

# 2014 Report of the



## Agricultural Advisory Committee



**2014 Annual Report  
Agricultural Advisory Committee  
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## **ARTICLE 6. AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

### **Sec. 2B-21. Agricultural Advisory Committee.**

(a) *Definition.* In this Section, “Committee” means the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(b) *Established.* The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(c) *Composition; Term.*

(1) The Committee has 15 voting members.

(2) The Executive should appoint:

(A) 12 members to a 3-year term who are bona fide farmers who represent the total farm community and reflect a variety of farm sizes, geographical locations and agricultural projects, at least 3 of whom must be owner-operators of commercial farm land earning 50% or more of their income from farming, and including:

(i) 1 farm economist; and

(ii) 1 conservationist; and

(B) 3 members who have no significant direct financial interest in farming, to a 1-year term to represent broad non-farm County interests. These members may be appointed to successive terms.

(3) The Committee may designate ex-officio members as necessary.

(4) If a member is appointed to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of the unexpired term.

(d) *Officers, meetings, and compensation.*

(1) The Committee must elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members.

(2) The Committee meets at the call of the Chair. The Committee must meet as often as necessary to perform its duties, but not less than 10 times each year.

(3) A member serves without compensation. However, a member may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates established by the County.

(e) *Duties.*

(1) The Committee must:

(A) advise the Executive and Council on all matters affecting agriculture in the County;

(B) bring matters of particular importance to the attention of the Executive and Council;  
and

(C) comment on matters referred to it by the Executive and Council.

(f) *Annual Report.* By January 30 of each year, the Committee must submit to the Executive and Council an annual report that:

(1) outlines the activities undertaken the previous calendar year;

(2) identifies problems affecting agriculture in the County; and

(3) make recommendations for government programs that may be necessary to maintain a healthy agricultural economy in the County.

(g) *Advocacy.* The Committee must not engage in any advocacy activity at the State or federal levels unless that activity is approved by the Office fo Intergovernmental Relations.

(h) *Staff.* The Chief Administrative Officer must provide appropriate staff to the Committee. ([2009 L.M.C., ch. 26](#), § 1; [2010 L.M.C., ch. 49](#), § 1.)

**Editor's note**—[2009 L.M.C., ch. 26](#), § 2, states: Transition. Section [2B-21](#), as added by Sec. 1 of this Act, establishes an Agricultural Advisory Committee. This Committee continues the Agricultural Advisory Committee created under Council Resolution 7-1138 and restructured under Council Resolution 8-705. The County Executive may reappoint, subject to Council confirmation, the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Executive should continue to stagger the terms of the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee so that approximately one-third of the terms continue to expire each year.

**Listing of 2014 Projects and Accomplishments for the  
Agricultural Advisory Committee**

1. Submitted recommendations to the County Executive for new appointments (Farmer & non-farmer members) for 2014.
2. Provided recommendations to the County Council on the Zoning Rewrite ZTA 13-04 to address the needs for farmers including accessory uses to farming and standards in agricultural zones.
3. Participated in the March 4, 2014 County Council work session for the Final Report of Farming At Metro's Edge Conference. The report recommended several ways to improve technical assistance to the agricultural community.
4. Organized a Public Workshop April 29, 2014 on expanded use of High Tunnels in cooperation with the USDA Agricultural Research Service ARS and the University of MD-Extension.
5. Participated in recruiting farmers members to the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee.
6. Provided technical assistance to new farmer project participants.
7. Promoted the Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Period February-April 1, 2014. The BLT Base Value price is \$222,000 and the Maximum BLT price is \$254,000.
8. Coordinated with the State Highway Administration on the Ag Tourism Signage Pilot program.
9. Promoted the Agricultural Tire Recycling Program offered by the Maryland Farm Bureau.
10. Coordinated with the County Council and T&E Committee on recommendations from the FAME Conference Final Report improving technical assistance to farmers. Met with Council Member Roger Berliner, Chair of the T&E Committee-Allocation of Water Quality Protection Charge Funds to the MSCD for staff and programs.
11. Sponsored the May 7, 2014 Meet Your Ag Producer for the Montgomery Food Policy Council.
12. Promoted the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale July 26-27, 2014 with 17 participating farms.
13. Conducted a Deer Damage Survey for the agricultural community to assess the extent of crop loss from white-tailed deer.

