

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION WORK GROUP MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2008

1. **Attendance:** Thomas Dernoga, Stephanie DeVille-Eugene, William Moore, Boyd Campbell, Charles Renninger, Debra Naylor

2. **Meeting Agenda:**

I. **Approval of Minutes (February 6th)**

Action postponed until next meeting due to lack of quorum.

II. **Discussion –**

- **Status of State Legislation**

Chair Dernoga provided an update on the status of HB 939 (PG/MC 116-08 and crossfiled as HB 939). He noted that an “agreement in principal” was reached with the M-NCPPC General Counsel. Even though it does not appear that the Senate has issues, on the Bi-County side, there is concern with spending County money before using available State programs as well as the concern of using money outside of the Metropolitan District.

Support of the legislation is still needed to get it out of the Bi-County committee. Once out of committee, it goes to the Delegation the following Friday.

- **Review of Letter on the Feasibility of a Joint Cooperative Livestock Facility**

The Work Group reviewed a draft letter to the Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission in support of further study of the feasibility of a joint cooperative livestock facility. There was agreement that Chair Dernoga and Vice-Chair Bland should forward the letter on behalf of the Work Group.

Dr. David Billings, Chief of Staff to Vice-Chair Bland, suggested that the resources available through the University of Maryland should be considered and their assistance should be actively engaged through their agricultural school.

William Moore and Boyd Campbell concurred indicating that local farmers need as many resources and tools as possible to help them sell their products.

- **Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Chair Dernoga commented on his conversation with the County Executive's appointments secretary regarding the expired terms of members of several boards and commissions, specifically the Agricultural Resources Advisory Board and the Land Preservation Advisory Commission. Mr. Dernoga requested that Stephanie DeVille-Eugene discuss this with the Farm Bureau and provide names for possible appointments to these boards and commissions.

In addition, Ms. DeVille-Eugene commented that the Farm Bureau has inquired about the replacement of Phil Carr on the Agricultural Preservation Work Group since he has been unable to attend due to personal reasons. Chair Dernoga commented that he had not suggested replacement at this point because of the "catch up" which would be required for a new member; however, this is still open for discussion if a replacement is recommended.

Ms. Deville-Eugene also informed the Work Group that the Farm Bureau is forming a Legislative Affairs Committee which will be providing a skeletal of legislation that they will recommend for consideration.

4. Next Meeting: March 5, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

5. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.