



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

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

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

**Date:** July 25, 2016

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on July 8<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 the attached “Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document” on the status of each subcommittees’ efforts.

The summary of the Workgroup’s discussion follows. The next meeting of the full Workgroup is September 9.

<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:	July 8, 2016 @ 1 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Marty Baker, Chuck Boyd, Elliot Campbell, Deborah Carpenter, Dan Calhoun, Charlotte Davis, Jason Dubow, Heather Gramm, Les Knapp, Steve McHenry, Jim Mullin, Dan Rosen, Joe Tassone, Matt Tefteau
Notes Taken By:	Chuck Boyd
<b>Agenda and Notes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attendance – 14 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 Denton. He reported the Commission will be discussing the recommendations from the <i>Ad Hoc TDR Committee Report</i> and the recently published report on <i>The Future of Sustainable Farming and Forestry in Maryland</i>. The Commission is still in its formative stages with new members. Mr. Boyd anticipates that some new Commission members may be joining upcoming Rural Economies Workgroup meetings.</li> </ol>	

3. Status Report on the five (5) Subcommittees by each facilitator highlighting items discussed and future actions:

A. Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee (Chuck Boyd facilitator)

Mr. Boyd mentioned that MDP staff is still working to develop a communication tool that will help explain how the PFA law applies in terms the general public could easily understand. But, due to staffing limitations, he has not been able to move this project along as quickly as hoped. He did point out that MDP's regional planners are working with municipalities throughout the state that previously annexed land but had not updated their PFA boundaries. MDP staff is working with each jurisdiction to assess whether the annexed lands qualify as a PFA and to then get MDP's official PFA maps updated. MDP's regional planners are also working with county planning staff to resolve PFA issues associated with some planned capital improvement projects. Heather Gramm noted that she wanted to discuss with Chuck opportunities to address PFA concerns that Commerce staff may hear about through their outreach efforts with local governments.

B. Sustainable Food and Food Production Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)

Dan Rosen reported that the Sustainable Food Subcommittee met on June 29 to offer its comments on *The Future of Agriculture and Forestry in Maryland* report, just released by Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. Joe Tassone provided a PowerPoint presentation on the report's main findings and recommendations. Future actions that the Subcommittee discussed include the following:

- Contact the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture to discuss a role for them in implementing the report's recommendations.
- Ask the Rural Economies Workgroup to recommend that the state revisit the regulations about storing manure during the winter.
- Longer-term action: Use MDP's growth projection data and maps to inform local agricultural efforts. For example, if St. Mary's County continues to urbanize, it may not be a good place for livestock operations in the future.

Dan Rosen noted the Subcommittee is also continuing to work on developing an Ag Services Inventory, having recently identified a list of food processors as part of that inventory.

C. Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee (Jason Dubow/Elliott Campbell facilitators)

Jason Dubow reported that the Forestry Subcommittee met on July 6 – see attached summary notes. Elliott Campbell stressed the need for a public-private comprehensive strategy to establish sustainable forestry in Maryland. Jason noted that the Subcommittee is continuing to investigate opportunities to integrate sediment and erosion control plans into forest management plans. Elliott Campbell mentioned that DNR plans to prepare a white paper on this issue to crystalize the issues that need to be resolved. Les Knapp stated that MACo has identified a representative for this Subcommittee (Charles Rice); he should be officially designated and available to participate in upcoming Subcommittee meetings. Jim Mullin noted that the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA) would be another good opportunity to discuss *The Future of Sustainable Farming and Forestry in Maryland* report. Matt Tefteau concurred and stated that GICA has its meeting scheduled for late September.

<p>D. Land Preservation and Protected Open Space Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)                  Dan Rosen reported that the Subcommittee met on July 5 to comment on the Report of the TDR Committee. A link to the report was provided beforehand, as was a summary of its recommendations. The Subcommittee agreed with the recommendations but did not want to submit official comments to the Workgroup until the report was submitted to the Maryland Municipal League for their review and comment. <i>(Staff has followed up and forwarded the link to MML of the TDR report posted on MDP's website.)</i> Participants did observe that they are seeing almost no development of rural land but some activity in growth areas.</p>	
<p>E. Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee (Chuck Boyd facilitator)                  This subcommittee still needs to be organized. Chuck Boyd noted that due to staffing limitations this subcommittee is awaiting allocation of sufficient staff resources to move forward. Jim Mullin recommended getting someone from DNR's Working Waterfront Program to give an overview to the Workgroup, so we can better understand the opportunities of the program as it relates to the efforts of the Workgroup. Chuck Boyd stated he would work on scheduling a presentation at an upcoming meeting.</p>	
<p>4. Next Workgroup meeting is September 9 at 1 pm at MDP's Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.</p>	
<p><b>Key Actions (and who has agreed take on)</b></p>	<p>Describe action and indicate when action is due</p>
<p>1. Chuck Boyd</p>	<p>Schedule Working Waterfronts Presentation</p>
<p>2.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	
<p><b>Resource Materials used and draft documents</b></p>	<p>- Subcommittee Meeting Notes                  -                  -</p>

