



**Maryland  
Department of Agriculture**

*Office of the Secretary*

**Wes Moore**, Governor  
**Aruna Miller**, Lt. Governor  
**Kevin M. Atticks**, Secretary  
**Steven A. Connelly**, Deputy Secretary

*Maryland Agricultural Commission*

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry  
mda.maryland.gov

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

410-841-5882 Baltimore/Washington  
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**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
Committee Meeting Schedule**

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**In-Person Location: Executive Conference Room, MDA HQ**  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Farm Profitability & Sustainability Committee** 10:15 am – 11:15 am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86321827748?pwd=s4qh7vKqlgqolypOz6h31Uyrl2TfqG.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 863 2182 7748 Passcode: 883353

**Farmer Focused Geospatial & Climate Tools Discussion** 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89247699459?pwd=y2iamraWk5N09uiCQTL7o5MgQalwKj.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 892 4769 9459 Passcode: 334636

**Committee on Ag Literacy & Education (CALE)** 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88915814186?pwd=Bgay3DFgYrVTBmuxgiarzFKrIRk1Bg.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 889 1581 4186 Passcode: 519439

**Value Added Agriculture Committee** 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85801358866?pwd=3ihhMK8rBQICKHgbqgEoSs39ImhC1M.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 858 0135 8866 Passcode: 972863

**Committee on Watershed Strategies (CoWS)** 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89471455820?pwd=Kgm4NyFaif1qMmpToFoA6nJ78df1Rg.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 894 7145 5820 Passcode: 907604



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## Maryland Agricultural Commission Committee Membership

Commodity	Representative	Committee
Ag Education	Dr. Melissa Welsh	CALE
Agribusiness	Vacant	
Agritourism	Janna Howley	VAA
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley	VAA
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnutt	
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser	Profitability, VAA
Bio-Fuel	Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria	VAA, CoWS
Consumer	Kellie Hinkle	VAA
Dairy I	Vacant	
Dairy II	Vacant	
Direct Farm Market	Amy Crone, Vice Chair	Profitability, VAA*
Equine	Ann Merryman	Profitability, Leg. Affairs
Farm Bureau	Paula Linthicum	Leg. Affairs*
Field Crops	Chris Rhodes	Profitability, Leg Affairs
Food Processing	Nikita Bocharov	
Forestry	Hunter Pusey	CoWS, CALE
Hemp	Matthew Levi Sellers	Leg. Affairs
Horticulture	Vacant	
Livestock	Sean Hough	Profitability, CoWS
Nursery I	J. Kelly Lewis, Chair	Profitability
Nursery II	John Murphy	Leg. Affairs
Organic Farming	Emma Jagoz	Profitability*, Leg., VAA
Poultry I	Zach Evans	Leg. Affairs, CoWS
Poultry II	Vacant	
State Grange	Richard Stonebreaker	CALE*
Tobacco	Vacant	
Turf	Gordon Kretser	Profitability, CoWS*
UMD	Dr. Darren Jarboe	CALE, VAA
Vegetable	Russell Shlagel	Profitability
Veterinary	Dr. Marianne Bailey	Leg. Affairs
Viticulture	Rachel Lipman	VAA
Young Farmers Advisory Board	Jennell Eck McHenry, Edward Goodman	



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### **Maryland Agricultural Commission** **Committee Missions & Operations**

**Committee on Agricultural Literacy & Education (CALE)** - Focused on promoting agriculture as a viable and necessary industry through public literacy, identifying shortcomings and opportunities to increase agricultural education in the state (K-12 and post-secondary), and engaging with MDA's Karen Fedor to support farm to school programs

**Committee on Watershed Strategies (COWS)** - Focused on environmental, natural resource, and conservation initiatives throughout the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay, navigating pathways to promote conservation and hold organizations/processes accountable when they fall short. Works closely with the department's Resource Conservation team.

**Farm Profitability & Sustainability Committee** - Priorities include marketing of agricultural products to increase attention to purchasing Maryland goods, preserving agricultural land throughout the state, and identifying opportunities for economic viability. Interacts with various programs at MDA including MALPF, Marketing, and others as appropriate.

