

# AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION WORK GROUP MEETING MINUTES

**August 22, 2007**

1. **Attendance:** Tom Dernoga, Boyd Campbell, Daniel Filippelli, Debra Naylor, William Moore, Richard Krueger, Mike Martin, Stephanie DeVille-Eugene, Fred Tutman

2. **Meeting Agenda:**

- I. **Approval of Minutes (August 8)**

Minutes were approved.

- II. **Maryland Association of Counties Convention (MACo)**

Chair Dernoga distributed pamphlets and information that he obtained from the MACo convention:

*Rural Maryland Council: Promoting Economic Prosperity and Providing a Collective Voice for Rural Maryland*  
([www.rural.state.md.us](http://www.rural.state.md.us))

*2020 Rural Prosperity* ([www.rural.state.md.us](http://www.rural.state.md.us))

*Imagine Rural Maryland – Make the Vision a Reality*  
*2007 Maryland Rural Summit (October 17-19, 2007 Solomons Island, Maryland* [www.rural.state.md.us](http://www.rural.state.md.us))

- III. **Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO): “Growing Rural Ventures”**

Mr. Stephen McHenry, Executive Director of MARBIDCO, gave a presentation and responded to questions on the various programs and assistance provided for farmers through his organization.

## MARBIDCO Mission:

- Help farm, forestry, and seafood businesses achieve profitability and sustainability
- Provide targeted services and a specialized support infrastructure that helps retain existing rural business and commerce
- Promote rural entrepreneurship and nurture emerging Ag/RBI industries
- Sustain the rural working landscape

Information on assistance and programs available through MARBIDCO including loans and grants can be found at [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org).

During the discussion of assistance provided by MARBIDCO, a suggestion was made that research into the loans provided by Colonial Farm Credit should also be considered because of their assistance during the underwriting process.

Boyd Campbell informed the members of a discount that he receives on his automobile insurance because he is a member of the Farm Bureau.

Richard Krueger indicated that he happened to be within close range of a discussion during a recent lunch at a restaurant in Montgomery County in which he learned that Montgomery County is in the process of drafting an amendment to its Ordinance concerning the acquisition and functioning of wineries in conjunction with a Bed and Breakfast.

Debra Naylor informed the members of an article in the August 22, 2007 edition of the Washington Post concerning the growing interest in local products and marketing.

Bill Moore expressed concerns that farmers do not have adequate information on the value of crops and indicated that due to certain limitations associated with growing grapes; this is more of a hobby crop. Chair Dernoga indicated that he has made contact with a representative of the Cooperative Extension service and hopes to have them attend an upcoming Work Group meeting.

Mr. Moore also inquired as to when the Work Group will discuss Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs). Chair Dernoga responded

that he is working on a previous draft of TDR legislation (CB-5-2006) in an effort to clean up areas that caused opposition when it was under review by the County Council and hopes to have something for the Work Group to review very soon.

The Work Group also discussed the need for a program to help farmers pay for crop insurance. Those with larger farms tend to have the insurance, but it is more difficult for those with smaller farms to cover this cost.

**3. Handouts:**

Harry Ketts was present and submitted an information sheet as additional information to the briefing that he gave to the Work Group on August 8, 2007. The handout explained why farmers and landowners of open space require additional assistance with regard to liability insurance and also provided further explanation of the terminology “open space with an agricultural flavor” which had been mentioned during his briefing.

**4. Next Meeting:** September 5, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

**5. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.