

Rural Economies Workgroup

September 23, 2019

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 23, 2019

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on September 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 November 8.

| Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document | |
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| Meeting Notes For: | Rural Economies Workgroup |
| Date and time: | September 13, 2019 @ 1 pm |
| Called by: Chuck Boyd | Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd |
| Attendance: | Marty Baker, Chuck Boyd, Elliott Campbell, Deborah Carpenter, Jason Dubow, Joe 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 – 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 Easton, MD on September 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. Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee (Deborah Carpenter facilitator) Deborah Carpenter reported the Subcommittee had not met since the July Workgroup meeting, but she noted that upcoming Maryland PAP Conference on October in Rocky Gap will have several sessions relevant to the issues of the Rural Economies Workgroup: 1) Reinvest Maryland Panel will discuss challenges in rural, suburban and urban communities; 2) Agritourism; 3) Trail Tourism; and 4) Rural Broadband B. Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee (Jason Dubow/Elliott Campbell facilitators) Jason Dubow reviewed the report from Dan Rider stating: 1)MDE/DNR MOU continues to make progress. The Soil Conservation Districts are modifying their permit applications to allow DNR Foresters to enter the properties to monitor BMP use and | |

assist loggers with compliance; 2) the U.S. EDA grant still is awaiting approval, but we strongly suspect it will in fact be awarded to us. We should know very, very soon; 3) Pursuing a RMC/MAERDAF forestry grant and US Climate Alliance grant with American Forests Foundation as the lead and Maryland DNR Center for Economic and Social Science (Elliott Campbell) and Pennsylvania DCNR as primary partners. Dan also mentioned that forestry is now formally included in the strategic plans of the three EDA recognized Economic Development Districts

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

Dan Rosen reported the Subcommittee has not met since its March 11 meeting, but he noted the Subcommittee has continued to work on:

1. Community Kitchen Directory: Dan reported the table of community kitchens, updated to the best of his abilities, was forwarded to Subcommittee on September 4. He asked members to review the list for accuracy and identify any additional facilities that should be added. The list included an explanation by Caroline Green at MDH why many of the kitchens run by civic organizations cannot be licensed for use by others. Once the Subcommittee has vetted the draft directory, Dan will check for updated information and begin to work with MDP's Communications staff to convert the directory to a web-friendly format, and schedule a follow-up meeting to refine draft publication.

D. Land Preservation and Protected Open Space Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)

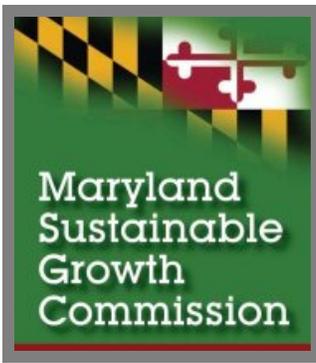
Jason Dubow reported the Planning Department announced the publication of the Land Preservation Dashboard, which facilitates access to compiled land preservation tabular and GIS data on federal, state, local and nongovernmental land preservation, and which provides visuals to help users more readily understand the progress that state and local governments are making towards achieving land preservation goals.

Jason also noted that Planning staff met with Cecil County staff on 9/10 to get their feedback on some initial ideas regarding additional data and tools that Planning could make available to local governments to facilitate local land preservation decision-making. This information could be incorporated into the land preservation dashboard, for example, and potentially could include data sources such as *The Impact of Resource Based Industries on the Maryland Economy 2018* study by BEACON or equine industry economic data, or land stability analyses.

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

Les Knapp reported on three different workgroups looking into the State's renewable energy issues – 1) The Governor's Task Force on Renewable Energy Development and Siting, 2) the Maryland House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Workgroup on Solar Development, and 3) Statewide Joint Land Use Survey Implementation (JLUS) Committee Alternative Energy Siting Project:

4. Next Workgroup meeting is November 8, 2019 at 1 pm at MDP's Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.



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 22, 2019

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on July 12th 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 13.

| Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document | |
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| Meeting Notes For: | Rural Economies Workgroup |
| Date and time: | July 12, 2019 @ 1 pm |
| Called by: Chuck Boyd | Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd |
| Attendance: | Chuck Boyd, Deborah Carpenter, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow, Colby Ferguson, Joe Griffiths, Les Knapp, Jim Mullin, John Papagni, Dan Rider, Dan Rosen |
| Notes Taken By: | Chuck Boyd |
| Agenda and Notes: | |
| <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 Annapolis, MD on July 22. 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 Forestry Subcommittee (Jason Dubow/Elliott Campbell facilitators) <p>In support of the Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee's efforts, DNR used the May 21, 2019 Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission's letter of support for its application to U.S. Commerce to develop an economic strategy and tools for furthering the production and use of forest products in Maryland. Dan Rider at DNR briefed the Rural Economies Workgroup at its July 12 meeting that if awarded, the application would provide for the following: (a) preliminary outreach to affected industries, partners and collaborators to define the scope, goals and purpose of the economic strategy; (b) conduct a GIS analysis</p> | |

to determine the proximity of forest resources to current and potential markets, and then analyze the forest product sector supply chain, ultimately creating a web-based map application; and (c) complete interviews and research to develop the economic strategy.

