



**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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mda.maryland.gov

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

410-841-5882 Baltimore/Washington
410-841-5914 Fax

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Committee Meeting Schedule

November 12TH & 13TH, 2024

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

November 12th, 2024

Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education (CALE), 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81990695822?pwd=0BnWMmLANwfhNhZi2y4YuXCaQ6VljpD.1>

Meeting ID: 819 9069 5822 Passcode: 498629

November 13th, 2024

Farm Profitability and Sustainability Committee 10:00 am – 11:30 am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84498502328?pwd=yP4K5je3OZp1YyWmdsXehT94N87Qmf.1>

Meeting ID: 844 9850 2328 Passcode: 870568

Legislative Affairs Committee 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85883761884?pwd=imXBd69ASWWtgM87NAN53rxUzab0TB.1>

Meeting ID: 858 8376 1884 Passcode: 178019

Value Added Agriculture Committee 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84382012771?pwd=wKFS61mulGWHFCQFWQpaN6Y5Q2Dxau.1>

Meeting ID: 843 8201 2771 Passcode: 880444

Committee on Watershed Strategies 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86282439084?pwd=DRCa1RZViYtN5TUbhV7fSKnky3xDRZ.1>

Meeting ID: 862 8243 9084 Passcode: 890519



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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL LITERACY AND EDUCATION

AGENDA

November 12th, 2024 – 5:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81990695822?pwd=0BnWMmLANwfNhZj2y4YuXCaQ6VljpD.1>

Meeting ID: 819 9069 5822 Passcode: 498629

- I. Welcome: Joe Dymek, Chair
- II. Review of August meeting minutes
- III. Presentation from the Maryland Agricultural Education Coalition
- IV. Commission Participation – Industry Recognized Credentials
- V. Committee Discussion
- VI. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Joseph Dymek
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Kelly Dudeck
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
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
Nursery II	John Murphy
Organic Farming	Emma Jagoz
Poultry I	Zach Evans
Poultry II	Vacant
State Grange	Vacant
Tobacco	Vacant
Turf	Gordon Kretser
UMD	Dean Craig Beyrouty
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
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL LITERACY AND EDUCATION**

Minutes

November 12th, 2024 – 5:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81990695822?pwd=0BnWMmLAnwfNhZj2y4YyXCaQ6VljpD.1>

Meeting ID: 819 9069 5822 Passcode: 498629

Committee Members Present:

Joe Dymek
Hunter Pusey
Dr. Darren Jarboe

Committee Members Absent:

Guests:

Karen Fedor, MDA
Barb Glenn, Maryland Farm Bureau
Kendall Abruzzese, Maryland Farm Bureau
Stacy Eckels, Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association
Aaron Geiman, Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association
Susanne Richards, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation
Cassie Shirk, MDA
Sarah Welty, Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association
Dr. Stacy Eckels, Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association
Hans Schmidt, MDA
Raj Kathuria, Maryland Agricultural Commission
Sean Hough, Maryland Agricultural Commission
Amy Crone, Maryland Agricultural Commission

Call to Order:

The November 2024 Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education meeting was called to order by Joe Dymek, Chair, at 5:06 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the August, 2024 Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education meeting were approved by Hunter Pusey, second by Dr. Darren Jarboe.

Meeting Minutes:

The Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association (MATA), Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF), Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) and representatives from the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) presented their proposal for Leadership of Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources (EANR) Education in Maryland to the Committee on Agricultural Literacy and Education. This proposal includes the creation of a Director of Agricultural Education housed either within the Maryland State Department of Education or the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and support staff to include an Asst. Director for Curriculum, Classroom Instruction & Community College Workforce Development, an Asst. Director for Leadership Development, an Asst. Director for Experiential Learning, and several specialty positions. The Committee discussed the challenges in Maryland agricultural education with the group, understanding the different needs and perspectives from each participating party. One overarching concern was funding for these positions and for agricultural education in general; options such as State general fund dollars, Cannabis tax, and industry financial support were all discussed.

Identifying Industry Recognized Credentials continues to be challenge for the agricultural industry, given that there are few “mandatory certifications” to work in the field compared to the nursing, welding, and other CTE programs. The current list of IRCs for agriculture is limited but there is a structured process to add credentials to the list.

