



**To:** Susan Summers, Chairman, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

**From:** Greg Bowen, Rural Economies Workgroup Chair

**Subj:** Status Report on Rural Economies Workgroup Activities

**Date:** May 21, 2018

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on May 11<sup>th</sup> to review the progress of its subcommittees (Sustainable Food and Food Production, Sustainable Forestry, Land Preservation and Protected Open Space, Rural Development and Recreation, and Sustainable Fisheries). See below the “Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document” that summarizes the status of each subcommittees’ efforts. The next meeting of the full Workgroup is July 13.

<b>Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document</b>	
<b>Meeting Notes For:</b>	<b>Rural Economies Workgroup</b>
Date and time:	May 11, 2018 @ 1 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Chuck Boyd, Nevin Dawson, Charlotte David, Jason Dubow, Les Knapp, Steve McHenry
Notes Taken By:	Chuck Boyd
<b>Agenda and Notes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attendance – 6 members attended in person or by conference call.</li> <li>2. Mr. Boyd briefed the Workgroup on the status of Growth Commission and its upcoming scheduled meeting in Cambridge, MD on May 21.</li> <li>3. Status Report on the five (5) Subcommittees by each facilitator highlighting items discussed and future actions:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee (Jason Dubow/Elliott Campbell facilitators)                   <p>Staff from DNR and Planning on the Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee met with the Agro-Ecology Center executive director on May 10 to discuss Agro-Ecology Center initiatives regarding Maryland forestry and to obtain feedback from the Center regarding two proposed Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee projects in 2018: (a) a brochure to promote Maryland high-value forest species, which would also provide guidance to landowners on how to sell timber; (b) a directory of Maryland’s sawmills and wood preservative facilities, with direction from those businesses on how to best develop and market that directory to their customers.</p> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

- B. Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee (Deborah Carpenter facilitator)  
Chuck Boyd reported for Deborah Carpenter that the Subcommittee would be meeting on May 17 with continued discussion on implementing the Reinvest Maryland 2.0 recommendations, specifically about REG 1, REG 5, MET 1 and EQ 6. The Subcommittee is also investigating Rural Best Practices, Case Studies & Success Stories – such as the redevelopment projects taking place in Frostburg. The Subcommittee is also looking for other case studies on Vacant Buildings, Historic Buildings, and Incentives to offset regulatory costs.
- C. Sustainable Food and Food Production Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)  
Dan Rosen reported the Subcommittee has not met formally since the February 16 meeting, but Subcommittee members have been reviewing drafts and providing input on the flyer: (1) Naming of the flyer is being changed from "Meat Processors" to "Livestock Processors" to distinguish them from processors who start their work after the animals are slaughtered. MDA agreed to this nomenclature; (2) the photo of dairy cows will be replaced by a picture of beef cows, and a picture of barbecuing food--with vegetables!-- will be added; (3) we learned that Maurer & Miller Meats in Manchester has closed, so they will be deleted from the map and information table.  
Subcommittee members from DMH have completed research into community kitchens and added many facilities to the first draft of the community kitchen directory.  
Dan hopes to send both the revised flyer and revised directory to the subcommittee in the next week or two.
- D. Land Preservation and Protected Open Space Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)  
Dan Rosen reported the Land Preservation Subcommittee has not met recently and has no tasks on its agenda at this time.
- E. Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee (Chuck Boyd facilitator). Mr. Boyd reported that no Subcommittee efforts took place.
4. Next Workgroup meeting is July 13, 2018 at 1 pm at MDP's Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.