



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Director

MEMORANDUM

May 16, 2014

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Agricultural Services Manager
Department of Economic Development

SUBJECT: The Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Please be advised the Agricultural Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room B at 7:00 p.m.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Agricultural Services web site. Due to the County's paper reduction mandate, please print these attachments out and bring them with you to the meeting.

See you on Tuesday evening.

*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:aacMay2014(aac14)

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – May 20, 2014

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from April 15, 2014. (See Attachment A.)
3. Update on the FY15 Operating and Capital Budgets as follows:

Total personnel costs associated with the MLS Manager II position-Jeremy Criss has been approved for migration back to Operating Budget reducing expenses charged to the Capital Budget.

Vacant Business Development Specialist I position-(Kristin Fisher) approved to be filled and funded out of the Operating Budget.

Operating Funding for increasing technical assistance to farmers (FAME report)-Hire a part-time contractor Agronomy Educator assigned to UM-Extension for Montgomery County only.

Appropriation of a State Grant-Rural Legacy Program-7th Grant Agreement between DNR and the County-\$400,000.

*New funding \$320,000 allocated to MSCD for technical assistance to farmers (FAME report)-WQPC funding to reinstate the Resource Conservationist-Brian Taylor position. The WQPC funding will also fund .1FTE for the Resource Conservationist –Eddie Franceschi and .1FTE for the Program Manager-David Plummer. This outcome will eliminate the need for the MSCD to provide \$20,000 in private contributions to the County DED in the future. The WQPC funding will also fund the Best Management Practices Incentive Programs. **Please note the Leadership from Council Member Roger Berliner was the reason this request for funding to the MSCD was approved by the Council. (See Attachment B.)***

4. Update on Farm Equipment Share Program Discussions with MCFB and MSCD-Insurance Requirements.
5. Update on Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Period February-April 1, 2014-We have enough funding for 14. Base BLT price is \$222,000 per BLT and Maximum BLT Price is \$254,000. John Z has received BLT applications for 23 BLTs and believes that 20 may be eligible and ranked. The APAB will recommend ranking on May 20, 2014.
6. Good turn out of 55 people for the Public Workshop for High Tunnels and Greenhouses scheduled April 29, 2014.
7. Good turn out 45 people for the May 7, 2014 7:00 pm The Montgomery Food Council-Meet Your Agricultural Producer event at the Agricultural History Farm Park. **Presentations by David Heisler, Greg Glen, and Linda Lewis were very well received and greatly appreciated by those that attended.**
8. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 5 Animal Control-Equestrian Facilities- recommended by the AAC to address the conflicts in County Code Chapter 59 Zoning.

9. Follow discussion on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. Letter from AAC, APAB and RRAC to the County Executive and copied to the Council members and Director of DOT. (See Attachment C.)

10. Proposed Deer Damage Survey distributed to everyone to better understand if the County's deer damage programs are reducing crop losses for farmers. (See Attachment D.)
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/deerdonation/Deer_Survey_FY2015.pdf

11. Follow up on the SHA-Agricultural Tourism Signing Program-The DED is working with owners of On-farm markets Wade Butler and Ben Allnutt.

12. Updated Farmers Markets for 2014 Season. (See Attachment E.)
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/Farmers_Markets/2014FINA_Lfarmersmarketflyer\(1\).pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/Farmers_Markets/2014FINA_Lfarmersmarketflyer(1).pdf)

13. Discussion on Draft Legislation that will be handed out at the meeting.

14. 2013 Annual Report for the Agricultural Advisory Committee
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices/Resources/Files/aac_annual_reports/2013AACannalreport.pdf

15. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2014. Jeremy Criss will be out of town on leave this week.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Bd-May 20, 2014@7:00pm
Agricultural Advisory Committee-May 20, 2014 @ 7:00 pm
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Bd of Directors-June 3, 2014@7:00pm
Agricultural County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-June 10, 2014 @ 7:00 pm
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-June 13, 2014@9:00am
Annual Farm Bureau Picnic-June 14, 2014 @ Butlers Orchard
Agricultural Advisory Committee-June 17, 2014 @ 7:00 pm