



RMC Agriculture Committee Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2023
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Zoom Teleconference
Agenda

Invited participants: RMC Agriculture Committee Members

- I. Welcome and Introductions Matthew Teffeau, Chair
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2023
- III. Presentation by Mike Thielke regarding F3 Tech and the Ag Innovation Center
- IV. RMC Rural Summit Breakout Sessions
- V. Wildlife Crop-damage
- VI. Value-Added Economic Impact
 - a. MARBIDCO-[RBI 2022 BEACON Report - RBI summary only 092722 Two Pager.pdf \(marbidco.org\)](#)
 - b. Grow & Fortify - [Value-Added Agriculture in Maryland: An Economic Analysis - Grow & Fortify \(growandfortify.com\)](#)
- VII. Future GICA Meetings
- VIII. Review of Committee Goals and Action Items

Current Goal and Action Items:

Agriculture Committee: Track legislation, policies, updates pertaining to agriculture.

- Convene stakeholders to identify and encourage viable agriculture through small business development, entrepreneurship, diversification, and value added.
- Develop strategies and activities that incentivize agriculture production in the State.
- Encourage expansion and support of current agricultural education programming through all levels.

- VI. Adjourn

Next Meeting: TBD



RMC Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Maryland Department of Agriculture Building

Participants: Committee Chair Matt Tefteau, Secretary Kevin Atticks, Mike Thielke, Steve McHenry, Cassie Shirk, Rachel Jones, Mark Powell, Craig Sewell, Harry Huntley, Darren Jarboe, Holly Porter, Shelby Watson-Hampton, Charlotte Davis, Molli Cole, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy.

Agriculture Committee Chair Matt Tefteau called the meeting to order at 10:10am. Chair Tefteau asked for a motion for the July 13, 2022, minutes. Steve McHenry made the motion to approve the July 13, 2022, meeting minutes, Mike Thielke seconded the motion. The July 13, 2022, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

The Committee discussed the Value-Added position that will be opening at MDA and that the role for this position will focus on barriers to entry and expansion, leveraging State and Federal resources for support, and looking at value added agriculture in every aspect. The Committee discussed the hemp industry and how it must be looked at differently than cannabis and the significant role it can play in fiber industry. The Committee discussed the challenges with distinguishing hemp from cannabis in regard to the level of THC the plant strains contain. MDA is in the process of developing a fact sheet on Hemp.

The Committee discussed the State Department of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT) challenge in Maryland as it relates to farm use and the value-added industry. An unofficial work group has been formed by Senate Elfreth's office. The purpose of the group is to work towards an agreement with SDAT to develop a fair rate assessment between regular agriculture and commercial as the latter is untenable for farmers. The work group is currently waiting for a list from SDAT that includes farms that have seen an increase in their assessment greater than 25% as it is unclear how many farms are being impacted and how SDAT is assessing these farms.

The Committee Chair conducted a lightening round with members to develop a list of topics that the Committee and Department can address. Topics discussed included the value-added potential at the Lothian Grain Mill property, Food System Resiliency Council, Rural Summit, Ag Innovations, Family Forest Carbon Program in Allegany County, and Clean Water Commerce.

The Committee discussed the relaunch of the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA) this summer. GICA is a subcommittee on agriculture where every relevant agency has a seat on the Commission, and it is a place to push policy and/or solve problems. Rachel Jones will be taking the lead on it and will complete a full analysis of it, which will include members, vacancies, and topics to be discussed. The Agriculture Committee was invited to suggest topics and one discussed was the farmer stress management program. Additional

topics discussed were farm profitability through value-added or solar; highest and best use of soils; need for land for affordable housing.

The Committee was not able to fully discuss the challenges with livestock processing and it was recommended to make it an item of discussion for the next meeting.

The Committee Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Thielke made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Harry Huntley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:32am.

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Indicates Speaker Confirmed
Indicates Not Available

| Agriculture | | | | | | |
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| Topic/Potential Time/Equipment | Track | Objectives | Desired Outcome/Action | Potential Speakers | Outreach | State or Regional Representation |
| <p>Presentation Title:</p> <p>Value-Added Agriculture in Maryland</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>10:30 – 11:45</p> <p>Equipment:</p> | <p>Agriculture</p> | | | <p>Craig Sewell, Program Director, Southern Maryland Ag Development Commission</p> <p>Martin Proulx, Value Added Agriculture Specialist, MDA</p> <p>Kelly Dudeck, Grow & Fortify</p> <p>(Possible Addition- Emiliano Espinosa, Chesapeake Agriculture Innovation Center)</p> | | <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Del. Charkoudian</p> <p>Sen. Hester</p> <p>Facilitator:</p> |

Session Description:

Sewell’s Description: Regions across the US now face the problem of "the Missing Middle"--the critical infrastructure between producer and buyer and midscale operations that are appropriate fits for local and regional economies -- livestock producers are traveling hours to processors increasing their operating costs and the quality of their product. Grain producers stand to lose a sales outlet sorely needed for the small farmer -- Two Southern Maryland counties in association with SMADC have made bold moves to invest financially in the building and maintenance of badly needed infrastructure to support the local farmer, create new

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jobs, open new markets, and allow for regional branding identities. These mid-supply chain investments are there to "set the table" for private enterprises to enter a niche in the supply chain to enable stability, growth, and resiliency.