14. Hosted extensive discussions on Pesticide legislation that would prohibit non-essential pesticides in the County and exemptions for pesticides used for agriculture.
15. Provided recommendations on Bill 35-14 Discharge of Bows-Amendments to reduce the safety distance from 150 yards to 100 yards.
16. Participated in the Annual Agricultural Fair with displays set-up from DED Agricultural Services and Soil Conservation District-August 11-16, 2014.
17. Developed the program for the Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-August 11, 2014.
18. Participated in the Annual Soil Conservation District Cooperators Dinner-September 4, 2014.
19. Participated in the Annual Farm Bureau Food to Table Dinner at Seneca-Ayr Farm September 20, 2014.
20. Participated in developing the Montgomery County Farm Bureau Policies for the upcoming 2015 MD Legislative Session.
21. Worked with the County Council and the Administration to fulfill recommendations of the FAME Conference to reinstate positions for improving technical assistance to farmers:  
Ag Services Navigator, Agronomy Educator-UME, Resource Conservationist-MSCD
22. Promoted the New Farmer Project Training for the Equipment Share Program
23. Attended the Premiere of the MCA Growing Legacy Film on September 25, 2014.
24. Assisted the League of Women Voters on their Agricultural Fact Sheet.
25. Attended a stakeholders meeting with Council Member Roger Berliner and the County Cable Administrators for expanded high speed internet access in the agricultural Reserve on December 8, 2014.

## Agricultural Advisory Committee

Mr. David Weitzer 12/2015  
**Chairman & Farm Economist**  
14705 Sugarland Road  
Poolesville, Maryland 20837  
301-428-8095  
Cell 301 943-2500  
[weitzer@erols.com](mailto:weitzer@erols.com)

Ben Allnutt (Farmer) 12/20  
Homestead Farm  
15604 Sugarland Rd.  
Poolesville, MD 20837  
301-977-3761  
301-926-6999  
[ben.homesteadfarm@gmail.com](mailto:ben.homesteadfarm@gmail.com)

Ms. Debra B. Benson (Farmer) 12/2014  
20010 Peach Tree Rd.  
Dickerson, MD 20842  
301-676-7374  
[debbicjeanbenson@yahoo.com](mailto:debbicjeanbenson@yahoo.com)

Mr. Patrick Brown ((Non-Farmer) 12/2014  
18741 Birdseye Drive  
Germantown, MD 20874  
240 277-9881 (Home)  
[Patrickbrown448@hotmail.com](mailto:Patrickbrown448@hotmail.com)

Ms. Michele A. Cropp (Farmer)  
9101 Gue Road  
Damascus, MD 20872  
301-253-1547 (Home)  
240-304-7767 (Cell)  
[croppcattle@yahoo.com](mailto:croppcattle@yahoo.com)

Ms. Jane Griffith Evans (Farmer) 12/2015  
6001 Griffith Road  
Laytonsville, MD 20882  
301 253-9449 (Home)  
301 602-2729 (cell)  
[ortisevans@aol.com](mailto:ortisevans@aol.com)

David Heisler (Farmer) 12/2015  
23820 Old One Hundred Rd.  
Comus, MD 20842  
Cell-301-775-9699  
[david@comusmd.com](mailto:david@comusmd.com)

Eddie Kuhlman (Non-Farmer) 12/2014  
19217 Wooten Ave.  
Poolesville, MD 20837  
301-972-8621  
Cell 301-943-6963  
[kuhlman@mris.com](mailto:kuhlman@mris.com)

Doug Lechliden (Farmer)  
Laytonsville Landscaping  
5225 Damascus Rd.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
301 253-1481  
240-372-2788 (Cell)  
[doug@laytonsvillelandscaping.com](mailto:doug@laytonsvillelandscaping.com)

Linda Lewis (Farmer) 12/2013  
Lewis Orchards  
18901 Peach Tree Rd.  
Dickerson, MD 20842  
301-349-4101  
301-509-6932  
[lrdlewis@aol.com](mailto:lrdlewis@aol.com)

Paula A. Linthicum (Farmer) 12/2014)  
22310 Laytonsville Rd.  
Laytonsville, MD 208823  
301-391-6091  
[SenecaAyrFarms@aol.com](mailto:SenecaAyrFarms@aol.com)

Gary Marx (Non-Farmer) 12/2013  
2618 Washington Ave.  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
202-276-1750  
[gsmarx@ruraldevnet.com](mailto:gsmarx@ruraldevnet.com)

Mr. Timothy I. McGrath (Farmer) 12/2014  
P.O. Box 190  
Dickerson, Maryland 20842  
1-800-292-3547  
Fax 301-698-3227  
[tinum@machomes.com](mailto:tinum@machomes.com)

Charlotte A. Ruppert (Farmer) (12/2014)  
24108 Woodfield School Rd.  
Damascus MD 29882  
301-787-3329  
[charlotter@ruppertcompanies.com](mailto:charlotter@ruppertcompanies.com)

Drew Stabler (Farmer) 12/2013  
**Conservationist**  
Sunny Ridge Farm  
5925 Damascus Rd.  
Laytonsville, MD 20882  
301-253-3824  
Cell 301-873-7445  
[robin@sunnyridgefarm.net](mailto:robin@sunnyridgefarm.net)

### Ex-officio Members

Mr. Robert Beall (Farmer)  
26400 Clarksburg Road  
Clarksburg, Maryland 20871  
Cell 301-639-0844  
Home 301-253-2836  
[robertbeall@verizon.net](mailto:robertbeall@verizon.net)

Mr. Vince Berg  
7610 Moccasin Lane  
Derwood, Maryland 20855  
Home 301-977-2920  
Cell 301-257-8362  
Fax 301-977-2129  
[bergvh@starpower.net](mailto:bergvh@starpower.net)

Mr. Wade Butler  
22440 Davis Mill Road  
Germantown, Maryland 20876  
Home 301-916-5294  
Work 301-428-0444  
Cell 301-943-3376  
Fax 301-972-1198  
[Butlerbery@msn.com](mailto:Butlerbery@msn.com)

Mr. James R. Clifford, Sr.  
18830 Darnestown Road  
Poolesville, Maryland 20837  
Work 301-840-2232  
Cell 301-370-3769  
Farm 301-605-6464  
[Clifford@debelius.com](mailto:Clifford@debelius.com)

Mr. Fred Lechliden  
5925 Damascus Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
Home 301-253-6672  
[robin@sunnyridgefarm.net](mailto:robin@sunnyridgefarm.net)

Mr. George Lechliden  
24110 Laytonsville Road  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20882  
Home 301-253-1501  
Fax-301-253-5125  
[TheLecksFarm@aol.com](mailto:TheLecksFarm@aol.com)

Mr. J. Kelly Lewis (Farmer)  
8020 Hawkins Creamery Road  
Laytonsville, MD 20882  
Work 301-417-2686  
Cell 301-641-1122  
[kLewis@ruppertecompanies.com](mailto:kLewis@ruppertecompanies.com)

Tom Linthicum (Farmer)  
22310 Laytonsville Rd.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
Cell 240-398-0122  
[SenecaAyrFarms@aol.com](mailto:SenecaAyrFarms@aol.com)

Ms. Jane Seigler  
22 Brink Road  
Brookeville, Maryland 20833  
Home 301-774-3756  
(w-farm) 301-421-9064  
Cell 301-503-4081  
[seigler.jane@gmail.com](mailto:seigler.jane@gmail.com)

Mr. Randy Stabler  
5900 Damascus Road  
Laytonsville, Maryland 20882  
Farm 301-774-9290 Bob Stabler 301-774-2495  
Fax 301-774-0796  
Cell-240-372-5605  
[rastabler@wildbluc.net](mailto:rastabler@wildbluc.net)  
[pvfgrain@aol.com](mailto:pvfgrain@aol.com)

Mr. Gene Walker (Farmer)  
12051 Prices Distillery Road  
Damascus, MD 20872  
Home 301-253-6569  
Cell 240-595-1156  
[rollingknoll@hotmail.com](mailto:rollingknoll@hotmail.com)

Mr. William Willard  
P.O. Box 626  
Poolesville, Maryland 20837  
Home 301-972-8944  
Office 301-662-8100  
Office 1-800-422-6688  
Fax 301-694-6090  
Cell 240-446-1353  
(FED EX ADDRESS)  
50 South Wisner Street  
Frederick, MD 21701  
[billw@willardagriservice.com](mailto:billw@willardagriservice.com)