Action Items:

The Committee requests that Secretary Atticks meet with Dr. Carey Wright of the Maryland State Department of Education in order to ensure that agricultural education keeps a seat at the table.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Hunter Pusey, second by Dr. Darren Jarboe.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary



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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FARM PROFITABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

November 13th, 2024 – 10:00 am

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84498502328?pwd=yP4K5je3OZp1YyWmdsXehT94N87Qmf.1>

Meeting ID: 844 9850 2328 Passcode: 870568

I. Welcome: Amy Crone, Chair

II. Review of August meeting minutes

III. Presentation from Maryland's Best, Audrey Broomfield & Kristin Hanna

IV. Committee Discussion

V. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Joseph Dymek
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Kelly Dudeck
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
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
Nursery II	John Murphy
Organic Farming	Emma Jagoz
Poultry I	Zach Evans
Poultry II	Vacant
State Grange	Vacant
Tobacco	Vacant
Turf	Gordon Kretser
UMD	Dean Craig Beyrouthy
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
AGENDA**

November 13th, 2024 – 10:00 am

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84498502328?pwd=yP4K5je3OZp1YyWmdsXehT94N87Qmf.1>

Meeting ID: 844 9850 2328 Passcode: 870568

Committee Members Present:

Amy Crone
Sean Hough
Kelly Lewis
Gordon Kretser
Russell Shlagel

Committee Members Absent:

Chris Rhodes
John Murphy

Guests:

Kristin Hanna, MDA
Audrey Broomfield, MDA
Mark Powell, MDA
Jessica Hackett, MDA
Karen Fedor, MDA
Rachel Jones, MDA
Martin Proulx, MDA

Call to Order:

The November 2024 Maryland Agricultural Commission meeting was called to order by Amy Crone, Chair, at 10:03 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the August meeting of the Farm Profitability and Sustainability Committee were approved by Kelly Lewis, second by Sean Hough.

Meeting Minutes:

The Maryland's Best Marketing team at the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) presented to the Farm Profitability and Sustainability Committee (the Committee), highlighting program successes and their role within the marketing of Maryland agricultural products, connecting buyers and growers, and serving at the crossroads of agricultural literacy & marketing. The Committee brought up several ideas for collaboration and program evolution to ensure farmers are aware of the opportunities that Maryland's Best can bring. There is a lot of overlap in marketing from the statewide scale from partner organizations such as University of Maryland, Future Harvest, and Maryland Farm Bureau; the Committee recognizes the need for cross-collaboration to present a unified voice from the agricultural industry. Karen Fedor presented to the Committee some of the opportunities for agricultural literacy to be highlighted through marketing's work and the Farm 2 School program.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Kelly Lewis, second by Sean Hough.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary



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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

November 13th, 2024 - 12:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85883761884?pwd=imXBd69ASWWtgM87NAN53rxUzab0TB.1>

Meeting ID: 858 8376 1884 Passcode: 178019

I. Welcome: Paula Linthicum, Chair

II. Review and Combination of August minutes

III. Committee Member Updates

IV. New Business

V. Old Business

VI. Adjourn Meeting

Note: The Legislative Affairs Committee did not meet in November due to schedule conflicts amongst Committee members.

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Joseph Dymek
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Kelly Dudeck
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
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
Nursery II	John Murphy
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State Grange	Vacant
Tobacco	Vacant
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Vegetable	Russell Shlagel
Veterinary	Dr. Marianne Bailey
Viticulture	Rachel Lipman
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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

November 13th, 2024 - 2:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84382012771?pwd=wKFS61mulGWHFCQFWQpaN6Y5Q2Dxau.1>

Meeting ID: 843 8201 2771 Passcode: 880444

- I. Welcome: Amy Crone, Chair
- II. Review of August meeting minutes
- III. Committee Member Updates
- IV. New Business
 - Case Study List
- V. Old Business
- VI. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Joseph Dymek
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Kelly Dudeck
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnutt
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser
Bio-Fuel	Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria
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**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

November 13th, 2024 - 2:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84382012771?pwd=wKFS61mulGWHFCQFWQpaN6Y5Q2Dxau.1>

Meeting ID: 843 8201 2771 Passcode: 880444

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Darren Jarboe
Kelly Dudeck
Johnny Shockley
Raj Kathuria
Amy Crone
Kellie Hinkle

Committee Members Absent:

Rachel Lipman

Guests:

Call to Order:

The November 2024 Value Added Agriculture Committee meeting was called to order by Amy Crone, Chair, at 2:07 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the August meeting of the Value-Added Agriculture Committee were approved by Kelly Dudeck, second by Kellie Hinkle.

