



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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

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

Office of the Secretary

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

410-841-5880 Balt/Washington
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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FARM PROFITABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

AUGUST 12th, 2024 - 9:00 am

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87176737530?pwd=aX9EVGPdfLmHmlOdjOpaHgWRNoHnn1.1>

Meeting ID: 871 7673 7530 Passcode: 451487

I. Welcome: Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary

II. Committee Member Updates

III. New Business

- Review of Strategic Plan
- Election of Chair
- Identification of Priorities
- Action Items

IV. Old Business

V. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Joseph Dymek
Agribusiness	Thomas Mullineaux
Agritourism	Kelly Dudeck
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnut
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
Equine	Ann Merryman
Farm Bureau	Paula Linthicum
Field Crops	Chris Rhodes
Food Processing	Vacant
Forestry	Hunter Pusey
Hemp	Matthew Levi Sellers
Horticulture	Vacant
Livestock	Sean Hough
Nursery I	J. Kelly Lewis
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State Grange	Clifford Newsome Jr.
Tobacco	Vacant
Turf	Gordon Kretser
UMD	Dean Craig Beyroudy
Vegetable	Russell Shlagel
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**

AUGUST 12th, 2024 - 9:00 am

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87176737530?pwd=aX9EVGPdfLmHmlOdjOpaHgWRNoHnn1.1>

Meeting ID: 871 7673 7530 Passcode: 451487

Committee Members Present:

Amy Crone
Sean Hough
Kelly Lewis
Gordon Kretser
Russell Shlagel

Committee Members Absent:

Chris Rhodes
John Murphy

Guests:

Jonathan Cribbs
Emma Jagoz

Call to Order:

The September 2024 Maryland Agricultural Commission meeting was called to order by Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary, at 9:05 am.

Approval of Minutes:

This is the first meeting of the Farm Profitability and Sustainability Committee, no prior minutes to approve.

Meeting Minutes:

The Farm Profitability and Sustainability Committee (the Committee) discussed opportunities within the marketing division of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to expand on the Maryland's Best program.

Branding can become a challenge for small, new and beginning farmers, however operating under a Maryland's Best umbrella can be a way for the State to be offering low-cost high-impact support.

The Committee highlighted the various business development and financial training programs that exist to empower and support farmers; however, these tools can be difficult to find and are often sponsored by an array of organizations. Emma Jagoz and Amy Crone will start to work on compiling a resource document for young & beginning farmers that will serve as the framework for a larger study on a toolkit for success.

Access to capital in the young & beginning stage can be a major barrier to entry, the Committee explored opportunities to partner with organizations such as the Maryland Agricultural-Resource Based Industry Development Corporation and the Farm Service Agency. Some counties offer start-up grants such as Howard County's land preservation funding that assist with conservation projects for new & beginning farmers.

Agricultural education and agricultural literacy are key components to bring value to farmers and ag products. Through improving the knowledge base of the non-farming public, there is more inherent value in purchasing local, available, fresh foods to bolster the local economy and the agricultural economy. Congruently, there is opportunity for the Marketing arm of MDA and the Resource Conservation team to collaborate on improving the overall impression of Maryland farmers by sponsoring statewide campaigns that reinforce the concept of agriculture as the best way to improve the bay (i.e., "I love Maryland Farms" campaign, "Marylanders for Maryland Farms" or "Maryland farms for a cleaner bay").

There are several avenues for farmers to sell their products, one of the more challenging markets to gain access to is mid-scale institutions for mid-size farmers. The Committee sees opportunity for the Department to be supporting, incentivizing, and promoting on-farm aggregators for regional products.

Election of Chair:

Amy Crone was elected to serve as chair.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Kelly Lewis, second by Amy Crone.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary



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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON WATERSHED STRATEGIES AGENDA

AUGUST 13th, 2024 – 10:30 am

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85726658628?pwd=xgTfuValKlkHBJD9C9cwZ9NYj6Zzob.1>

Meeting ID: 857 2665 8628 Passcode: MAC2024

I. Welcome: Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary

II. Committee Member Updates

III. New Business

- Review of Strategic Plan
- Election of Chair
- Identification of Priorities
- Action Items

IV. Old Business

V. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Joseph Dymek
Agribusiness	Thomas Mullineaux
Agritourism	Kelly Dudeck
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnut
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser
Bio-Fuel	Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria
Consumer	Kellie Hinkle
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**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON WATERSHED STRATEGIES
MINUTES**

AUGUST 13th, 2024 – 10:30 am

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85726658628?pwd=xgTfuValKlkHBJD9C9cwZ9NYj6Zzob.1>

Meeting ID: 857 2665 8628 Passcode: MAC2024

Committee Members Present:

Raj Kathuria
Hunter Pusey
Sean Hough
Gordon Kretser

Committee Members Absent:

John Murphy

Guests:

Hans Schmidt, MDA
Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA
Alisha Mulkey, MDA

Call to Order:

The August 2024 Committee on Watershed Strategies meeting was called to order by Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary, at 10:32 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

This is the first meeting of the Committee on Watershed Strategies, no prior minutes to approve.

Meeting Minutes:

Elizabeth Hoffman & Alisha Mulkey of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Resource Conservation Program Planning & Evaluation team presented to the Committee on Watershed Strategies (the Committee) about the Watershed Implementation Plans (EPA) that are established and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Chesapeake Bay Program. The Committee discussed the role that MDA has within the program and how Soil Conservation Districts provide the expertise and technical services required to accomplish the goals of the Agency and the Bay. The Committee discussed how wildlife habitat, Conservation Reserve Program land, carbon sequestration and biochar are different opportunities for the Department to

pursue within this realm. As solar arrays on agricultural properties continue to be installed, the Committee recognizes that there needs to be considerably more communication between solar companies and Soil Conservation Districts to incorporate best management practices into the erosion and sediment control plans for these projects.

The Committee discussed the opportunities for farmers to integrate agroforestry in their livestock rotations, highlighting the long term carbon sequestration benefits as well as the timber production as a regenerative revenue source in the long term.

Action Items:

Gordon Kretser moved that MDA should pursue policy that supports the ultimatum – if utility solar is proposed on prime agricultural land, conservation alternatives and co-benefits must be weighed as a part of the plan with input from the soil conservation districts and other relevant partners, motion was seconded by Raj Kathuria.

Election of Chair:

Gordon Kretser was unanimously elected to serve as the Chair of the Committee and represent the Maryland Agricultural Commission on the Committee on Watershed Strategies.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Gordon Kretser, second by Sean Hough.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary



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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL LITERACY AND EDUCATION

AGENDA

AUGUST 13th, 2024 – 1:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83406632716?pwd=5lbAjk9fMrQvL8HhBMQuDena3rqGA.1>

Meeting ID: 834 0663 2716 Passcode: MAC2024

I. Welcome: Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary

II. Committee Member Updates

III. New Business

- Review of Strategic Plan
- Election of Chair
- Identification of Priorities
- Action Items

IV. Old Business

V. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
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Agribusiness	Thomas Mullineaux
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**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL LITERACY AND EDUCATION
MINUTES**

AUGUST 13th, 2024 – 1:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83406632716?pwd=5lbAjkA9fMrQvL8HhBMQuDena3rqGA.1>

Meeting ID: 834 0663 2716 Passcode: MAC2024

Committee Members Present:

Joe Dymek
Hunter Pusey
Dr. Darren Jarboe

Committee Members Absent:

Tom Mullineaux

Guests:

Karen Fedor, MDA

Call to Order:

The August 2024 Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education meeting was called to order by Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary, at 1:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

This is the first meeting of the Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education, no prior minutes to approve.