**Legislative Affairs Committee** - A combination of the originally adopted Agricultural Policy and Advocacy Committee & Regulatory Reform and Oversight Committee. Responsible for monitoring local and state regulation that impacts agriculture, identifying shortcomings in existing legal code or zoning statutes where MDA could act, and discussing potential action of the Commission in support or opposition of bills. Works closely with MDA's Director of Legislative Affairs, Rachel Jones.

**Value Added Agriculture Committee** - Promotes value added agriculture initiatives through identifying economic incentives, training opportunities, market development and infrastructure initiatives, and supporting MDA's Value-Added Agricultural Specialist, Martin Proulx.



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## MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FARM PROFITABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 10:15 am

In Person: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86321827748?pwd=s4qh7vKqlqgolypOz6h31Uyrl2TfqG.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 863 2182 7748 Passcode: 883353

I. Welcome: Emma Jagoz, Chair

II. Review & approval of April minutes

III. Review desired outcomes

IV. Committee Discussion

- Definition of Agriculture

V. Old Business:

- Industry Partner Guests List
- Working Group on Defining Regenerative

VI. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Dr. Melissa Welsh
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Janna Howley
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnutt
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser
<b>Bio-Fuel</b>	<b>Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria</b>
Consumer	Kellie Hinkle
Dairy I	Vacant
Dairy II	Vacant
<b>Direct Farm Market</b>	<b>Amy Crone, Vice Chair</b>
Equine	Ann Merryman
Farm Bureau	Paula Linthicum
<b>Field Crops</b>	<b>Chris Rhodes</b>
Food Processing	Nikita Bocharov
Forestry	Hunter Pusey
Hemp	Matthew Levi Sellers
Horticulture	Vacant
<b>Livestock</b>	<b>Sean Hough</b>
<b>Nursery I</b>	<b>J. Kelly Lewis, Chair</b>
Nursery II	John Murphy
<b>Organic Farming</b>	<b>Emma Jagoz</b>
Poultry I	Zach Evans
Poultry II	Vacant
State Grange	Richard Stonebreaker
Tobacco	Vacant
<b>Turf</b>	<b>Gordon Kretser</b>
UMD	Dr. Darren Jarboe
<b>Vegetable</b>	<b>Russell Shlagel</b>
Veterinary	Dr. Marianne Bailey
Viticulture	Rachel Lipman
Young Farmers Advisory Board	Jennell Eck McHenry, Edward Goodman



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### MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FARM PROFITABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

#### Minutes

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 10:15 am**

**In Person: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Amy Crone  
Sean Hough  
Emma Jagoz  
Gordon Kretser  
Russell Shlagel  
Janna Howley

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Raj Kathuria  
Kelly Lewis

#### **Guests:**

Martin Proulx, MDA  
Jessica Hackett, MDA  
Audrey Broomfield, MDA  
Mark Powell, MDA

Aidan Boline, MDA  
Kristin Hanna, MDA  
Hans Schmidt, MDA

#### **Call to Order:**

The April 2025 Farm Profitability and Sustainability Committee meeting was called to order by Emma Jagoz, Chair, at 10:18 am.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The February 2025 Farm Profitability and Sustainability Committee meeting minutes were approved by Amy Crone, second by Sean Hough.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Emma kicked off the meeting with discussions around impending federal contract cuts, tariffs, input costs, and changing operational costs. Sean highlighted the volume of imported feed, fertilizer and fuels and the impact that tariffs will have on agricultural producers as spring planting is kicking off. Amy added that many farmers markets receive federal support for operations and support through programs like the Farmers Market Nutrition Program through



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the Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The farm-based alcohol producers, as represented by Janna Howley, are facing increased costs through tariffs on production materials like bottles, tanks, aluminum, etc., but are hopeful of an increased demand for local products as imports become more expensive. Cuts to the federal workforce will have a larger impact on Maryland and Virginia than other states given the proximity to Washington D.C. and the federal buildings in the DMV, which concern direct-to-consumer markets. However, Russell mentioned, there needs to a stronger push for regional grocery stores, retail establishments, and restaurants to engage more with Maryland farmers as they began to do pre-pandemic. Consumers should be aware of where their food comes from, remembering that local food is tariff free. One method that Emma is pursuing is creating yard signs for consumers to display that identifies “this home supports local farms” that builds pride in buying local and supporting farmers.

Institutional purchasing continues to be an opportunity for farmers in Maryland, and increased efforts from the Maryland State Department of Education and the Department of General Services to build a Local Food Exchange platform should help facilitate that opportunity for farmers across the state in various scales of production. Emma expressed concern with the buildout of the actual platform, citing that the actual usage must be extremely farmer friendly to encourage participation. Maryland is a challenging state to navigate due to its geographical shape and transportation network, and many jurisdictions have more access to local produce in Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia instead of Maryland. Increasing opportunities to support aggregators will support farmers’ success in the Local Food Exchange program and beyond.

Amy Crone moved that the Commission submits a recommendation to State agencies, as they pursue local food procurement and agricultural initiatives, that they involve the Maryland Agricultural Commission serve as a liaison to the agricultural industry and sure that programming has a farmer focus. Emma seconded the motion; all were in favor.

During the March Commission meeting, Secretary Atticks requested the Maryland Ag Commission define regenerative agriculture. Emma recommended the creation of a workgroup with partners to establish a statewide definition throughout the summer, leveraging both internal and external partners.

### **Meeting Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by Gordon Kretser, second by Russell Shlagel.



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## MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION Farmer Focused Geospatial & Climate Tools Discussion AGENDA

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 11:30 am

In Person: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86400186435?pwd=x3AH9uxiVrNBBXbKnXG22N42KU84sM.1>

Meeting ID: 864 0018 6435 Passcode: 291707

- I. Welcome: Harrison Palmer
- II. Group introductions
- III. [Maryland Mesonet](#)
- IV. [Dashboard for Agricultural Water Use and Nutrient Management \(DAWN\)](#)
- V. [Maryland Agriculture Climate Impact Dashboard](#)
- VI. Committee discussion on industry needs & opportunities
- VII. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Dr. Melissa Welsh
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Janna Howley
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnutt
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser
Bio-Fuel	Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria
Consumer	Kellie Hinkle
Dairy I	Vacant
Dairy II	Vacant
Direct Farm Market	Amy Crone, Vice Chair
Equine	Ann Merryman
Farm Bureau	Paula Linthicum
Field Crops	Chris Rhodes
Food Processing	Nikita Bocharov
Forestry	Hunter Pusey
Hemp	Matthew Levi Sellers
Horticulture	Vacant
Livestock	Sean Hough
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Nursery II	John Murphy
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Poultry I	Zach Evans
Poultry II	Vacant
State Grange	Richard Stonebreaker
Tobacco	Vacant
Turf	Gordon Kretser
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Vegetable	Russell Shlagel
Veterinary	Dr. Marianne Bailey
Viticulture	Rachel Lipman
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## MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL LITERACY AND EDUCATION AGENDA

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 12:45 pm

In Person: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88915814186?pwd=Bgay3DFgYrVTBmuxgiarzFKrIRk1Bg.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 889 1581 4186 Passcode: 519439

- I. Welcome: Richard Stonebraker, Chair
- II. Review & approval of April meeting minutes
- III. Discuss recommendations for 1-, 5-, and 10-year goals for agricultural education.
- IV. Review proposed letter to MSDE regarding Agriculture CTEs.
- V. Defining Agriculture Discussion
- VI. Role of CALE and Ag Ed groups in Maryland.
- VII. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
<b>Ag Education</b>	<b>Dr. Melissa Welsh</b>
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Janna Howley
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley
<b>At Large Ag Service</b>	<b>Frank Allnutt</b>
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser
Bio-Fuel	Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria
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Direct Farm Market	Amy Crone, Vice Chair
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Farm Bureau	Paula Linthicum
Field Crops	Chris Rhodes
Food Processing	Nikita Bocharov
<b>Forestry</b>	<b>Hunter Pusey</b>
Hemp	Matthew Levi Sellers
Horticulture	Vacant
Livestock	Sean Hough
Nursery I	J. Kelly Lewis, Chair
Nursery II	John Murphy
Organic Farming	Emma Jagoz
Poultry I	Zach Evans
Poultry II	Vacant
<b>State Grange</b>	<b>Richard Stonebraker</b>
Tobacco	Vacant
Turf	Gordon Kretser
<b>UMD</b>	<b>Dr. Darren Jarboe</b>
Vegetable	Russell Shlagel
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### MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL LITERACY AND EDUCATION

