

# **GARRETT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

c/o GARRETT COUNTY PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

203 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. – Room 210

Oakland, Maryland 21550

301-334-1920 ■ FAX 301-334-5023

## **MINUTES**

The 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Garrett County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board was held in the Garrett County Commissioners public meeting room on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Attendees included Chairperson Gary Berkebile, Vice Chairperson Anne Davidson, Charlie Mason, Kay Steyer, and Katherine Dubansky. Staff included Gary Aronhalt. Ken Fisher was also in attendance representing the Garrett County Forestry Board.

1. Chairman Berkebile called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The first order of business entailed review of the March 26, 2018 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Reports of Officers – There were no updates from the Officers.
3. Unfinished Business- Mr. Aronhalt provided an update on Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easements. MALPF will be continuing a 1-year cycle, and will be taking applications in July, 2019. The Valley of Hope Farms, LLC. (SY-121) easement is complete.

Mr. Aronhalt then provided an update on the Bear Creek Rural Legacy Program. Garrett County is currently in the process of settling 3 easements.

4. New Business –
  - A.) Mr. Aronhalt announced that there were vacancies for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Gary Berkebile was nominated for Chairperson and Anne Davidson was nominated for Vice Chairperson. The Board unanimously voted for Gary Berkebile as chairperson and Anne Davidson as Vice Chairperson.
  - B.) A District application (CR-127) was submitted by Dennis & Eileen Buckel to create a 383.39-acre District located off of Peat Moss Road. Mr. Aronhalt indicated that the property meets all criteria for District eligibility including that the property contains 50 acres; that the land is actively used for Agricultural purposes; and that at least 60% of the land is in USDA Soil Capability Class I, II and III on cropland and pasture and Woodland Groups I and II on wooded areas, and the land lies outside the boundary of an existing water and sewer service. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.
  - C.) A District application (SY-128) was submitted by Clarence Bender to create a 117.12-acre District located along Blue Ribbon Road. Mr. Aronhalt indicated that the property meets all criteria for District eligibility including that the property contains over 50 acres; that the land is actively used for Agricultural purposes;

and that at least 50% of the land is in USDA Soil Capability Class I, II and III , and that the land lies outside the boundary of any existing water and sewer service area. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.

- D.) A District application (NBP-131) was submitted by DCL 5 Properties, LLC to create a 227.56-acre District located along King Wildesen Road. Mr. Aronhalt indicated that the property meets all criteria for District eligibility including that the property contains 50 acres; that the land is actively used for Agricultural purposes; and that at least 60% of the land is in USDA Soil Capability Class I, II and III on cropland and pasture and Woodland Groups I and II on wooded areas, and that the land lies outside the boundary of any existing water and sewer service area. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.
- E.) A District application (CR-132) was submitted by Randal & Lilian Beitzel to create a 143.7-acre District located along Bittinger Road. Mr. Aronhalt indicated that the property meets all criteria for District eligibility including that the property contains 50 acres; that the land is actively used for Agricultural purposes; and that at least 60% of the land is in USDA Soil Capability Class I, II and III on cropland and pasture and Woodland Groups I and II on wooded areas, and that the land lies outside the boundary of any existing water and sewer service area. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.
- F.) A District application (NBP-133) was submitted by Timothy Wells & Richad King to create a 120.0-acre District located along Bethlehem Road. Mr. Aronhalt indicated that the property meets all criteria for District eligibility including that the property contains 50 acres; that the land is actively used for Agricultural purposes; and that at least 50% of the land is in Woodlands Group I and II, and that the land lies outside the boundary of any existing water and sewer service area. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.
- G.) A District application (SY-134) was submitted by John & Erica Haygurst to create a 51.69-acre District located off of Kings Run Road. Mr. Aronhalt indicated that the property meets all criteria for District eligibility including that the property contains 50 acres; that the land is actively used for Agricultural purposes; and that at least 50% of the land is in USDA Soil Capability Class I, II and III, and the land lies outside the boundary of an existing water and sewer service. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.
- H.) A District application (SY-135) was submitted by Michael Steyer to create a 68.6-acre District located off of White Church Steyer Road. Mr. Aronhalt indicated that the property meets all criteria for District eligibility including that the property contains 50 acres; that the land is actively used for Agricultural purposes; and that at least 50% of the land is in USDA Soil Capability Class I, II and III, and the land lies outside the boundary of an existing water and sewer

service. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.

- I.) A District application (SY-136) was submitted by Michael Steyer to create a 215.1-acre District located off of N. Lemoyne King Road. Mr. Aronhalt indicated that the property meets all criteria for District eligibility including that the property contains 50 acres; that the land is actively used for Agricultural purposes; and that at least 60% of the land is in USDA Soil Capability Class I, II and III on cropland and pasture and Woodland Groups I and II on wooded areas, and the land lies outside the boundary of an existing water and sewer service. In consideration of these facts the Board approved the application by a unanimous vote and forwarded their recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.
- J.) Ken Fisher provided a brief overview of the Garrett County Forestry Board and forest stewardship in Garrett County.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary W. Aronhalt" followed by a small circular mark.

Gary W. Aronhalt  
Planning & Land Management