Woody Woodroof (Farmer)  
Red Wiggler Community Farm  
23400 Ridge Rd.  
Germantown, MD 20876  
301-916-2216  
Cell 301-802-2386  
[woody@redwiggler.org](mailto:woody@redwiggler.org)

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Nancy Aldous  
10100 Watkins Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-2730  
301-515-4211  
[aldouses@yahoo.com](mailto:aldouses@yahoo.com)

Ms. Jane Hunter  
20400 West Hunter Road  
Beallsville, Maryland 20839  
Home 301-349-5432  
[HTrashqueen1@aol.com](mailto:HTrashqueen1@aol.com)

Mr. Callum Murray  
M-NCPPC  
8787 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Work 301-495-4733

Chuck Schuster  
Extension Agent - Agricultural Science  
18410 Muncaster Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855  
Work 301-590-2807  
[cfs@umd.edu](mailto:cfs@umd.edu)

Mr. Doug Tregoning  
12005 Piedmont Road  
Clarksburg, MD 20871  
Work 301-590-9638  
Home 301-540-0990  
[dwt@umd.edu](mailto:dwt@umd.edu)

E:aaclist12 (aac memory stick/aac2012/aaclist12)  
revised 4/11-14

AAC

January 14, 2014

(Cancelled-  
Inclement  
Weather)

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – February 18, 2014**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from December 17, 2013. Please note the January 21, 2014 meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.
3. Update on the Zoning Rewrite ZTA 13-04.
4. Update on the Part-time Agronomy Educator Position funded by the County and assigned to work in Montgomery County.
5. Farming at Metro's Edge Conference-FAME Final Report. A Full Council Work Session was scheduled for March 4, 2014 and it will be rescheduled due to the County Closures. See please the 2014 Agenda item below for Craig Rice County Council President.

Third, we need to ensure our Agricultural Reserve, and all it has to offer, lives up to its full potential. This means implementing many of the recommendations listed in the Farming At Metro's Edge, or F.A.M.E, report including, but not limited to, the creation of a farming business navigator position and a pilot farming magnet program within MCPS. The ultimate goal of this is to secure the future sustainability and profit of farming as well as the availability of fresh foods for our region. This mission complements the great work currently being done by our Montgomery County Food Council.

6. Follow up from the High Tunnel and Greenhouse Listening Session. A Public Workshop is proposed for April 29, 2014. The actual time will be announced.

7. Update on Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Period February-April 1, 2014

8. New Appointments to the AAC

We need to recommend replacements for Robert Beall and Woody Woodroof.

Doug Lechlida has applied and I think that Michele Cropp will be applying for the AAC.

We need to recommend a farmer member to the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee to serve as the AAC representative replacing Eric Spates and a second farmer replacing Greg Glen.

9. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2014.

We need to follow up on the discussion from our meeting with the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. The AAC prepared a detailed letter dated February 9, 2009 addressed to the County Executive and copied to the Director of DOT. The AAC recommended a separate CIP project for the Rustic Roads including a list of the roads that needed trees trimmed.

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

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-February 21, 2014@9:00am

**Winter Agronomy Meeting Update-February 26, 2014@ 9:00 am.**

Montgomery County Food Council-March 1, 2014, 2014 @ 10:00am

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – March 18, 2014**

1. Introductions:
2. Discussion with County Council Member Roger Berliner-Follow up from FAME-Increasing Technical Assistant to the agricultural community. (See Attachment A.)
3. Approval of the AAC Minutes from February 18, 2014. (See Attachment B.)
4. Update on the Final Council Action March 4, 2014 Zoning Rewrite ZTA 13-04. (See Attachment C.)
5. Update on the March 11, 2014 Full Council Work Session on the Agricultural Preservation Capital Improvement Program. (See Attachment D.)  
[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view\\_id=6&clip\\_id=6702&meta\\_id=60134](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=6702&meta_id=60134)
6. Update from the Full Council Work Session March 11, 2014-Farming at Metro's Edge Conference-FAME Final Report. (See Attachment E.)  
[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view\\_id=6&clip\\_id=6702&meta\\_id=60152](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=6702&meta_id=60152)
7. We need to follow up on the discussion from our December 17, 2013 meeting with the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. The AAC prepared a detailed letter dated February 9, 2009 addressed to the County Executive and copied to the Director of DOT. The AAC recommended a separate CIP project for the Rustic Roads including a list of the roads that needed trees trimmed. (See Attachment F.)
8. Follow up from the High Tunnel and Greenhouse Listening Session. A Public Workshop is proposed for April 29, 2014 from 12:00 to 4:00 pm. (See Attachment G.)
9. Update on Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Period February-April 1, 2014. The Base BLT price is \$222,000 and the Max BLT price is \$254,000.
10. New Appointments to the AAC-Doug Lechlider and Michele Cropp may have applied for farmer members. New Appointments to the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-Jean Phillips and Audrey Patton have applied for new farmer members.
11. Agricultural Tourism Signing Program from the State Highway Administration. (See Attachment H.)
12. Agricultural Tire Recycling Collection Program. (See Attachment I.)
13. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2014.