#### Minutes

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 12:45 pm**

**In Person: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Dr. Melissa Welsh  
Dr. Darren Jarboe  
Frank Allnutt  
Ann Merryman  
Hunter Pusey  
Richard Stonebraker, Chair

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

#### **Guests:**

#### **Call to Order:**

The April 2025 Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education meeting was called to order by Richard Stonebraker, Chair, at 12:46 pm.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The February 2025 Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education meeting minutes were approved by Frank Allnutt, second by Dr. Welsh.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

The Committee reviewed recommendations from the Maryland Farm Bureau Agricultural Education Committee (MDFB), Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF), and Maryland Agricultural Teachers Association (MATA), on the development of an agricultural education specialist role at the Maryland Department of Agriculture as recommended by the Commission in a meeting during the Fall of 2024. Throughout the discussion, members highlighted the need to have an intergovernmental relationship between agriculture and education, and a dedicated person to represent the industry throughout the extensive meetings and committees hosted by the Maryland State Department of Education. Dr. Welsh and Richard agreed to review the proposal submitted by MDFB, MATA and MAEF along with the supplemental proposals to present to the Committee at the next meeting.



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The Committee also discussed the role that apprenticeships and internships play in the current CTE framework, and the challenges in engaging with agricultural operations to host interns with the increased expense and time commitment to their small businesses. Industry Recognized Credentials are less cut-and-dry than industries like welding and carpentry, but are an integral factor for MDSE's consideration in effective programming. The Committee will continue to support MSDE's request for developing and supporting IRC's in the industry.

### **Meeting Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Jarboe, second by Dr. Welsh.



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## MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 2:00 pm

In Person: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85801358866?pwd=3ihhMK8rBQICKHgBgqEoSs39ImhC1M.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 858 0135 8866 Passcode: 972863

- I. Welcome: Amy Crone, Chair
- II. Review & approval of April minutes
- III. Statewide Guidance Document Updates
- IV. Committee Member Discussion
  - Defining Agriculture
  - GICA SDAT Statement
- V. Industry Partner Guests List
- VI. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Dr. Melissa Welsh
Agribusiness	Vacant
<b>Agritourism</b>	<b>Janna Howley</b>
<b>Aquaculture</b>	<b>Johnny Shockley</b>
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnutt
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser
Bio-Fuel	Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria
<b>Consumer</b>	<b>Kellie Hinkle</b>
Dairy I	Vacant
Dairy II	Vacant
<b>Direct Farm Market</b>	<b>Amy Crone, Vice Chair</b>
Equine	Ann Merryman
Farm Bureau	Paula Linthicum
Field Crops	Chris Rhodes
Food Processing	Nikita Bocharov
Forestry	Hunter Pusey
Hemp	Matthew Levi Sellers
Horticulture	Vacant
Livestock	Sean Hough
Nursery I	J. Kelly Lewis, Chair
Nursery II	John Murphy
<b>Organic Farming</b>	<b>Emma Jagoz</b>
Poultry I	Zach Evans
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State Grange	Richard Stonebreaker
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Turf	Gordon Kretser
<b>UMD</b>	<b>Dr. Darren Jarboe</b>
Vegetable	Russell Shlagel
Veterinary	Dr. Marianne Bailey
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Young Farmers Advisory Board	Jennell Eck McHenry, Edward Goodman



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### **MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

Minutes

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 2:00 pm

Location: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis MD 21401

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Janna Howley  
Johnny Shockley  
Kellie Hinkle  
Amy Crone  
Nikita Bocharov  
Emma Jagoz  
Dr. Darren Jarboe

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Rachel Lipman

#### **Guests:**

Joe Milone, Maryland Department of Commerce  
Martin Proulx, MDA  
Aidan Boline, MDA  
Kevin Atticks, MDA  
Cassie Shirk, MDA  
Jessica Hackett, MDA

#### **Call to Order:**

The April 2025 Value Added Agriculture Committee meeting was called to order by Amy Crone, Chair, at 2:01 pm.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The February 2025 Value Added Agriculture Committee meeting minutes were approved by Janna Howley, second by Kellie Hinkle.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Joe Milone, Agricultural Programs Specialist with the Maryland Department of Commerce, presented to the Committee about the role that Commerce plays with Value Added Agriculture. As the liaison for the agricultural industry to the Department of Commerce, Joe's



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role is to help connect new and existing businesses with opportunities for growth, promote emerging food system technologies, and support innovation in agriculture, aquaculture, food and forestry sectors.

