



**Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission**  
**Thursday, October 1 at 9:00 am**  
**Draft Minutes**

**SMADC Members:** Senator Jack Bailey, Joan Bearden, Commissioner Gilbert Bowling, Erik de Guzman, Dan Donohue, Edward Goodman, Amanda Hand, Bill Hitte, Delegate Michael Jackson, Linda Jones, Guy Kilpatric, Julie Oberg, Martin Proulx, Charles Rice, Donna Sasscer, Kelly Swann, Deana Tice, Steve Wall, and Lucille Walker

**Members Absent:** Lisa Barge, Catherine Cosgrove, Willie Goddard, Ronald Marney, Barbara Polito, Steve Walter and Mary Wood

**Staff:** Juliet Glass, John Hartline, Heather Hulsey, Susan McQuilkin, Cia Morey, Rachel Norris, Karyn Owens, Craig Sewell, Shelby Watson-Hampton

**Guests:** Gretchen Hardman, Governor's Office,  
Jaelon T. Moaney, Reg. Dir. For Anne Arundel/So. Md, U.S. Senator  
Chris Van Hollen, Brittany Rawlings, AAEDC.

**Minutes**

**Dan Donohue made a motion to approve the minutes from September 3, 2020.  
Commissioner Gilbert Bowling seconded, all approved.**

**Introduction of Jaelon T. Moaney**

Director Watson-Hampton welcomed Jaelon T. Moaney, the new Regional Director for Senator Chris Van Hollen's office, who gave a brief overview of his background and experience in agriculture as a member of a 10-generation farming family in Talbot county. His interest in public service began in high school and ever since he has advocated for his family farm and others at the municipal level and up to the present day with the assembly in Annapolis and in DC. He is looking forward to working with the SMADC board to support those who devote their lives to Maryland's rural heritage.

**Farm Equipment**

Cia Morey, SMADC Administrator, stated that the Ad-Hoc committee reviewed the equipment requests that were discussed at the last meeting. Additionally, the farm entities that made the requests were given an opportunity to prioritize their requests and to update the previously

submitted quotes. The following pieces of equipment were prioritized: 6 ft. No Till Drill for Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation; No Till Overseeder for the Charles Soil Conservation District and a 16 ft. Poultry Litter Spreader for the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District. The St. Mary's Soil Conservation District and the Home Grown Farm Market managers met and agreed that poultry litter would serve their county the best. The Ad-Hoc committee discussed the equipment on a conference call and is making the recommendation to the Board to approve the three pieces of equipment for \$57,500.

Following a brief discussion, **Senator Bailey made the motion to accept the Ad-Hoc Committee's recommendation to fund three pieces of equipment (6 ft. No Till Drill, No Till Overseeder and the 16 ft. Poultry Litter Spreader) for the Equipment Rental Program, in the amount not to exceed \$57,500. Commissioner Gilbert Bowling seconded. All approved.**

### **Director's Report**

Director Watson-Hampton reported on:

**Youth Livestock Auction Sponsorships** – As a result of COVID the regional county fairs have been cancelled, and some counties are hosting their annual youth livestock auctions virtually. SMADC quickly stepped in to offer a small \$150 sponsorship to assist the auctions and offset costs. Anne Arundel, Calvert and St. Mary's County Fairs submitted funding requests. SMADC is processing a total of \$450 in sponsorships.

**2020 Farm Holiday Guide** – Applications to be listed in the annual guide are now being accepted through the deadline, October 31. One of SMADC's most popular publications, the guide helps farms to boost holiday sales and promote farm-hosted holiday events. Members were encouraged to alert their county ag. contacts to the opportunity.

**Acidified Foods Training Update** – Susan McQuilkin reported that staff is developing a 'virtual' Acidified Foods Better Process Control School training workshop in partnership with Dr. Y. Martin Lo, Process Authority and Ambassador of the International Union of Food Science & Technology. Maryland Department of Agriculture has hosted the class in previous years, however (due to the burden of COVID-related workload) has gratefully accepted SMADC's offer to take on the organization and promotion. The training is offered to So.MD and statewide producers and is designed to teach food safety and regulation for acidified foods (pickles) and satisfies Maryland Dept. of Health, USDA and FDA-mandated certification requirements. The full day workshop will take place on October 8, 2020 and is limited to 20 participants. 18 registrations have been received to date.

**Review of Agritourism Video** – Director Watson-Hampton announced the launch of a new video in the RMC grant funded Farms in Focus series on Southern Maryland's key agricultural sectors. The Agritourism Edition was released on September 28 and has been widely shared on social media and can be viewed on the SMADC YouTube channel. Members watched the video which explores four agritourism farms that specialize in different products and activities (pick-your-own, fall-fun, and cut-your-own Christmas trees); each farmer shares their passion and

enjoyment for what they do, and why their loyal customers are so important to their farms and the future of agriculture in So.MD.

### **Program Updates**

**Little Free Libraries** – Rachel Norris reported six new LFL locations have been installed in the past weeks, with ten more pending installation. Going forward, the goal is to install at least ten libraries per week completing all approved sites by the end of November 2020. Photos of the libraries can be seen on social media. There are approximately 20 LFLs available that still need to be located. Members were asked to consider possible hosts that would be a good fit and encourage them to submit applications to be considered. The Southern Maryland Meats/LFL library locations can now be found on an interactive map hosted by the national LFL organization.

**MMM** – Heather Hulsey reported that the program is moving along well; specific updates and details can be found in the handout distributed before the meeting. Currently a funding platform is being set up to accept private donations and the program will be applying for several grants in the coming months. Operationally, MMM is being launched at farmers markets around Maryland; the program is active at 13 markets in five counties with more pending. Almost \$13,000 has been disbursed to the markets; market managers report that they are swamped by customers who are excited to receive their ‘incentives’.

Juliet Glass reported that a new dedicated program website is now live; the colorful and dynamic website was totally designed and developed in-house. Members were given a guided tour of the website pages, resources and highlights – including program FAQ’s, Blog, Seasonal Shopping Lists, How MMM Money Works and where to find MMM markets around the state (updated as markets sign on to participate) plus other novel features. The website also hosts a donation portal, which received a \$50 donation on the first day the page was active.

**SMM Program** – Craig Sewell reported that 23 juniors have signed up for the 2020 SMM Junior Program. Participant end of project essays were submitted early this year and feature topics that focus on how juniors are dealing with the impact of COVID and particularly how they have raised their animals during this challenging time. Several excellent essay examples are posted on the SMM website blog.

**Amish slaughterhouse and RAC** – In the past few months, pandemic-related production stresses have impacted the day-to-day operations and management of the Amish-operated slaughter facility; consequentially several key members have left the business. Nevertheless, the operation now appears to be back on track and the owner of the facility has since installed a new management team and general manager. The HVAC system has been upgraded and previous condensation issues have been resolved. The USDA facility/grant of inspection number and EIN registered under the previous partnership must be changed to the new management team/owner. Meanwhile, SMADC staff are working very closely with St. Mary’s County Government with renewed commitment to build the RAC. Several challenges have recently emerged regarding the site preparation costs, which were significantly underestimated. A review is in progress to

consider adjustments of the project scope to be more affordable, but reach the same desired goals/components, including modular build options.

**Member Updates** – Members shared news and updates.

**Other Business**

**Dan Donohue made a motion to adjourn. Bill Hitte seconded, all approved.**