



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 23, 2018

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on July 13th 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 September 14.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Economies Workgroup
Date and time:	July 13, 2018 @ 1 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Chuck Boyd, Deborah Carpenter, Debra Celnik, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Suzanne Dorsey, Jason Dubow, Les Knapp, Steve McHenry, Jim Mullin, Dan Rosen, Matt Teffeau
Notes Taken By:	Chuck Boyd
<p>Agenda and Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance – 11 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 Baltimore County, MD on July 23. 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 Food and Food Production Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator) <p>Dan Rosen reported the Subcommittee met on June 1, 2018 and discussed final tweaks, posting, and the process for updating the livestock processing flyer. MARBIDCO is revising its website and a new PR person has been hired, so it’s a good time to post the livestock flyer.</p> <p>Next, the Subcommittee discussed the community kitchen directory. Debra Celnik and Wande Akinkuowo added many facilities to the original table provided by Daniel Rosen. The Subcommittee noticed that most of the facilities are in urban areas and not convenient for farmers to process what they cannot at home.</p> 	

The Subcommittee supported a member's suggestion to find out how much more farmland, by county, will remain once planned development and other uses are completed. Planning staff indicated they would look into the request. Planning staff later determined the GIS analysis would be extensive, and Planning currently did not have the datasets to conduct the analysis.

The Subcommittee also asked if Planning could produce county maps that show electricity transmission lines overlaid on Priority Preservation Areas. Farms near transmission line are ripe for solar installations to generate electricity, so counties would want to know where solar farms might appear in areas where they are trying to preserve agriculture. This inquiry is being investigated.

On July 13 Planning staff distributed to the Subcommittee a summary of a report called "Value-Added Agriculture: A Regional Focus." It was researched and written by Grow & Fortify for the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and published in October 2016. At their next meeting, the subcommittee will discuss whether it can help implement any of the recommendations in the report.

Next steps: (1) Work on revising and adding to the community kitchen directory, and (2) Upload the livestock flyer on the web and publicize it.

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

Jason Dubow reported that DNR Forest Service staff is continuing its work developing an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MDE that would clarify a role for DNR Foresters in the Sediment and Erosion Control process, similar to what is being done in some but not all counties now. The next DNR-MDE meeting is on July 27. More streamlining may be possible down the road with additional agreements, possibly related to having a stewardship plan.

The Charles County SCD pilot, which was proposed in 2017 to create efficiency for landowners in marketing timber while preserving all existing environmental requirements, is intended to follow on after the MOU is in place.

The Planning staff will be developing draft workplans to support two proposed Subcommittee projects: (a) brochure promoting Maryland high-quality wood species, which also would guide landowners through the timber harvesting process; (b) online directory of Maryland sawmills.

Regarding the BEACON Maryland resource-based economies report, Planning staff met several times in June to discuss how the report potentially could be used to support rural economies and applicable local policies and programs. Staff attended the MARBIDCO Monday meeting on June 18 to learn more about the BEACON report. To further investigate this issue, one approach could be for Planning staff and subcommittee members to interview local governments and other stakeholders to get their feedback and guidance on whether the BEACON report can be used to leverage local policies and programs that support rural economies.

C. Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee (Deborah Carpenter facilitator)

Deborah Carpenter reported that the Subcommittee met on June 21 with continued discussion on implementing the Reinvest Maryland 2.0 recommendations. See the attached summary minutes for details.

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.

<p>E. Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee (Chuck Boyd facilitator). Mr. Boyd reported that no Subcommittee efforts took place.</p> <p>4. Next Workgroup meeting is September 14, 2018 at 1 pm at MDP’s Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.</p>

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup – Rural Development & Recreation Subcommittee Minutes	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Development & Recreation Subcommittee
Date and time:	June 21, 2018
Called by: D. Carpenter	Facilitator’s Name: Deborah Carpenter
Attendance:	Deborah Carpenter, Joe Rogers, Les Knapp, Colby Ferguson, Joe Griffiths and Chuck Boyd
Notes Taken By:	Deborah Carpenter
<p>Minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting began with a status update on the Sustainable Growth Commission (SGC), followed by an update on the work of the Educational Workgroup in relation to recommendations previously sent from this group. 2. The group discussed the Regulation 5 recommendation from the Reinvest MD document, specifically identifying challenges that some regulations cause rural jurisdictions. While leery of another survey, the group thought it might be good to have a volunteer jurisdiction provide project-specific impediments, lessons learned, solutions, etc. 3. Next Metric 1 from the Reinvest MD document was reviewed. The major focus was on how to improve communication between the Smart Growth Subcabinet and local jurisdictions. The Subcabinet holds forums but these events are often poorly attended. Les suggested that the forums may be better attended if they had a theme or specific topic areas. 4. The next meeting will be held July 26, 2018. 	
Key Actions to be taken prior to next meeting	Describe action and indicate when action is due
1.	Debbie will create and distribute minutes and summary from this meeting and the agenda for next meeting.
Resource Materials used and draft documents	- Agenda and Regs 1&5, MET1 & EQ6, links to Regulatory Reform Commission’s 2016 Report, STAR Report and the ULI Report