



**Rural Economies Workgroup**

**September 26, 2016**

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

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

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

**Date:** September 26, 2016

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on September 9<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 November 4.

<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:	September 9, 2016 @ 1 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Greg Bowen, Chuck Boyd, Kelly Collins, Deborah Carpenter, Charlotte Davis, Jason Dubow, Meredith Hill, Les Knapp, Steve McHenry, Jim Mullin, Dan Rosen
Notes Taken By:	Chuck Boyd
<b>Agenda and Notes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance – 11 members attended in person or by conference call.</li> <li>Mr. Boyd briefed the Workgroup on the status of Growth Commission and its upcoming scheduled meeting in Havre de Grace. He mentioned the focus of the upcoming Commission meeting will be on the Heritage Area Program. He noted that the Commission is still in its formative stages of learning about various state initiatives/programs.</li> <li>Following up to a suggestion related to initiating the Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee, Mr. Boyd asked Kelly Collins from DNR’s Chesapeake &amp; Coastal Service to brief the Workgroup on Maryland’s Working Waterfronts Program. Prior to the meeting, Ms. Collins directed members to <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/workingwaterfronts.aspx">http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/workingwaterfronts.aspx</a> to review the various reports,</li> </ol>	

grant opportunities, and other information about the program. Ms. Collins reviewed the historical development of Maryland's working waterfronts program. She pointed out the 2008 Working Waterfronts Commission Report identified a number of different recommendations, but she mentioned a few in particular that continue to be an ongoing concern: (1) aging infrastructure, (2) aging workforce, and (3) maintaining access to landing sites along the waterfront. The Workgroup members were encouraged to review the Maryland Working Waterfront Commission's 2008 Report. Chuck noted that he would review the report and work with Ms. Collins on seeing how the Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee could help further the implementation of the 2008 report.

4. Status Report on the five (5) Subcommittees by each facilitator highlighting items discussed and future actions:
  - A. Sustainable Food and Food Production Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)

Dan Rosen reported that he sent an email to the Subcommittee members on August 11 informing them about the *Johns Hopkins Center for a Liveable Future* had created an interactive [Maryland Food Systems Map](#). Since Subcommittee was interested in creating a directory of food processors, Dan wanted to let the Subcommittee know that much of this information may already exist. The map can display a vast amount of information, and the databases that underlie the map are easily accessible. He asked Subcommittee members to review the website and provide him feedback on whether or not the data from the interactive Maryland Food Systems Map met the requirements of the proposed directory and if additional information is needed that's not included in the map. Mr. Rosen reported to date no one had provided him additional information/feedback.
  - B. Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee (Jason Dubow/Elliott Campbell facilitators)

Jason Dubow reported that DNR and MDP staff for the Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee met with the MACo designee for the Subcommittee, Charles Rice (Charles County), on August 17 to discuss approaches for implementing the Priority Action Items identified by the Subcommittee. Mr. Rice offered to set-up a meeting in Charles County to include local government and the local soil conservation district to explore the priority items to support the forestry industry. Mr. Dubow also mentioned that MEA is looking for help to promote a new commercial wood burning program. Jason said that he would be taking this issue back to the Subcommittee for further investigation/discussion at their next meeting. Any recommendations regarding promoting the MEA commercial wood burning program would come back to the full Workgroup and possibly to the Growth Commission for consideration/action.
  - C. Land Preservation and Protected Open Space Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)

Dan Rosen reported that the Subcommittee had not met since the last Workgroup meeting in July. Staff has forwarded the Report of the TDR Committee to the Maryland Municipal League (MML) for their review and comment. Jason Dubow reported that he talked to Candace Donoho, at MML, and we are exploring options to get feedback from municipal planners on the recommendations listed in the TDR Committee report. Les Knapp noted that MACo planning directors would like

to be part of those discussion. Mr. Knapp also mentioned that MACo was starting to look into the zoning conflicts that have recently arisen due to proposed renewal energy facilities located in agricultural and rural areas. Workgroup members mentioned that MEA was also looking into this issue and that we should try to coordinate these efforts.

D. 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.

5. Next Workgroup meeting is November 4 at 1 pm at MDP's Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.

<b>Key Actions (and who has agreed take on)</b>	Describe action and indicate when action is due
1. Jason Dubow	Follow up on the MEA commercial wood burning program
2. Dan Rosen	Follow up with MML on TDR Committee Report Review
3.	
<b>Resource Materials used and draft documents</b>	- Subcommittee Meeting Notes - -