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| Presentation Title Opening Doors Through Agriculture Education: Formal and Informal Pathways and Resources for Individuals and Community Success Time: 1:45 – 3:00 Equipment: | Agriculture | | | Susanne Richards, MAEF Dr. Melisa Welsh, UMD (Drone Company - Mel Litter? John Hartline? People for Change?) | Moderator: Sen. Gallion Facilitator: |
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Session Description:

Richard's Description: Agriculture is the largest commercial industry in Maryland, with one in three jobs tied to agriculture. Jobs in agriculture include education; research; biotechnology; food and beverage production; environmental services; energy; crop protection; animal care; finance; marketing and communications; sales; national and international trade; management; food services and eating and drinking places; textiles, apparel, and leather products; and forestry and fishing. Agriculture is also home to a great number of entrepreneurs.

Join us in navigating Maryland's array of opportunities for formal and non-formal education supporting careers in agriculture. From simple educational workshops to certifications to formal degree programs and everything in between, Marylanders can find an educational niche to support their career interests and academic needs.

The agriculture industry is hiring: Each year agriculture needs more skilled workers than graduates from our schools. Precision agriculture is rising; high-tech, high-wage, and in-demand jobs drive innovation in Maryland businesses. Advancements in drone technology and indoor atmospheric controlled growth continue to drive entrepreneurial endeavors across the state.

Participants will walk away with a better understanding of the resources available in-state to get youth and adult learners trained to work in this diverse field.

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| <p>Presentation Title:</p> <p>Forestry and Climate Focus - Combining Proposals More Trees, Please and How Agriculture Can Fit Into Maryland's Climate and Environmental Goals</p> <p>Time: 3:15 – 4:30</p> <p>Equipment:</p> | <p>Agriculture</p> | | | <p>Josh Bollinger, Harry Hughes</p> <p>Dr. Rachel Lamb, MDE</p> <p>Terry Nuwer, MCSAP</p> <p>(Beth Hill, MD Forest Association)</p> | <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Anne Hairston-Strang</p> <p>Facilitator:</p> |
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Session Description:

Bollinger's Proposal: Trees keep our communities cool, attract businesses and residents, protect streams from erosion, reduce flooding and more. But how is your county doing on protecting and expanding this important resource? The General Assembly recently commissioned a Technical Study of Changes in Maryland's Forest Cover and Tree Canopy and online story map that used new hyper-resolution land use data to help you understand how your tree resources have changed over time and new county-level fact sheets break down these results in an easy-to-understand way. Hear from the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology about the results of the study, and then hear from two counties about how they bring multiple health, environmental, and economic benefits to their community using the cost-effective approach of conserving and expanding forests and tree canopy.

Nuwer's Proposal: Agriculture is Maryland's top commercial industry and the backbone of its rural economies. This industry is expected to be more overwhelmed by climate change than most industries, potentially damaging Maryland's food system and the agricultural economy if climate-adaptive and resilient practices and strategies are not adopted.

The Maryland Climate-Smart Agriculture Project, organized by the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, will identify current and future climate-related issues farmers are expected to face while simultaneously performing research that frames how science can help increase resiliency. A team of scientists with diverse expertise is developing models to forecast specific impacts on agricultural production systems throughout the state.

This presentation will review preliminary findings on how Maryland's agriculture industry can become more resilient in the face of a changing climate and help meet various statewide goals, such as those related to greenhouse gas reductions, renewable energy, nutrient management, and land preservation.

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| Plenary/Legislative Panel/Keynote | | | | | |
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| Topic/Potential Time/Equipment | Track | Objectives | Desired Outcome/Action | Potential Speakers | Outreach |
| Morning Plenary Time: Equipment: | | | | | |
| Afternoon Plenary Time: 12:30 - 12:45 Equipment: | Plenary | | | Andy Bauer, Federal Reserve | |
| Legislative Panel Time: Equipment: | | | | Del. Buckel Del. Sample-Hughes Del. Patterson (if we do not hear from Sample-Hughes by 10/18) Del. Korman Sen. Ready Del. Boyce Del. Rose | |
| Keynote Speaker | | | | | |

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| Time: | | | | Becky McCray | |
| Equipment: | | | | | |