



Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
Thursday, September 2, at 9:00 am
Minutes - Draft

SMADC Members: Joan Bearden, Dan Donohue, Edward Goodman, Bill Hitte, Linda Jones, Delegate Rachel Jones, Julie Oberg, Martin Proulx, Barbara Polito, Charlie Sasscer III, Deana Tice, Steve Wall, Lucille Walker, and Mary Wood

Members Absent: Lisa Barge, Senator Jack Bailey, Eddie Bowling, Erik de Guzman, Willie Goddard, Amanda Hand, Guy Kilpatric, Ronald Marney, Hagner Mister, Julie Oberg, Charles Rice, Donna Sasscer, Kelly Swann, and Steve Walter

Staff: Cristina Berthelot, John Hartline, Heather Hulsey, Cia Morey, Rachel Norris, Karyn Owens, Craig Sewell

Guests: Jaelon Moaney, Regional Director for Senator Chris Van Hollen

Minutes

Bill Hitte made a motion to approve the minutes from August 5, 2021. Joan Bearden seconded the motion, all approved.

Director's Report

Director Watson-Hampton advised she is authorized to approve sponsorship applications up to \$500. Two requests have been received and have been awarded:

- University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) – \$500 to support the 2021 ALEI Conference on November 17 & 18.
- Southern High School FFA – \$500 to support expenses for students to attend the 2021 FFA National Convention.

Board openings – two applications have been received, one for ‘Calvert County Farmer’ and one for ‘At Large’ positions. Director Watson-Hampton is researching a forestry representative to fill the second ‘at large’ opening. Recommendations will be brought forward for acceptance and vote at the October meeting.

Director's maternity leave – contingency plans are in place for Director Watson-Hampton's imminent maternity leave of approximately 8 to 10 weeks. An ‘out of office’ email has been set up with directions to contact staff for inquiries in the director's absence.

Staff Announcements

MMM Program – Heather Hulsey reported the MMM Program is working on maintaining and growing funding streams. A proposal has been submitted to Baltimore City, as a sub-recipient of their American Rescue Plan funding, that should grow related funding from \$24,000 to \$150,000 per year. The Prince George’s County contract is moving ahead for FY’22. Proposals/applications are being submitted for MDA’s Farms and Families funding, and to the Greater Washington Community Foundation for the Food for Montgomery Resilience Grant in partnership with FRESHFARM and Crossroads Community Food Network (up to \$150,000, no match) to fund electronic benefit redemption.

Westham Butcher Shop and Local Meat Processing – Craig Sewell reported the Westham Butcher Shop has passed the 90-day temporary status and is approved for permanent USDA Grant of Inspection status and over the counter ‘retail exempt’ sales of USDA processed carcasses at the on-site store.

Rowell’s Butcher Shop – Staff continue to assist with the development of operational plans and associated standards of procedure. Building renovation is anticipated to be completed and ready to accept carcasses from the Amish slaughter facility in October for further processing (cut, wrap, and label) retail sales.

RAC – Craig Sewell reported significant difficulties and challenges are being assiduously addressed with St. Mary’s County Government, a final determination on the project status is pending.

Our Grandma’s Hands – Craig Sewell reported the Heritage Areas Authority Grant-funded project was launched on August 16. The video series is designed to capture and memorialize the tastes, the people, and the foods of Southern Maryland through family recipes handed down through generations. The project is promoted across SMADC social media and through regional partners. Up to eight recipes with associated family stories will be selected; four recipes have been received to date. Members were asked to alert their contacts to the opportunity.

New SMADC rack card and SMM Jr. Promotion – a new promotional rack card has been developed to promote SMADC consumer and farmer program resources; cards will be distributed to regional Ag. marketing specialists for the upcoming county fairs and other promotional outreach. Members attending the fairs were asked to look out for Southern Maryland Meats Junior Program participants who will be wearing SMM T-shirts and displaying program stall cards.

2022 Southern Maryland Holiday Farm Guide – Susan McQuilkin reported solicitation for farm listings has been launched. Applications are due by October 15. The Guide connects consumers with regional farms and producers, stores and restaurants and other businesses that offer Southern Maryland grown and produced farm products and services during the holiday season and winter months.

Other Business

Louisiana hurricane relief – a relief effort spearheaded by two local farms, Albright Farms and First Fruit Farms, is underway to transport fresh products to the area for affected families and relief workers. Farmers and business with extra product are encouraged to donate. Details can be found on Facebook.

Member Updates – Members shared news and updates.

Adjournment

Joan Bearden made a motion to adjourn. Bill Hitte seconded, all approved.