

GARRETT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
c/o GARRETT COUNTY PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT
203 S. 4th St. – Room 210
Oakland, Maryland 21550
301-334-1920 ■ FAX 301-334-5023

MINUTES

The 67th meeting of the Garrett County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board was held in the office of Planning & Land Management on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Attendees included Chairman George Bishoff, Paul Petersheim, Charlie Mason, Gary Berkebile, Anne Davidson and Carl Bender. Staff included Chad Fike.

1. Chairman Bishoff called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The first order of business entailed review of the May 29, 2014 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously contingent on a minor correction.
2. Reports of Officers – Anne Davidson was introduced as a new member of the Advisory Board. Ms. Davidson will be completing the term of Hoover Myers who resigned due to health issues.
3. Unfinished Business- Mr. Fike provided an update on Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easements. The Stanley & Arva Baker (SY-117) and Linda White (SY-118) easements are now complete. In August 2015 MALPF withdrew an offer to purchase the Reece Riley (NEP-102) easement since mineral rights issues could not be resolved. Frank Vitez (NY-101) is working to resolve issues related to mineral rights. The purchases of the Charles & Peggy Gosnell (DC-119) and Daniel & Daniel Ganoe II (PC-120) easements are both nearing completion.

Mr. Fike informed the Board that the MALPF Board of Trustees had, for the fifth time, voted to conduct a two year easement cycle and combine funding for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. Easement applications for FY17-18 are due on for July 1, 2016. All five proposed district applicants are planning to apply. Robert Opel, owner of a previously approved district property (DCW-72), has also stated that he intends to apply for an easement.

Mr. Fike then updated the Board about the easement violation discovered during the course of an easement monitoring inspection on the Jerry and Barbara Hauser (SY-29) property. A mobile home had been placed within the easement area without permission from MALPF and without building permits or health department approval. The Hauser's have since resolved the violation by removing the mobile home.

Mr. Fike then provided an update on the Bear Creek Rural Legacy Program. The County has not requested funding for the Program in several years due to DNR's policy of only acquiring conservation easements where there was no possibility of gas drilling on the surface of the property and requiring existing gas leases to be extinguished or amended. In anticipation of possible changes to this policy, the County made an application in

service area and that at least 50% of the land is in Woodlands Group I and II. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chad E. Fike".

Chad E. Fike, Planner II
Planning & Land Management