



To: Susan Summers, Chairman, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

From: Greg Bowen, Rural Economies Workgroup Chair

Subj: Status Report on Rural Economies Workgroup Activities

Date: March 25, 2019

The Rural Economies Workgroup cancelled its January 11th meeting and met on March 8th 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 May 10.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Economies Workgroup
Date and time:	March 8, 2019 @ 3 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Marty Baker, Chuck Boyd, Elliott Campbell, Deborah Carpenter, 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 Crownsville, MD on March 25. 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 will be scheduling a meeting later in March and mentioned the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He noted the directory/map of USDA inspected livestock processing facility has been posted on Planning’s and MARBIDCO’s websites. Mark Powell said MDA will post it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A facility in Southern Maryland is coming and will be added to the directory and map when it opens. 	

2. Meeting/Conference call for the Subcommittee was held on Monday, March 11. The focus of the meeting was on how to expand the shared kitchen directory now that research on the web and verification of locations found there have been exhausted. Kathie Stevens, the agricultural marketing professional of Frederick County and member of the Subcommittee, made two deletions and two additions to the directory. The next steps for the project are:

- Steve McHenry asked for a listing of counties that are not represented on the directory (Allegany, Anne Arundel (Shows up in the “Dubious” and “Not Good” categories), Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester (Shows up in the “Dubious” category), Garrett, Harford (Shows up in the “Dubious” category), Howard, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester).
- Steve will send out another email blast to County agricultural marketing professionals; they are employed in Cecil County and in every Western Shore County except Allegany and Baltimore. Dan will send language for Steve to email.
- Steve or Dan will contact the Tri-County Councils and Chesapeake Harvest.
- Dan will check with the MD Dept. of Health, since shared kitchens would have to be licensed.

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

1. Chuck Boyd reported for Jason Dubow that in support of the Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee, Planning completed its Forest Resource Planning website - <https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/envr-planning/forest/forest-resources.aspx> - which provides local jurisdictions with guidelines, recommendations, and technical assistance on policies and standards to protect forests and trees as lands are developed. The webpage also provides local jurisdictions with guidance and assistance with green infrastructure and urban tree canopy planning.

2. Elliott Campbell reported the Climate Change Commission’s Mitigation Workgroup would be meeting on March 12 to discuss land use and land conservation issues, including solar siting.

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

Deborah Carpenter reported the Subcommittee met on February 7 (see attached summary minutes from Deborah Carpenter for details). The meeting focused on strategies being considered in the proposed State Development Plan: A Better Maryland that would be most beneficial to rural MD, in particular three areas: agritourism, small town revitalization and trail and park development as an economic engine.

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.

F. Les Knapp provided a brief update on General Assembly legislative considerations that may impact rural areas

4. Next Workgroup meeting is May 10, 2019 at 1 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:	February 7, 2019
Called by: D. Carpenter	Facilitator’s Name: Deborah Carpenter
Attendance:	Deborah Carpenter, Joe Rogers, Jim Mullin, Diane Chasse and Chuck Boyd
Notes Taken By:	Deborah Carpenter
Minutes:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting began with an update on the progress of A Better MD by Chuck. The goal is to have it available for an open public comment period in April and submission to the Governor in June. 2. Carpenter reminded the group that the new focus of the group was on strategies within the proposed A Better MD that would be most beneficial to rural MD. At the previous meeting the group had decided to focus on three main areas: agritourism, small town revitalization and trail and park development as an economic engine. 3. Agritourism has many opportunities but also many challenges from a regulatory perspective. It was agreed that this ultimately is a local issue and each county must decide it’s appetite for addressing some of these issues. The group decided it may be helpful to create a guidance document and/or checklist of things to consider when attempting to encourage and support but regulate for the safety and benefit of the broader community agritourism ventures. 4. Small town revitalization in rural areas holds special challenges. After much discussion, it was decided the problem is two-fold – the need for jobs in these areas and the tendency to have stagnant or declining populations in these locations. Carpenter summarized the solution focus areas as economic development in downtown (specifically by supporting existing small businesses and encouraging new) and the need to provide infrastructure like high speed internet. Studies are often showing that people want to live in rural areas but it is not feasible for the above two reasons. 5. The next meeting will be held April 4, 2019. 	
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.
2.	Chuck will initiate discussions in MDP about an agritourism guidance document.
Resource Materials used and draft documents	- Agenda