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

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Draft Agenda – April 15, 2014**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from March 18, 2014.
3. Update on the Discussion with Roger Berliner during the March 18, 2014 meeting. Follow up with Council staff Jacob Sesker on the MSCD request for WQPC funding- Public Hearing on WQPC Rate scheduled on April 22, 2014. PHED Committee Work Session for DED FY15 Operating Budget scheduled on April 22, 2014. T&E Committee Work Session for DEP FY15 Operating Budget using WQPC funding scheduled on April 29, 2014.
4. Follow up from Full Council Work Session-FAME Final Report. DED drafted a letter to Council President Craig Rice summarizing what DED is doing for access to markets and increasing technical assistance to farmers. **Part-time Agronomy Educator Position and vacant BDS position-Kristin Fisher may be filled in FY15.**
5. Follow discussion on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. Draft letter from AAC, APAB and RRAC to the County Executive and copied to the Council members and Director of DOT.
6. New Farmer Pilot Program-Beginning Farmer Training workshops ended last week- Equipment Share Program Discussions with MCFB and MSCD-Insurance Requirements. Examples of how the equipment share programs are working in Southern MD with Soil Conservation Districts.
7. Update on Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Period February-April 1, 2014-We only 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 he believes that 19-20 may be eligible and ranked.  
  
State Grant Agreement-Rural Legacy Program-7<sup>th</sup> Grant Agreement between DNR and the County-\$400,000. Proposing funding could protect an 87 acre farm adjacent to the Town of Poolesville.
8. SHA-Agricultural Tourism Signing Program-The DED is working with owners of On-farm markets Wade Butler and Ben Allnut and Kelly Groff-CVB.
9. A Public Workshop for High Tunnels and Greenhouses is scheduled for April 29, 2014 from 12:00 to 6:00 pm.
10. May 7, 2014 6:00-9:00 The Montgomery Food Council will conduct a Meet Your Producer event at the Agricultural History Farm Park.
11. New Appointments to the AAC-Doug Lechluder and Michele Cropp have applied for farmer members. New Appointments to the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-Jean Phillips and Audrey Patton?? have applied for new farmer members.

## 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-7<sup>th</sup> 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.

# No June 2014 AAC Meeting

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee and Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board Meeting**

### **Agenda – July 15, 2014**

1. Introductions:
2. Continued Discussion on the **DISCUSSION DRAFT OF POSSIBLE PESTICIDE LEGISLATION –Review of the discussion from the May 20, 2014 meeting (See Attachment A.)**
3. Approval of the AAC Minutes from May 20, 2014. (See Attachment B.)
4. Update on the New Appointments to the AAC. (See Attachment C.)
5. Bill 35-14 Discharge of Bows-Amendments to reduce the safety distance from 150 yards to 100 yards. (See Attachment D.)
6. Follow up from the Request from William Hendry-Forest Mitigation on the Purple Line. (See Attachment E.)
7. Update on recruiting farmers representatives on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-RRAC (See Attachment F.)
8. 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 G.)
9. Message regarding interview process and questions for applicants that applied for the Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board. (See Attachment H.)
10. Update on the 2014 Deer Damage Survey-The DED has received 26 completed surveys. [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agseervices/Resources/Files/deerdonation/Deer\\_Survey\\_FY2015.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agseervices/Resources/Files/deerdonation/Deer_Survey_FY2015.pdf)
11. Follow up on the SHA-Agricultural Tourism Signing Program-(See Attachment I.)
12. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2014. Jeremy Criss will be out of town on leave this week so the meeting will be cancelled.

