



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 26, 2018

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on November 9th 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 11.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Economies Workgroup
Date and time:	November 9, 2018 @ 1 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Chuck Boyd, Debra Celnik, Debbie Herr Cornwell, 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 – 8 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 Gaithersburg, MD on November 26. 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 August 2, 2018. The Subcommittee notes from that meeting are attached.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of the Livestock Processing Directory is still pending. 2. The draft directory of shared kitchens contains almost 60 entries. Montgomery County is updating its list of shared church kitchens and will share it with us upon completion. A central source for data on other church- and fire house kitchens has not 	

been found. The entries will be further sorted according to whether the entries are firm (evidence that the entity is still in business, complete contact information, website that clearly describes a kitchen available for use or rental) or not. The entries may be further sorted, if possible, into categories such as shared kitchen, business incubator, business accelerator, etc. A few entities exist solely for use by small entrepreneurs, while more are commercial kitchens that are available during business down time. The issue of hosting and updating the directory will need to be resolved eventually.

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

1. MDE and DNR have signed an MOU enabling and defining a proposed new role for DNR Forest Service: to work directly with loggers on each timber harvest to ensure a common understanding of how to implement Waters of the State protections. The Attorney General's Office and MDE are drafting material to define the roles and responsibilities of the parties regarding review and enforcement. MDE retains enforcement responsibilities, but DNR Forest Service will have site visit and review roles.

2. Charles County SCD pilot project. This project involves a letter defining restrictions and requirements on a timber property before official permits are issued, which facilitates market transactions. Now that the MOU between MDE and DNR has been signed, the pilot project should be able to move forward.

3. The Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology recently provided a \$150,000 three-year grant to the University of Maryland Extension, in collaboration with DNR Forest Service and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to create a forest health checklist and land care practices manual that can be used with trainings for green industry professionals (landscapers, arborists, groundskeepers, etc.) and volunteer organizations. Interested businesses will be included in a web-based list of service providers and marketed to clientele.

C. Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee (Deborah Carpenter facilitator)
Chuck Boyd reported the Subcommittee met on November 8 (see attached summary minutes from Deborah Carpenter for details). The bulk of the meeting focused on discussing the draft A Better Maryland topics and strategies, particularly those that would benefit rural areas. The Subcommittee decided that economic and community development in rural areas should be the focus of the Subcommittee's subsequent investigations related to A Better Maryland's strategies.

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.

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

4. Next Workgroup meeting is January 11, 2019 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:	November 8, 2018
Called by: D. Carpenter	Facilitator’s Name: Deborah Carpenter
Attendance:	Deborah Carpenter, Joe Rogers, Jim Mullin, Diane Chasse, Joe Griffiths and Chuck Boyd
Notes Taken By:	Deborah Carpenter
Minutes:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting began with an update on the upcoming Sustainable Growth Commission (SGC) meeting by Chuck. The meeting will take place on November 26th in Gaithersburg. Members of the SGC will have the opportunity to tour the Oldtown area. The agenda will include discussion of A Better MD and most likely a report on the WIP III process and endorsements for the Growth Awards. 2. Next the group received a status update on A Better MD from Chuck and Joe G. It was reported that the second round of outreach is winding down and should conclude next week. The second round of outreach meetings have not been well attended, so the Department is likely to create an on-line engagement option. There is currently an online strategy prioritization survey. Between the outreach and the survey, clear priorities and strategies are starting to emerge. 3. Next the group began discussing the topic areas and strategies and prioritization. After some discussion about the environmental topic area, discussion veered to what particular focus area would be most beneficial for rural areas. The group tended to favor economic and community development. Specifically, economic development in rural areas tends to capitalize on natural resources and agriculture. Rural areas also need revitalization of existing communities. It was decided that these topics will be the focus of on-going communication in pending meetings. 4. The next meeting will be held December 13, 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 A Better Maryland Issues and Strategies listing