3, 2018 meeting with the Director of DOT regarding dust on River Road.

11. The Office of Agriculture conducted an Agricultural Reserve Bus Tour of four properties on May 9, 2018. We visited Eric Spates-Stoney Castle Farm. Keith Miller-MC Revenue Authority-Poolesville Economic Development Facility-Custom Grape Cush Pad. Ben Allnutt-Homestead Farm. Lori Larson-Wyndham Oaks Farm.
12. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is June 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm. The meeting location will be at the Germantown Holy Cross Hospital.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-May 11, 2018@ 9:00am
Ag Advisory Committee-May 15, 2018 @ 7:00pm-Ag History Farm Park
Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-May 16, 2018 @ 6:00pm
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Picnic-June 3, 2018
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Supervisors-June 5, 2018@ 7:00pm
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-June 12, 2018 @7:00pm