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

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Bd of Directors-August 5, 2014-Cancelled  
Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Bd-August 12, 2014-Cancelled  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-August 8, 2014@9:00am  
Montgomery County Ag Fair Week-August 9-16, 2014  
Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-Monday August 11, 2014 12:00-2:00  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-August 19, 2014-Cancelled or Rescheduled?  
Enjoy your summer

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – September 16, 2014**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from July 15, 2014. August 11, 2014 Ag Leaders Luncheon
3. Update-Deer Damage Survey to better understand if the County's deer damage programs are reducing crop losses for farmers. Preliminary results show more management tools are still needed to reduce the deer herds in the rural and agricultural areas of the County. The DED has received 30+ completed surveys and the analysis is pending.
4. Update on the Positions approved for FY15 Operating and Capital Budgets as follows:  
Vacant Business Development Specialist-BDS position (Kristin Fisher) job announcement closed on August 15, 2014, total of 85 applicants, 32 meet minimum requirements, 2 veterans are designated as Preferential Hiring Status.
5. Part-time contractor Agronomy Educator for UM-Extension RFP is pending DOF (Insurance requirements) and OHR (Job release) approval.
6. New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) The OHR has approved the position to be reclassified to BDS position.
7. Follow up from the Joint AAC and APAB meeting July 15, 2014 Discussion Draft Legislation on Pesticides in Montgomery County. Request for Briefing with the T&E Committee.
8. Update on the New Farmer Pilot Program-Equipment Share Program and Training Schedule for September 17, 24, 2014 @ Rock Hill Orchard in the late afternoon before dark.
9. 2015 Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee meetings for developing 2015 Policies.  
Monday September 8, 2014 4:00-6:00pm and Thursday September 18, 2014 4:00-6:00pm
10. Next AAC meeting Tuesday October 21, 2014 @ 7:00pm

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

MD/VA Agricultural Marketing Workshop-September 10-12, 2014 Southern MD.  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-September 12, 2014 @ 9:00am  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-September 16, 2014 @ 7:00pm  
Poolesville Day-September 20, 2014  
MCFB Farm to Table Dinner-September 20, 2014 @ 5:00pm  
MCA Agricultural Reserve Film Premiere-September 25, 2014-USGS  
NCOSAFP Bus Tour-September 30, 2014  
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Bd of Directors-October 7, 2014 @ 7:00pm

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Draft Agenda – October 21, 2014**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from September 16, 2014. (See Attachment A.)
3. Montgomery County Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson has asked for a tour of the working farms in the Agricultural Reserve sometime this fall.
4. MCA Agricultural Reserve Film Premiere was September 25, 2014.  
<http://mocoalliance.org/2014/09/growing-legacy-premiere-wrap-up/>
5. Update-Deer Damage Survey-The results show more management tools are still needed to reduce the deer herds in the rural and agricultural areas of the County. (See Attachment B.)  
Follow up from County Council Briefing-October 7, 2014-  
[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=6&clip\\_id=8024&meta\\_id=72343](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=8024&meta_id=72343) Need to purchase a new Cold Box for the East side of the County.
6. Update on the Positions approved for FY15 Operating and Capital Budgets as follows:  
Vacant Business Development Specialist-BDS position (Kristin Fisher) job announcement closed on August 15, 2014, total of 85 applicants, 32 meet minimum requirements, 2 veterans are designated with Preferential Hiring Status. Interviews scheduled for October 20, 2014.
7. Part-time contractor Agronomy Educator for UM-Extension RFP was released and the dead line for proposals was September 30, 2014. One proposal was submitted.
8. New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) The OHR has approved the position to be reclassified to BDS position. The e-recruitment ad will be advertised within the DED- MSCD are recommended by the MSCD Board of Supervisors.
9. New farmer member appointments to the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-RRAC- Todd Greenstone and Audrey Patton. We will need to find a replacement for Angela Butler since she is not requesting a second term.
10. Follow up on Discussion Draft Legislation on Pesticides in Montgomery County and the AAC response letter to Council Vice-President Leventhal. (See Attachment C.)
11. Next Meeting of the AAC-November 18, 2014@ 7:00pm

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

Close Encounters with Agriculture- October 13, 2014 through October 31, 2014  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 21, 2014@7:00pm  
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Bd of Directors-November 4, 2014@7:00pm  
Montgomery County Agricultural Pres Advisory Bd-November 11, 2014@7:00pm  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-November 14, 2014@9:00am

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – November 18, 2014**

1. Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from October 21, 2014. (See Attachment A.)
3. Jeremy is working to schedule a tour of farms (Pam Saul, Robert Stabler, and Wade Butler) for Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson before December 19, 2014.
4. Update-Deer Damage Survey handed out-The DED is working to find a new location of the New Cold Box for East side of the County. December 3, 2014 1:00 pm Meeting to discuss ways to improve deer management in the County-Representatives from MNCPPC, DNR, DED, and farmers will be attending.
5. Roger Berliner is scheduling a meeting with stakeholders in December to discuss expanding Broadband high speed internet access to the Agricultural Reserve.
6. League of Women Voters Agricultural Fact sheet discussion on the SCD web site and requirement for fencing? The LWV is also recommending the County-DPS needs to make sure the Letters of Certification (SCWQP and NMP) for equestrian facilities that have more than 10 horses are on file.
7. Update on the Positions approved for FY15 Operating and Capital Budget:

The-BDS position (Kristin Fisher) interview was held on October 20, 2014 for Preferential Hiring applicant. The DED asked Director of OHR for permission to contact some of other 32 applicants that met the minimum requirements.

Agronomy Educator for UM-Extension part-time contract for Doug Tregoning has been approved and Doug has started to prepare for Pesticide Bill 52-14 and the Winter Agronomy Update meeting.

New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) The OHR has approved the position to be reclassified to BDS position and the e-recruitment ad will be advertised within the DED-MSCD as recommended by the MSCD Board of Supervisors. The Ad should be released this week.

8. The Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14 was introduced on October 28, 2014 and 5 Council members have expressed support to cosponsor the Bill (Leventhal, Floreen, Reimer, Navarro, and Elrich)

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

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Bd of Directors-December 2, 2014@7:00pm  
Montgomery County Agricultural Pres Advisory Bd-December 9, 2014@7:00pm  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-December 12, 2014@9:00am  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-December 16, 2014@7:00pm

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda – December 16, 2014**

1. Holiday Celebration with refreshments and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC Minutes from November 18, 2014. (See Attachment A.)
3. The Tour of farms with Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson will be held after the holidays due to scheduling challenges. January 5 or 30, 2015 are proposed dates. The tour of farms includes Pam Saul, Robert Stabler, Wade Butler, David Weitzer and Rocklands Farm?
4. Follow up from the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with stakeholders to discuss expanding Broadband high speed internet access to the Agricultural Reserve. The meeting was requested by Council Member Roger Berliner and attended by Jeremy Criss and David Weitzer. (See Attachment B.)
5. League of Women Voters Agricultural Fact sheet (See Attachment C.)
6. Update on the Positions approved for FY15 Operating and Capital Budget:

The-BDS position (Kristin Fisher) interview was held on October 20, 2014 for Preferential Hiring applicant. The OHR Director approved DED to contact some of other 32 applicants that met the minimum requirements. DED questions having to rate all 32 applications given since three months have passed since the deadline to apply.

Agronomy Educator for UM-Extension part-time contract for Doug Tregoning has been approved and Doug has started to prepare for Pesticide Bill 52-14 and the Winter Agronomy Update meeting.

New Resource Conservationist for MSCD (Brian Taylor) The OHR approved the position to be reclassified to BDS position and the e-recruitment ad will be advertised within the DED-MSCD as recommended by the MSCD Board of Supervisors. The Ad was released December 2, 2014 and closes on December 15, 2014.

7. New Appointments to the AAC (See Attachment D.)
8. The Pesticide Legislation Bill 52-14 (See Attachment E.) The Bill is supported by 5 Council members (Leventhal, Floreen, Reimer, Navarro, and Elrich). The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday January 15, 2015 at 7:30 pm with the T&E Committee.  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2014/Packets/201410284C.pdf>

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

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-January 6, 2015@ 7:00pm  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-January 9, 2015@ 9:00am  
Montgomery County Agricultural Pres. Advisory Board-January 13, 2015@ 7:00pm  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-January 20, 2015@ 7:00pm  
Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis-February 18, 2015  
Winter Agronomy Update-February 25, 2015-Urbana Fire Hall