



Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
Thursday, July 7, 2022
APPROVED Minutes

SMADC Members: Joan Bearden, Dan Donohue, Kayla Griffith, Edward Goodman, Linda Jones, Martin Proulx, Donna Sasscer, Lucille Walker, Mary Wood, Russell Shlagel, Steve Wall, Willie Goddard and Steve Connelly

Members Absent: Lisa Barge, Senator Jack Bailey, Delegate Rachel Jones, Ronald Marney, Bill Hitte, Barbara Polito, Charles Rice, Dan Rider, Brian Russell, Charles Sasscer, III, Deana Tice, Tresor Thomas,

Staff: Cristina Berthelot, Heather Hulseley, Rachel Norris, John Hartline, Craig Sewell, Shelby Watson-Hampton, Tori DiVincenzo

Guests: Gretchen Hardman – Governor’s Office, Andrew Bowles MDA Ag. Inspector for Southern Maryland

Minutes

Chairwoman Mary Wood called for a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2022. Joan Bearden made a motion to approve the minutes. Dan Donohue seconded the motion. All approved. Dan Donohue said the Buy Local Challenge date must be added. Voted and approved.

Director’s Report

Vacant At Large Position - Director Watson-Hampton encouraged members to consider nominees for the one remaining At Large position. Maryland Market Money Coordinator Position is open and considering applicants.

Staff Position filled – Office and Grants Coordinator position has been filled by Tori DiVincenzo.

Staff Program Reports

Maryland Market Money (MMM)

In July the MMM program is wrapping up the fiscal year while markets are also simultaneously kicking into high gear with the distribution of Farmers Market Nutrition Program Checks. We are partnering with the Greater Baden WIC Clinic for a series of 8 pop-up farmers markets starting today and happening over the next 8 weeks where they will distribute the WIC checks at the markets which will be matched with MMM. This year we were not only able to offer matching money for farmers but also marketing support, promotions, and supplies for the markets which MMM Staff Cristina Berthelot worked very hard on.

Our team is working on lots of year-end reporting for various grants and contracts while still offering technical assistance to markets and farmers about benefits acceptance and, of course, to run the MMM program at their location. We are currently sitting at 15 access points in So. MD (a record high) which are in various states of readiness that we are helping them through. We expect 50-55 access points statewide this season, a sizable increase from the 2021 farmers market season.

We are working on a grant application to the Nutrition Incentive Hub's Capacity Building & Innovation Fund for submission this month to support future staffing costs. Lastly, applications are being accepted for an MMM coordinator to join our team. Application linked below.

[https://tccsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/MMM-Program-Coordinator-Full-Time-Position-Advertisement .pdf](https://tccsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/MMM-Program-Coordinator-Full-Time-Position-Advertisement.pdf)

Buy Local Challenge Celebration and statewide BLC

Director Shelby Watson-Hampton spoke on behalf of Susan McQuilkin reporting the BLC Celebration in person event is Monday August 1st from 5-9pm at Serenity Farms, in Charles County. The event is free by registration only and includes all activities and entertainment. Including Clydesdale horse wagon pulls, pony rides, face painting, music, misting tent and an oyster and beef tasting. Attendance is limited to 1,000 guests. 50+ vendors have signed up to participate of which 30 are farms. 600+ tickets were registered but we are expecting between 900-1000 attendees.

Southern Maryland Meats (SMM)

SMILE – Craig Sewell reported the 15th annual livestock show was this month and had 95 participants. Jay and Justine Farrell were awarded with a plaque thanking them for organizing the show for 15 years.

RAC– The RAC is still on schedule. Currently working on the final rendering with the Architect. There will be interviews within a couple weeks to find a butcher. Craig will be going to the American Association of Meat Processors in Iowa to look for equipment for the RAC. The meat truck that will transfer carcasses from the Amish's Westham Butcher Shop to the RAC has been wrapped with SMM promotional logos etc., which Kelly Swann, Creative Services, designed. St. Mary's County will be donating warehouse space to store this truck.



Jr Program-

We have 32 participants which is the most yet.

Westham Butcher Shop – The USDA inspection passed, and the Amish were approved to Slaughter.

Member Updates – Members shared news and updates.

Adjournment

Mary Wood made a motion to adjourn. Dan Donohue seconded the motion. All approved.

Next SMADC Meetings (first Thursday of the month):

Thursday, August 5 – Meeting Cancelled

Thursday, September 1 – Next meeting