<p><b>Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies                  Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document</b>                  Save as: MSGC.RuralEcon.sustainableforestry.7.6.16</p>	
<p><b>Meeting Notes For:</b></p>	<p><b>Subcommittee on Sustainable Forestry</b></p>
<p>Date and time:</p>	<p>10 am – 11:30 am on 7/6/16</p>
<p>Called by: Jason Dubow</p>	<p>Facilitator's Name: Elliott Campbell and Jason Dubow</p>
<p>Attendance:</p>	<p>In person: Dan Rider, Jason Dubow, Elliott Campbell, Steve McHenry, Joe Tassone, Anne Hairston-Strang,                  On the phone: Jonathan Kays, Todd Berman, Don Outen</p>
<p>Notes Taken By:</p>	<p>Elliott Campbell and Jason Dubow</p>
<p><b>Agenda and Notes:</b></p> <p>1. Take attendance.                  2. Review <b>Notes</b> from last meet and progress on <b>Key Actions</b>.</p>	

<p>3. Primary Topic: Presentation by Joe Tassone on the recent report, <i>The Future of Sustainable Farming and Forestry in Maryland</i>, coauthored by American Farmland Trust, Maryland Department of Planning, and Land Stewardship Solutions LLC. This report describes the trend of the farming and forestry industries in Maryland over the past 100 years. Although there's a similar amount of acreage of forests now as in 1914 and a similar amount of harvesting, the harvest is a smaller % of production (higher stocking rate, better forestry practices now). Forests are becoming more fragmented: this imperils the forestry industry as less land is available. Projected growth in 2040 will negatively impact much of southern and central MD forests. This likely will expand the current "forestry industry deserts" that exist in Maryland today. Many recommendations of the report were similar to those made by the forestry subcommittee, such as integrating sediment and erosion permitting with forest management plans and encouraging local wood use in state green building projects. In addition, though, the report recommends a public-private partnership to create a strategic plan for forestry and forest conservation, recognizing that the trend towards a degraded forest resource in MD will negatively impact all ecosystem services, degrading the well-being of the overall population. An important part of such a plan would be to ensure that foresters in a jurisdiction have an established seat at the table when local planning efforts occur.</p>	
<p>4. Update by Dan Rider on the status of implementing the forestry subcommittee's <i>Priority Action Items</i>, approved by the MSGC in 2015. Dan set-up and facilitated a meeting with MDE and representatives of MD Soil Conservation Districts regarding the subcommittee's top priority action item, to integrate sediment and erosion control plans into forest management plans. The representatives for MDE and the MD Soil Conservation Districts have reservations regarding changes that would need to be made (possibly harder to track permits, would need to change regulation, could be seen as favoring the forestry industry). The subcommittee notes that forestry is a type of agriculture, and agriculture is allowed an alternative compliance approach for sediment and erosion control.</p>	
<p>5. Review Key Actions from meeting.</p>	
<p>6. Set date and time for next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Key Actions (and who has agreed take on)</b></p>	<p>Describe action and indicate when action is due</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Produce white paper on integrating harvest permits with forest management plans to further strengthen the case - Dan Rider and Elliott Campbell</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Bring MEA proposal on commercial wood-energy feasibility study to attention of Rural Econ. WG and possibly recommend endorsement by SGC- Jason Dubow and Elliott Campbell</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Revisit the <i>Future of Sustainable Farming and Forestry in Maryland</i> report at a future meeting to identify other next steps that the subcommittee could take to respond to the report's findings.</p>
<p><b>Resource Materials used and draft documents</b></p>	<p>- <i>The Future of Sustainable Farming and Forestry in Maryland</i>, Report to Harry Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology</p>