



**THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE**

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

**MEMORANDUM**

November 13, 2015

**TO:** Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)  
**FROM:** Jeremy V. Criss, Agricultural Services Manager  
Department of Economic Development  
**SUBJECT:** The Agricultural Advisory Committee and Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board Meeting Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Please be advised the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room A 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:aacNov(aac15)

**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting  
Agenda – November 17, 2015**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from October 20, 2015. (See Attachment Draft Minutes)
3. Follow up on the AAC Sub-committee-Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities- Fruit and Grain based Alcoholic beverages. Events on farms providing food and the request for food trucks-trailers that are prohibited due to Transitory Uses restricted under Section 3.1.5 TDR Prohibitions. Discussion on Made in Montgomery-Proposed by Council members Leventhal, Elrich, and Riemer.

**4. Update on the New Office of Agriculture**

The Office of Agriculture was effective on October 6, 2015. The OHR moved all positions into the Office of Agriculture to approve time cards in the ERP System for payroll. The final decisions on reclassification for the Office of Agriculture administrative support reflects a Program Manager II Grade 25 position that will not provide an opportunity for Peter Bang to migrate. The County Code Chapter 2-B has yet to be posted on line with the amendments reflecting the June 30, 2015 adoption of Bill 25-15. The head of the new Office of Agriculture will report to Fariba Kassiri, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer. An announcement regarding the Office of Agriculture is pending the final decisions from the County Executive staff on the staffing details, classifications, and organizational structure. A letter from Leaders of agricultural community was forwarded to the County Executive requesting a meeting. An email response to the letter was sent from the Director of the Office of Human Resources.

5. We are working with the County Cable Administrator and Comcast Business Service to replace the phone system and T-1 lines at the AHFP. This will involve participation of all agricultural agencies-MSCD, MDA, NRCS, FSA, UM-Extension and Office of Ag for Voice over Internet phones only. The USDA (NRCS and FSA) will maintain their T-1 line internet capacity. The plan will involve transferring all current funding for phones and T-1 lines to Comcast Business Service for both phones-voice and High Speed Broad Band-data internet service. There is cost savings on the new phone system and a small cost increase each month on internet for a new system that will actually work.
6. The Interview Panel recommended to the Office of Human Resources that a job offer be made to one of the candidates (Shelly Ingram) for Equine Resource Conservation position that Eddie Franceschi formerly occupied. The conditional job offer was made to Ms. Ingram and the start date with orientation should be after the holidays?
7. Follow up from the October 19, 2015 Ag Preservation Advisory Board briefing with the County Executive to discuss alternative funding for farmland preservation programs and the FY17-21 CIP Budget submission. The DED submission consisted of \$1.5 million per year for the Biannual CIP- \$500k Water Quality Protection Charge, \$500k Current Revenue-(County Ag

Transfer tax or Investment Income from tax) \$500k from MNCPPC Legacy Open Space Program. The APAB recommended \$2.0 million per year.

8. MoCo Food Council/Office of Agriculture-Public Forum-On Farm Composting December 3, 2015 **(See Attached Survey to the agricultural community)**

9. Forum on Ending Obesity in Montgomery County-December 9, 2015 **(See the attached summary for the Forum)**

10. University of MD-Extension-Managing Avian Influenza-December 16, 2015 6:00 pm **(See the attached summary and purpose for the meeting)**

11. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting December 16, 2015???

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Made in Montgomery-Meeting with Council members-November 16, 2015

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 17, 2015 @7:00pm

Montgomery Ag Producers-MAP Bd of Directors meeting with CE-November 18, 2015

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-December 1, 2015@7:00pm

MOCO Food Council-Forum-Opportunities for on-farm composting December 3, 2015

Montgomery County Ag Preservation Advisory Board-December 8, 2015-7:00 pm

Forum on Ending Obesity in Montgomery County- December 9, 2015@ 9:30 am

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-December December 11, 2015 9:00 am

Holiday Party for the Agricultural History Farm Park December 14, 2012@ 12:00 pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-December 15, 2015 @7:00pm ???

University of Maryland-Managing Avian Influenza-December 16, 2015@ 6:00 pm

