



Rural Economies Workgroup

November 13, 2017

To: Susan Summers, Chairman, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

From: Greg Bowen, Rural Economies Workgroup Chair

Subj: Status Report on Rural Economies Workgroup Activities

Date: November 13, 2017

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on November 3rd 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 January 12.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Economies Workgroup
Date and time:	November 3, 2017 @ 1 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Chuck Boyd, Deborah Carpenter, Debra Celnik, Colby Ferguson, Jason Dubow, Les Knapp, Steve McHenry, Jim Mullin, Dan Rosen
Notes Taken By:	Chuck Boyd
Agenda and Notes:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance – 9 members attended in person or by conference call. 2. Mr. Boyd briefed the Workgroup on the status of Growth Commission and its upcoming scheduled meeting in Ellicott City, MD on November 13. 3. Status Report on the five (5) Subcommittees by each facilitator highlighting items discussed and future actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee (Jason Dubow/Elliott Campbell facilitators) Jason Dubow reported that MDE and DNR met on November 3 to discuss a potential MOU to enable and define a proposed new role for DNR Forest Service to work directly with loggers to ensure a common understanding of how to implement Waters of the State protections. B. 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. Staff will notify them of relevant bills in the 2018 session of the General Assembly and evaluate the need to reconvene afterward. 	

- C. Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee (Deborah Carpenter facilitator)
Deborah Carpenter reported that the Subcommittee met once on September 7 to begin its efforts to implement the Reinvest Maryland 2.0 recommendations. The Subcommittee discussed the concept of the No Wrong Door policy and how it has been implemented in some organizations. Chuck Boyd gave a synopsis of progress on the Reinvest MD update. See attached notes for more details.
- D. Sustainable Food and Food Production Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)
Dan Rosen reported the Subcommittee met on November 1. They reviewed the slaughterhouse map, which was pared to show only USDA-inspected facilities that process beef, swine, lambs, and goats. The 18 places will be placed on an interactive map; clicking on a star that marks a slaughterhouse will bring up information on address, phone number, website, etc. The map will show the mismatch between where the livestock is located compared to the slaughterhouses. Once it is up and running, the subcommittee will decide on the best host. We will also produce a mock-up of a brochure with the map on one side and slaughterhouse information on the other, to see how it looks.
Subcommittee member Debra Celnik of MDH and her colleagues Lisa Staley and Wande Akinkuowo informed the Subcommittee about health regulations and licensing requirements for on-farm processing and community kitchens, as well as survey data about the characteristics of incubators and community kitchens nationwide. The next tasks for the subcommittee include updating this information and working on a map to show the location of commercial kitchens that let entrepreneurs use their facilities during down times.
- E. Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee (Chuck Boyd facilitator). Mr. Boyd reported that no Subcommittee efforts took place.
4. Next Workgroup meeting is January 12, 2018 at 3 pm at MDP's Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup – Rural Development & Recreation Subcommittee Minutes	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Development & Recreation Subcommittee
Date and time:	October 5, 2017
Called by: D. Carpenter	Facilitator’s Name: Deborah Carpenter
Attendance:	Deborah Carpenter, Joe Rogers, Jim Mullen, Diane Chasse, Colby Ferguson and Chuck Boyd
Notes Taken By:	Deborah Carpenter
Minutes:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting began with a review of the No Wrong Door policy. Colby felt that perhaps a template could be made and distributed to other jurisdictions that would allow for the programs’ replication. Colby and Chuck will both look into the program further. 2. Chuck updated the group on the status of the Reinvest MD document and the work of the Sustainable Growth Commission and Reinvest MD workgroup. 3. The group discussed the policy recommendations included in the agenda. While Les could not attend he sent his priority recommendations which were MET 1, EQ 6, REG 1 and REG 5, in that order. Debbie stated her inclination was toward REG 1 and REG 5. Joe’s top priority was REG 1. 4. Discussion about the broadness of REG 1 ensued, as it touched on technical assistance to local governments as well as transparency and streamlining on the state level. 5. Colby expressed concern that we don’t have clear indications of why development does not occur in rural areas, and that he would be interested in a listening session or survey with developers and others in order to garner more detailed information to focus our attention. Chuck stated that Commerce may have already done such an outreach and that he would look into it. 6. Debbie felt that the information gathering was two-fold, requiring information from both the regulators and the developers. She recalled a request from MDP specifically asking jurisdictions to give them specifics on impediments. Chuck stated that was done and a report was written. He will look into it and share that information at the next meeting. 7. The next meeting will focus on REG 1 and the No Wrong Dorr policy and will be held October 26, 2017 	
Key Actions to be taken prior to next meeting	Describe action and indicate when action is due
1	Debbie will complete and send the summary and minutes of this meeting and the agenda for next.
2.	Colby & Chuck will see what information he can get on the “No Wrong Door” policy.
3.	Chuck will contact Commerce about any information they may have and follow up on the impediments report.
Resource Materials used and draft documents	- List of 8 policy initiatives