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

Dan Rosen reported the Subcommittee has not met since its March 11 meeting, but he noted the Subcommittee has continued to work on:

1. Community Kitchen Directory: Dan reported the table of community kitchens will shortly be sent to subcommittee members as is. MDH told us that fire halls and church kitchens generally won't qualify and therefore shouldn't be on the directory. Caroline Green said in an April e-mail that "[t]he kitchen would only be allowed to be used by the excluded organization to prepare foods for events held by that excluded organization."
2. Dan later reported since the 2017 Census of Agriculture has been released, Planning will update the Livestock Processing Map to include the new data on the number of beef cows, hogs, and sheep in each county.
3. Survey for the counties regarding Agritourism: In conjunction with MDA, Planning created survey questions. MDA said that GICA might use them during regional meetings.

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

Deborah Carpenter reported the Subcommittee met to discuss the following:

1. MDA Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg provided a briefing on MDA's role in advancing agritourism on a statewide basis and their work with the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA). She informed the group of many initiatives but the top priorities at this time are holding 4 regional workshops, updating their toolkit and creating a definition for craft beverage. Knapp noted that agritourism is a session topic at MACo Summer Conference this year.
2. Boyd gave the group an update on A Better MD. He stated that the department received many useful recommendations and an endorsement from the Sustainable Growth Commission. MDP is currently incorporating edits and finalizing the document.
3. Griffiths updated the group on the Educational Workgroup's efforts to address the recommendations from the RD&R Subcommittee. Specifically, they are working on a 1.5 hour class at the APA MD Conference and MACo Winter Conference on Density, Design & Infill. The department is exploring the possibility of creating a webinar or video of the class with AICP credit available. In addition, the Educational Workgroup is conducting research for a white paper on fast-tracking procedures for permitting. He stated that it will also include an exploration of rural applicability.
4. Discussion occurred regarding revitalization. Boyd stated that MDP is looking at implementation of ReInvest MD through the use of educational opportunities at various events, regional workshops and on-line options.
(See attached Subcommittee Minutes for more details.)

D. Land Preservation and Protected Open Space Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)

Chuck Boyd reported that Planning staff is working on finalizing a land preservation dashboard as the first step in providing more land preservation tools to local governments and people interest in land preservation. Planning and DNR staff will continue to explore the opportunity to use DNR's "Parcel Evaluation Tool" that provides a Conservation Benefits and Ecosystem Service Assessment Report Card for every land

parcel in Maryland, and combine it with data from the Beacon's *The Impact of Resource Based Industries on the Maryland Economy 2018*. Planning staff is continuing to research the subject more and formulate a potential work plan.

- E. Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee (Chuck Boyd facilitator). Mr. Boyd reported that no Subcommittee efforts took place.
4. Next Workgroup meeting is September 13, 2019 at 1 pm at MDP's Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.

| Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup – Rural Development & Recreation Subcommittee Minutes | |
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| Meeting Notes For: | Rural Development & Recreation Subcommittee |
| Date and time: | June 6, 2019 |
| Called by: D. Carpenter | Facilitator’s Name: Deborah Carpenter |
| Attendance: | Deborah Carpenter, MDA Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg, Les Knapp, Joe Griffiths, Dan Rosen and Chuck Boyd |
| Notes Taken By: | Deborah Carpenter |
| Minutes: | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting began with MDA Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg giving the group a briefing on MDA’s role in advancing agritourism on a statewide basis and their work with the Governor’s Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA). She informed the group of many initiatives but the top priorities at this time are holding 4 regional workshops, updating their toolkit and creating a definition for craft beverage. Knapp noted that agritourism is a session topic at MACo Summer Conference this year. 2. Boyd gave the group an update on A Better MD. He stated that the department received many useful recommendations and an endorsement from the Sustainable Growth Commission. MDP is currently incorporating edits and finalizing the document. 3. Griffiths updated the group on the Educational Workgroup’s efforts to address the recommendations from the RD&R Subcommittee. Specifically, they are working on a 1.5 hour class at the APA MD Conference and MACo Winter Conference on Density, Design & Infill. The department is exploring the possibility of creating a webinar or video of the class with AICP credit available. In addition, the Educational Workgroup is conducting research for a white paper on fast-tracking procedures for permitting. He stated that it will also include an exploration of rural applicability. 4. Discussion occurred regarding revitalization. Boyd stated that MDP is looking at implementation of ReInvest MD through the use of educational opportunities at various events, regional workshops and on-line options. 5. The next meeting will be held August 1, 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 distribute Deputy Secretary Oberg’s notes once received. |
| Resource Materials used and draft documents | - Agenda, links to Healthy Community information from Caroline Green |