Meeting Minutes:

- The Committee highlighted the importance of a statewide agritourism definition, weighing the pros and cons of incorporating limits to agricultural innovation while also recognizing that if agricultural entities do not define agriculture and its various aspects, other agencies and regulators will define it without our advice.
- Amy Crone proposed that the Committee investigate neighboring states definitions of agritourism and agriculture.

- Kelly Dudeck suggested engaging with the agricultural business development specialists across the state to ensure that the leniencies and interpretations of definitions within the agricultural context across jurisdictions are legal and can be replicated.
- The Committee recognizes that agritourism and value-added agriculture has operated in a regulatory gray area, but a clearer picture will need to be established that establishes guardrails and guidelines without inhibiting innovation.
- The Committee will be working on developing case studies to prove success.

Action Items:

None.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Darren Jarboe, second by Kelly Dudeck.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary



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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON WATERSHED STRATEGIES AGENDA

November 13th, 2024 – 4:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86282439084?pwd=DRCa1RZViYtN5TUbhV7fSKnky3xDRZ.1>

Meeting ID: 862 8243 9084 Passcode: 890519

- I. Welcome: Gordon Kretser, Chair
- II. Review of August meeting minutes
- III. Committee Member Updates
- IV. New Business
- V. Old Business
- VI. Adjourn Meeting

Commodity	Representative
Ag Education	Joseph Dymek
Agribusiness	Vacant
Agritourism	Kelly Dudeck
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley
At Large Ag Service	Frank Allnut
At Large Ag Service	Stefanie Reiser
Bio-Fuel	Rajneesh (Raj) Kathuria
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Horticulture	Vacant
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Viticulture	Rachel Lipman
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**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON WATERSHED STRATEGIES
MINUTES**

November 13th, 2024 – 4:00 pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86282439084?pwd=DRCa1RZViYtN5TUbhV7fSKnky3xDRZ.1>

Meeting ID: 862 8243 9084 Passcode: 890519

Committee Members' Present:

Hunter Pusey
Sean Hough
Gordon Kretser
Raj Kathuria

Committee Members Absent:

John Murphy

Guests:

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

Call to Order:

The November 2024 Committee on Watershed Strategies meeting was called to order by Gordon Kretser, Chair, at 4:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the August meeting of the Committee on Watershed Strategies were approved by Sean Hough, second by Hunter Pusey.

Meeting Minutes:

- MDA Program Planning & Evaluation staff presented to the Committee, highlighting themes from the previous meeting, presenting data to bolster conversation on Maryland agricultural progress in the WIP model, and laying out steps for the proposed LEEF framework.
 - The Committee highlighted the need to cross-evaluate conservation and the climate, and studying the feasibility of carbon credits to financially support conservation efforts if federal funding and supports diminished.

- Secretary Atticks' LEEF program is an opportunity for all agricultural operations to engage with conservation and go beyond conservation implementation, expanding into community leadership and education opportunities.
- Gordon, Chair, brought forward a working case-study at the Cherrywood Solar site on Caroline County. This case-study points to the conflicting messaging and lack of enforcement regarding native plantings on solar installations, and non-fulfillment of pollinator plantings as listed in Maryland code.
 - The Department's Resource Conservation section will pursue meeting with the PPRP to ensure that the stabilization requirements are being met and enforced on solar installations on agricultural land and will provide an update at the next committee meeting in 2025.

Action Items:

Raj moved to support Gordon Kretser as the Maryland Agricultural Commission's representative on the State Soil Conservation Committee. Sean Hough seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Hunter Pusey, second by Raj Kathuria.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary