

# **Economic Development Agricultural Advisory Board**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

### **Harford County Agricultural Center**

#### **Attendance:**

*(X Indicates Absence)*

X - Henry Holloway – Service (Chair)	X - Derek Hopkins – FFA
X - Kate Dallam – Member At Large (Vice Chair)	Kimmi Doran – Agricultural Coordinator*
Alice Archer – Harford County Farm Bureau (Secretary)	Reese Jones – Nursery
	Andy Kness – University of Maryland Extension
Jen Wilson – Ag Land Preservation	Candace Lohr-Pearce – Vegetable/Fruit
Janet Archer – Dairy	Donald Lyons – Grain
X - Nick Bailey – Retail	Michele Magness-Hill – Member At Large
X - David Boniface – Deer Creek Watershed Assn.	Greg Murrell – Member At Large
Quintin Cornwell – Harford Soil Conservation District	X - Jim Reilly – Harford County Council
Emmy Dallam-Beavers – Young Farmers	Victoria Stone – MAEF
Tracey Gay - Equine	Bob Tibbs - Livestock

#### **Others Attending:**

Karen Holt – Director of Economic Development  
Lisa Krysiak – Administrative Secretary, Department of Economic Development  
Jodi Marschhauser – Tourism Manager, Department of Economic Development

\*Agricultural Business Development Associate, Department of Economic Development

#### **Welcome**

In the absence of the Chair, Henry Holloway, the meeting was opened by Bob Tibbs. Bob thanked everyone for attending.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

#### **Director's Report**

Karen Holt, Director of Economic Development, reported that the State of the County was presented by County Executive Bob Cassilly at last night's County Council meeting. The County Executive will also present at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on January 23.

Jodi Marschhauser, Tourism Manager for Harford County, will be connecting with agricultural activities and events.

It was also announced that Steve Overbay has returned to Economic Development as the legislative liaison between Harford County and the State delegation.

#### **Agricultural Coordinator's Report – Kimmi Doran**

- USDA Meat Processing Facility

The workgroup has determined the top three sites for the facility. The next conference call

with Matson Consulting will be held tomorrow (January 16).

- Agricultural Education Initiatives

Presentations to high school students have been scheduled. The presenters will be Mitch Hopkins, Nathan Holloway, and Kimmie. The purpose of these presentations is to target high school students before they move on to college, possibly bridging their involvement with 4-H and FFA into Farm Bureau Young Farmers.

- Agricultural Literacy

Kimmie is working with MAEF on a joint collaboration to read books in elementary schools during Agricultural Literacy Week.

Another possible connection with agriculture would be having FFA students visit 2nd Graders, but bus transportation (for the FFA students) would be an issue. The month of March is Read Across America for Kindergarten through 2nd Grade.

- Ag Zoning Update

It is expected that meetings will resume once the Comprehensive Rezoning process ends.

- Signage

There are some changes coming through State legislation that may affect signage requirements.

- Senior Coupon Program

The FY 2024 coupon program is closed, with 1,854 coupons collected.

- Comprehensive Rezoning

There are 56 requests for rezoning, with a lot of ag ground being requested for upzoning. The pressure is on: What is the intended use of this ground? Where is it located? What are the implications on roads, schools, facilities, etc.? Two public hearings will be held in early April to receive input.

### **Report from Finance Committee**

Quintin Cornwell reported that the committee has not met, and no agricultural loan applications have been received. A joint meeting of EDAB and EDAAB regarding the loan program may be scheduled.

### **Report from Agritourism & Marketing Committee**

Reese Jones reported that he met with Jodi Marschhauser. Quarterly meetings are planned to better integrate agriculture into tourism. Work is underway to develop an app for agritourism. Seasonal changes in agriculture will be outlined, with the creation of activities and classes during the winter months (November through March). Some amusing comments were made about farm animals being outside in cold weather and snow (especially Bob's white cows in the white snow!).

### **Report from Education & Outreach Committee**

Andy Kness reported that the committee is working on a possible Careers in Agriculture Day for 7th Graders. This might be in cooperation with the Farmers & Community Partnership. Greg Murrell said that the Harford County Public Schools supervisors are interested in enhancements to the science

curriculum and are very open to this idea. The connection with agriculture could be kicked off at the career day, with lessons integrated beyond that.

What are Harford County Public Schools already doing in classrooms by grade? Greg reported that North Harford High School hosts visiting 2nd Graders, and Middle School students will visit in February to see the pigs and learn about dog grooming. Greg is on the agenda to meet with the Curriculum Committee. Marylisa Schaedel does a 4-H program with hatching eggs. Greg also reported that the Ag Magnet program received 171 applications, with 165 being evaluated for only 100 slots in the next cycle. North Harford is also working with Delaware Valley on internships and apprenticeships, with certifications.

Vicki Stone provided information to Kimmi about the New York program for virtual field trips, which can be used as an alternative to transporting students to farms. Thousands of students in New York participate in this program, which includes an activity box.

Reese Jones asked about the methodology for participating in on-farm field trips. Could a virtual program be developed for this? Vicki Stone will send information from MAEF. It was also noted that there is a video capability through Harford Community College, and that Harford County also uses Sympatico (a local video company) – versus just using a phone's video. It may be possible to connect the videos with uploads on the Farm Finder app.

### **Good of the Cause**

- **Ag Night at North Harford Elementary School**

A flyer was distributed for this event to be held on Thursday, April 10. Possible ideas for participating

include: Display farm equipment

Tie in with the Farm Bureau Safety Committee

MAEF can provide Safety Sam.

Display a sitting drone

4-H may provide animals.

- **Avian Influenza**

Cases of avian influenza have been found in Caroline County, and yesterday in Queen Anne's County.

- **Upcoming Meetings**

The Midwinter Agronomy Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11 at Deer Creek Overlook.

The Central Maryland Vegetable Growers will meet on Wednesday, January 22.

- **Taste of Maryland Agriculture**

Tickets have been purchased by Economic Development to attend the Taste of Maryland Agriculture event at Arundel Mills on Thursday, February 6. The names of identified attendees will be confirmed by Alice and Kimmi.

- **Upcoming Events**

Numerous upcoming events were listed on the agenda.

- Agricultural Preservation Program

Jen Wilson announced that the deadline to apply for the next round is May 1.

- Raw Milk

Janet Archer stated that policy was passed at the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention regarding raw milk. It is expected that there will be proposed State legislation regarding this.

- Agricultural Tour for Legislators

Quintin Cornwell said that planning is underway for another tour this summer. Farms are being identified which incorporate Best Management Practices (BMP's) for conservation.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025**.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Recorded,

Alice A. Archer, Secretary