Meeting Minutes:

Karen Fedor of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Farm to School program presented to the Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education about the role that the Department has in connecting farmers with institutions within the education system. Karen serves as the MDA representative on the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation board, the Outdoor Learning Partnership, and the Agricultural Education Council. The Committee discussed opportunities to work with the Maryland State Department of Education, and connecting with Local Education Authorities (LEAs). The Ag Awareness Days have been extremely effective across the state, engaging with Middle Schoolers as they begin to choose what Career Technical Education program they'd like to embark on. There are also opportunities with Close Encounters with Agriculture programs, and the SNAP-Ed programs in schools to engage youth in agricultural

literacy. There are lots of organizations that touch agricultural education, but the industry is lacking a central person to hold the umbrella of these organizations and lead the charge.

The Committee agrees that forestry is often not included in the discussions of agriculture with youth, and requests that this career be incorporated on youth field trips and agricultural engagements.

The Committee discussed opportunities to support the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, identifying the need for private investment from the agricultural sector to bolster research and technologies on campus to entice students.

Action Items:

Joe Dymek moved that MDA should pursue the development of an agricultural education and literacy specialist housed within the department to foster relationships amongst state departments and the industry to advance agricultural education and literacy in Maryland, this motion was seconded by Hunter Pusey.

Election of Chair:

Joe Dymek was unanimously elected to serve as the Chair of the Committee.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Hunter Pusey, second by Joe Dymek.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary



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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

AUGUST 12th, 2024 - 3:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87979822386?pwd=K1PokejkDjQlta4pa1cuk2bGvt6a9w.1>

Meeting ID: 879 7982 2386 Passcode: MAC2024

I. Welcome: Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary

II. Committee Member Updates

III. New Business

- Review of Strategic Plan
- Election of Chair
- Identification of Priorities
- Action Items

IV. Old Business

V. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
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**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

AUGUST 12th, 2024 - 3:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87979822386?pwd=K1PokejkDjQlta4pa1cuk2bGvt6a9w.1>

Meeting ID: 879 7982 2386 Passcode: MAC2024

Committee Members Present:

Kelly Dudeck
Raj Kathuria
Kellie Hinkle
Amy Crone

Committee Members Absent:

Johnny Shockley
Dr. Darren Jarboe
Rachel Lipman

Guests:

Martin Proulx, MDA
Emma Jagoz

Call to Order:

The August 2024 Value Added Agriculture Committee meeting was called to order by Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary, at 3:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

This is the first meeting of the Value-Added Agriculture Committee, no prior minutes to approve.

Meeting Minutes:

Martin Proulx, the Value-Added Agriculture Specialist for the Maryland Department of Agriculture (the Department) presented to the Value-Added Agriculture Committee (the Committee) the 3 overarching regulatory themes that the Department is prioritizing to address; supporting value added producers, supporting agritourism and food service on-farm, and supporting retail on-farm. The Committee determined that a clearer definition of Value-Added Agriculture at the State and Federal level would provide clarity to farmers, regulators, and

businesses. The Committee discussed the importance of promoting and marketing Value-Added Agriculture to the legislative body and to the public, highlighting the overarching concept that Value-Added Ag Businesses are agribusinesses (as an economic driver and opportunity for agriculture to engage with the public). The Committee noted that engaging with local elected officials on farm tours is a good opportunity to facilitate discussion, farm tours often breeze over the actual business aspects of a farm and highlight the attractive components instead. Success-stories, however, and other case studies of success in Value-Added Ag can serve as a playbook for jurisdictions to evaluate policy that is farmer-friendly.

One of the most successful ways to market Value-Added Agriculture is through digital media and videography, while farmers may not have the time, tools, or skills to promote their farm through digital media this is an opportunity for support from MDA.

The Committee highlighted the need for partnerships within the Value-Added Agriculture space, leaning on the Economic Development Centers and Agricultural Marketing Specialists to be the catalyst between governments and farmers. Other opportunities to support Value-Added Agriculture exist in statewide marketing campaigns, subsidizing agricultural/farm promotions as a means of agricultural literacy, and leveraging partnerships with universities and private industry groups to promote opportunities for growth within the sector.

Action Items:

None.

Election of Chair:

Amy Crone was unanimously elected to serve as the Chair of the Committee.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Kellie Hinkle, second by Kelly Dudeck.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary