



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 24, 2018

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on September 14th 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 November 9.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Economies Workgroup
Date and time:	September 14, 2018 @ 1 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Chuck Boyd, Debra Celnik, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Joseph Griffiths, Les Knapp, Steve McHenry, Jim Mullin, John Papagni, 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 St. Mary’s County, MD on September 24. 3. Status Report on the five (5) Subcommittees by each facilitator highlighting items discussed and future actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee (Deborah Carpenter facilitator) Chuck Boyd reported the Subcommittee had to cancel its regularly scheduled meetings in August and September, but is scheduled to meet on October 11. The Subcommittee is continuing to focus its attention on implementing the Reinvest Maryland 2.0 recommendations related to rural communities. 	

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

Dan Rosen reported the Subcommittee met on August 2, 2018. The Subcommittee notes from that meeting are attached.

He also noted that the Cecil Land Trust (CLT) has recently entered into a partnership with West Nottingham Presbyterian Church (WNPC) in Colora, MD to make available their commercial kitchen for local farmers looking to add value to their products. CLT and WNPC will be holding a “Kitchen Use and Operation Training” on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 1:00pm. The training is open to any local farmers that are interested in using the church’s commercial kitchen to process farm products for sale. WNPC will give a tutorial on their facility, equipment, and its use. Attendance at an in-person training session is mandatory prior to use of the facility.

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

Chuck Boyd on behalf of Jason Dubow reported that DNR Forest Service has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MDE that would clarify a role for DNR Foresters in the Sediment and Erosion Control process. DNR and MDE staffs are working on the details on how DNR involvement will work. According to Anne Hairston-Strang, they are drafting a schedule for the different steps. Additional work is also needed for a waterways regional letter of authorization option for properties with stewardship plans.

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 now. However, he mentioned that he recently received from State Department of Assessments and Taxation an unofficial report on the total acres subject to Ag Land Transfer Tax for FY 2018. Overall, the number of acres converted from agricultural uses remains low relative to pre-Recession times – staying below 5,000 acres for the year statewide.

E. Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee (Chuck Boyd facilitator). Mr. Boyd reported that no Subcommittee efforts took place.

Joe Griffiths also mentioned that Preservation Maryland and the Rural Maryland Council recently released a report entitled, *Revitalizing Rural Maryland: A Resource Guide to Communities*. As explained in this report, “the goal of this guide is to connect communities to the tools and resources they need to succeed and to identify useful case studies from which communities can draw inspiration and assistance.” Workgroup members were encouraged to review this report and let others know about it.

4. Next Workgroup meeting is November 9, 2018 at 1 pm at MDP’s Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document	
Saved as: K:\Planning Services\Administrative\Public\Growth Commission\Workgroup Folders\Rural Economies Workgroup\Subcommittee Strategies\Sustainable Food Subc/Minutes 8-2-2018	
Meeting Notes For:	Subcommittee on Sustainable Food and Food Production
Date and time: August 2, 2018	
Called by: Daniel Rosen	Facilitator’s Name: Daniel Rosen
Attendance:	Katie Albaugh, Chuck Boyd, Steve McHenry, Jim Mullin, Daniel Rosen. Ken Choi and Deborah Sward from Planning participated to answer questions about the 3 rd topic.
Notes Taken By: Daniel Rosen	
<p>Topic: Livestock Processing Flyer—Daniel Rosen said he drafted a decision memo for Planning’s executive team about the methodology for creating the flyer. The memo also proposed an MOU among Planning, MDA, and MARBIDCO for updating the flyer: staff from each agency will be listed as contacts; any one of them can update the flyer as necessary and tell the others. Otherwise, each agency will review flyer content every six months. One map update will be needed early next year, when the release of the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture offers new county totals for beef cows, hogs, and sheep.</p> <p>Mr. Rosen informed the subcommittee that the 2012 USDA directory of slaughterhouses, which was the basis of the livestock processor directory, was updated and posted on the web on July 8, 2018. The information on the Subcommittee’s flyer has not changed. The one exception is a phone number for one facility: the flyer contains the phone number for the retail store instead of the slaughterhouse.</p> <p>Topic: Community kitchen directory—Mr. Rosen said that the facilities on the first spreadsheet came from the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future online, whose source was culinaryincubator.com. Debra Celnik added many kitchens to the directory, which she found while scanning the web and talking to people at the Maryland Farmers Market Association who talk to value-added vendors regularly.</p> <p>Chuck Boyd pointed out that the kitchen directory will be much larger and change more often than the livestock flyer. Therefore, it warrants a more suitable web application, perhaps a sortable database. ESRI story maps may be useful for displaying the information.</p> <p>Steve McHenry said that he would send the directory to county Agricultural Marketing Professionals and ask them to verify the information on the spreadsheet and add more contacts. Mr. Rosen said that he would create a list of questions to ask them in order to generate consistent information about community kitchens. He also said he would check with Ms. Celnik to find out what inspections/ certifications are needed for facilities that allow preparation for food to be consumed on site vs. those that are used for processing, packaging, etc. Mr. Rosen added that he would look for organizations whose members might have community kitchens available; for example, one Subcommittee member recommended the Maryland State Firemen’s Association.</p> <p>Topic: The Subcommittee would like to find out how much more farmland, by county, will remain once planned development and other matters—annexation, designation as Tier III, forest/wetland mitigation banking, easements, new roads, etc.—are completed. Using GIS to overlay this development on top of a GIS soils layer would show the impact of potential development on prime and productive soils, which could be spared if development were shifted away.</p> <p>Daniel Rosen, Deborah Sward, and Ken Choi pointed out the obstacles to this approach: the future location of houses, roads, preservation parcels, etc., are unknown. If zoning allows 10 houses on 100 acres, the houses and open space remainder could be sited in many configurations on site. Also, would forested land cover be considered agricultural land?</p> <p>The Chesapeake Bay program does offer a model for producing different but useful information. Their model looks at land contained in 900-square-meter “pixels.” Based on generalized zoning, Critical Area, Tier designation, PFAs, sewer service areas, etc., the maximum number of units at buildout (not including future easements) on agricultural land can be forecast. Multiplied by a standard lot size, the number of agricultural acres lost at buildout can be calculated.</p> <p>Mr. Boyd noted that Ms. Sward’s and Mr. Choi’s unit at Planning has a huge workload with tight deadlines and would not be able to approach this project in the foreseeable future. Mr. Rosen agreed, saying that the community kitchen directory would occupy the Subcommittee for months; if the buildout analysis was still on the back burner when the directory was finished, the Subcommittee could work on another important task.</p>	

Key Actions, who has agreed take on	Describe action and indicate when action is due
<p>1. Livestock Processing Flyer</p>	<p>Upon Planning Executive staff's approval of the flyer, Daniel Rosen will take the lead for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See to final changes—contact info, corrected phone # noted above, etc. • Draft MOU for Planning, MDA, and MARBIDCO about updating the content. <p>Post on Planning website, send to MDA and MARBIDCO for posting, along with suggest introductory language.</p>
<p>2. Community kitchen directory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Rosen will check with Debra Celnik about required licenses/ certifications for different types of food handling in community kitchens. • Dan will draft a template for community kitchens to fill in so that the information is consistent for all the facilities. • Steve McHenry will send the directory to county Agricultural Marketing Personnel (AMPs) (and WashCOG?) to review and to add to by using the template. • Dan will search for and contact professional associations whose members might run community kitchens.