



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

*Office of the Secretary*

**Larry Hogan**, Governor  
**Boyd K. Rutherford**, Lt. Governor  
**Joseph Bartenfelder**, Secretary  
**Julianne A. Oberg**, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
www.mda.maryland.gov

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

410.841.5880 Baltimore/Washington  
410.841.5914 Fax  
800.492.5590 Toll Free

## Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture Meeting Minutes June 30, 2021

### GICA Members Present

#### Members (Ex Officio)

- Julie Oberg, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Suzanne Dorsey, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Kirk Engle, Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
- Val Lazdins, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
- Dan Ride, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Ewing McDowell, Maryland Department of Commerce
- Dr. Craig Beyroudy, University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

#### Member Organizations

- Amy Moredock, Maryland Association of County Planning Officials
- Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO
- Anthony Riggi, Maryland Association of Counties
- Stephanie Jones, Maryland Association of Counties
- Colby Ferguson, Maryland Farm Bureau
- Matt Tefteau, Rural Maryland Council
- Michelle Chesnik, Maryland Agricultural Commission

#### General Public Members

- Susanne Zilberfarb, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation
- Kurt Fuchs, Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit
- Cheryl DeBerry, Garrett County Maryland Economic Development
- Leslie Hart, Washington County Department of Business Development
- Lisa Barge, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation
- Dr. Mortimer Hugh Neufville
- Thomas Skilton

### Additional Attendees Present

#### MDA Staff

- Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary
- Steven Connelly, Assistant Secretary
- Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs
- Jason Schellhardt, Director of Communications
- Megan Guilfoyle, Public Information Officer II

## Others

- Kelly Dudeck, Grow and Fortify
- Shelby Watson-Hampton, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC)
- Hannah Schaeffer, Office of the Governor
- John Hartline, Chair, Rural Maryland Council
- Kim Burns, MDH

### I. Welcome

- A. Conference call was called to order at 1:03pm.

### II. Roll call of commission members

- A. Cassie Shirk took roll call of all GICA members present as well as members of the public.
- B. Secretary Bartenfelder welcomed everyone and discussed how all sectors of the agriculture industry pulled together through COVID-19 over the last year and because of the efforts of everyone the industry saw success with the food supply chain.

### III. Presentation by Grow & Fortify on their economic study of Value-Added Agriculture in Maryland

- A. Kelly Dudeck presented on Grow & Fortify's economic study of Value-Added Agriculture (VAA), which incorporated results and data from:
  1. Baltimore Metropolitan Council Value-Added Agricultural Report & Recommendations
  2. Business Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON) of Salisbury University, MD
  3. 2017 USDA Agricultural Census
- B. Value-Added Agriculture (VAA) has been defined as altering a raw agricultural product in a way to increase its worth to the consumer, which brings more revenue to the farmer, producer or processor.
- C. The economic study includes the economic impact of VAA, which is over \$20.6 billion annually to Maryland's economy as well as supporting close to 74,000 jobs (includes direct and indirect).
- D. There are several challenges when it comes to the VAA, including lack of data; average age of farmers; price of land and access to capital. While there are challenges, there are also a lot of opportunities like new products, land preservation, economic development and tourism.
- E. Kelly discussed the recommendations of the economic study:
  1. Create a state-wide entity to oversee and encourage coordination and marketing, and act as a regulatory ombudsman - working with county and state partners.
  2. Support funding and training for VAA entrepreneurs with state and local education institutions (universities, colleges, Extension programs, etc.).
  3. Collaborate with city, county and state agencies and non-profit funders to encourage the growth and establishment of food and agricultural support businesses.
  4. Create workforce development and training programs tailored to food and VAA businesses.
  5. Invest in supporting research and technology.

### IV. Cottage Food Regulations

### V. Seasonal Farm Stays

- VI. Agriculture Resource Directory
  - A. In previous GICA meetings, there was discussion around updating the GICA toolkit. However, after reviewing the toolkit internally and talking with GICA commission members the decision at this time is to not update it. However, we created an agriculture resource directory
  
- VII. Member Discussion
  - A. Steve Connelly shared with the group the passing of Deanna Baldwin, MDA Food Quality Assurance program manager.
  
- VIII. The conference call concluded at 1:57pm.