



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

September 14, 2018

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: September 18, 2018 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **September 18, 2018 at the at 7:00 pm.**

We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A.

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the July 17 and August 13, 2018 AAC meetings 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.



Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda September 18, 2018 Agenda

Mike Scheffel, started within the Office of Agriculture as the new Farmland Preservation Administrator on September 4, 2018.

The MNCPPC has begun to update the County's 1964 General Plan-the Wedges and Corridors Plan. Jeremy was interviewed by the planning staff and consultant on August 21, 2018 and a draft of the update will be sent to us for review.

Jeremy and Kristin organized a community meeting for residents living along the gravel portion of River Road-August 21, 2018 at Lewis Orchard Farm Market. The Director of MCDOT attended and he will conduct a study to determine the costs of: improving drainage and culverts and tar and chip the road surface.

Attached, please find the handout documents from the August 29, 2018 meeting that MDA held to review the Chesapeake Bay Water Shed Improvement Program-WIP III Goals. The agricultural agencies are concerned that nutrient reduction goals will increase at a time when farmers are demonstrating real progress on reductions of phosphorous and sediment. The urban sectors need to do more to reduce nutrients that are coming from waste water discharges and nutrients applied in the urban areas.

The MCFB Policy Development Committee met on Monday September 10, 2018 and recommend that new and alternative funding for Ag Land Preservation will be their number 1 Top Policy along with removing the State Loophole where developers avoid paying the State Agricultural Transfer tax.

On September 17, 2018 the OAG, DOF, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Delegate Luedtke, will discuss potential legislation for the 2019 MD Legislative Session. The subject is to remove the existing 5 year "look back loop hole" for the State Agricultural Transfer Tax where developers avoid paying this State Agricultural Transfer Tax used for farmland preservation. This internal discussion is needed to determine whether this approach is politically possible.

The Full Council will conduct a Work Session the ZTA 18-03 Farm Alcohol Production Facilities on September 18, 2018.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20180918/20180918_5A.pdf

The Full Council final vote on ZTA 18-03 is scheduled for September 25, 2018. Additional amendments may be considered to address the concerns of Montgomery Countryside Alliance and Sugarloaf Citizens Association. The MCA states this ZTA 18-03 is being fast tracked? The ZTA was introduced on April 10, 2018 and the Public Hearing was May 15, 2018 and the PHED Committee Work Sessions were July 9 and 23, 2018. The timeline outlined above represents the normal process for scheduling Zoning Text Amendments.

The Agritourism Study Advisory Committee will be reconvening on October 17, 2018 to review the recommendations from the consultant that MNCPPC hired. This meeting will be held at the Up-County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown Room A.

Next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 16, 2018 in Germantown. Please note that all future AAC meetings will be held at the Up-County Regional Services Center-12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown, MD 20874 Room A.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-September 18, 2018 @7:00pm
Ag Advisory Committee-September 18, 2018 @ 7:00pm-Holy Cross Hospital
MDA Secretary of Agriculture-Farm Tour in MC-September 25, 2018
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Supervisors-October 2, 2018@ 7:00pm
MD-VA Ag Marketing Professionals conference-October 2-5, 2018 Upper Shore
Williamson County TN Officials, UM-Shady Grove-October 5, 2018