The Committee continued to highlight the need for the Department of Agriculture to set a statewide definition for agriculture, regenerative agriculture, value added, and other agriculturally related terms. Definitions that are adopted and recognized by the agricultural industry will help steer other sectors in State government to recognizing the evolving and growing industry. Kellie Hinkle agreed to start compiling county definitions of agriculture and support background research.

As the Committee discussed opportunities to collaborate with agriculturally adjacent groups, compiling resource documents of food packers and processors became a highlight of discussion, recognizing that aggregation and processing is a critical need to support value added agricultural production and growth.

### **Meeting Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Jarboe, second by Emma Jagoz.



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## MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON WATERSHED STRATEGIES AGENDA

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 3:15 pm

In Person: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89471455820?pwd=Kgm4NyFajf1qMmpToFoA6nJ78df1Rg.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 894 7145 5820 Passcode: 907604

- I. Welcome: Gordon Kretser
- II. Review & approval of April minutes
- III. Mission Statement
- IV. Chesapeake Bay Agreement Updates
  - Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA
- V. Soil Conservation District's role in erosion & sediment control plans for solar projects
  - Alisha Mulkey, MDA
- VI. Defining Agriculture Discussion
- VII. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Dr. Melissa Welsh
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Janna Howley
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnutt
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser
<b>Bio-Fuel</b>	<b>Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria</b>
Consumer	Kellie Hinkle
Dairy I	Vacant
Dairy II	Vacant
Direct Farm Market	Amy Crone, Vice Chair
Equine	Ann Merryman
Farm Bureau	Paula Linthicum
Field Crops	Chris Rhodes
Food Processing	Nikita Bocharov
<b>Forestry</b>	<b>Hunter Pusey</b>
Hemp	Matthew Levi Sellers
Horticulture	Vacant
<b>Livestock</b>	<b>Sean Hough</b>
Nursery I	J. Kelly Lewis, Chair
Nursery II	John Murphy
Organic Farming	Emma Jagoz
<b>Poultry I</b>	<b>Zach Evans</b>
Poultry II	Vacant
State Grange	Richard Stonebreaker
Tobacco	Vacant
<b>Turf</b>	<b>Gordon Kretser</b>
UMD	Dr. Darren Jarboe
Vegetable	Russell Shlagel
Veterinary	Dr. Marianne Bailey
Viticulture	Rachel Lipman
Young Farmers Advisory Board	Jennell Eck McHenry, Edward Goodman



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

*Office of the Secretary*

**Wes Moore**, Governor  
**Aruna Miller**, Lt. Governor  
**Kevin M. Atticks**, Secretary  
**Steven A. Connelly**, Deputy Secretary

*Maryland Agricultural Commission*

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Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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## MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON WATERSHED STRATEGIES

Minutes

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 3:15 pm

Location: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis MD 21401

### **Committee Members Present:**

Hunter Pusey  
Sean Hough  
Zach Evans  
Gordon Kretser

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Raj Kathuria

### **Guests:**

Julie Devers, USDA NRCS State Biologist  
Audra Hinson, USDA ARS Research Ecologist  
Chad Stachoiaik, USDA NRCS Climate Division  
Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA  
Greg McCarty, USDA Research Soil Scientist  
Jacob Dieguez, USDA NRCS State Conservation Engineer  
Eric Hines, USDA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist  
Hans Schmidt, MDA

### **Call to Order:**

The April 2025 Committee on Watershed Strategies meeting was called to order by Gordon Kretser, Chair, at 3:19 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The February 2025 Committee on Watershed Strategies meeting minutes were approved by Zach Evans, second by Hunter Pusey.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

Dr. Audra Hinson, USDA ARS, presented to the Committee on soybean pollination ecosystem services and the impact that pollinator habitat has on soybeans. Dana Ashford-Kornburger, USDA NRCS, presented to the Committee on agrivoltaics and NRCS guidance documents published for farmers and agrivoltaics operations in the country. The Committee





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discussed opportunities for the incorporation of agriculture in solar installations and emphasized the significant impact on pollinators in agriculture, highlighting the need for native grasses and true pollinator habitat to be incorporated into plantings on new installation of solar projects.

### **Meeting Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by Sean Hough, second by Hunter Pusey.