



**Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission**  
**Thursday, October 6, 2022**  
**APPROVED Minutes**

**SMADC Members:** Willie Goddard, Edward Goodman, Bill Hitte, Martin Proulx, Dan Rider, Russell Shlagel, Tresor Thomas, Deana Tice, Steve Wall, Lucille Walker – Vice Chair, and Mary Wood – Chair

**Members Absent:** Senator Jack Bailey, Lisa Barge, Joan Bearden, Eddie Bowling, Steve Connelly, Dan Donohue, Kayla Griffith, Linda Jones, Delegate Rachel Jones, Ronald Marney, Hagner Mister, Barbara Polito, Charles Rice, Dan Rider, Brian Russell, Charles Sasscer III, Donna Sasscer

**Staff:** Sophie Brauns, Tori DiVincenzo, Heather Hulsey, Susan McQuilkin, Rachel Norris, Craig Sewell, Kelly Swann and Shelby Watson-Hampton

**Guests:** Lisa Ledman, Coordinator, St. Mary's County Agriculture & Seafood Division

**Minutes**

**Chairwoman Mary Wood called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Edward Goodman made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Hitte seconded the motion. All approved.**

**Director's Report**

**Staff Position filled** – Maryland Market Money Coordinator Position has been filled by Sophie Brauns.

Director Watson-Hampton has been added to the advisory board of Solutions from the Land, a 501c3 nonprofit offering national and global advocacy for land-based solutions to world problems and informs the United Nations (UN). <https://www.solutionsfromtheland.org/>

**Vacant At Large Position** - Director Watson-Hampton shared Dan Donahoe's recommendation, Elizabeth Robinson, as prospective nominee for the remaining vacant board seat position.

“Elizabeth (Liz) Robinson is the COO and Co-Owner The Garden International, an urban farm in Beltsville, Maryland that grows specialty mushrooms utilizing controlled environmental agriculture. She is also the COO and Co-Owner of The Gift, a plant-based body care and wellness company. With her partner, Cory, Liz founded the nonprofit The Gift Legacy Foundation with a mission to improve the health and wellbeing of the community through agriculture, nutrition, physical activity, education, and related resources. Liz serves as the Chair of the Anne Arundel and Prince George's County Urban Farm Workgroup and is a new member of the Prince George's County Food Equity Council. Prior to her time in agriculture, she was in

accounting, finance, and business management for 12 years. During her tenure at Marriott Corporate Headquarters, Liz managed nearly \$6B in assets and expenses, and as an auditor she worked with the US Army and large nonprofits. Liz has a passion for education, developing young, beginning, and unrepresented farmers, and connecting farmers with resources for the good of all. She also has a passion for the environment and bringing the source of our food closer to the plate through sustainable urban farming, controlled environmental agriculture, and value-added products: [www.thegarden.farm](http://www.thegarden.farm), [www.thegiftwellness.com](http://www.thegiftwellness.com), and [www.giftlegacyfoundation.org](http://www.giftlegacyfoundation.org).”

### **Commission Nomination Vote**

**Chairwoman Mary Wood called for a motion to approve Elizabeth Robinson for the remaining voting At Large position. Lucille Walker made a motion to approve Elizabeth Robinson. Willie Goddard seconded the motion. All approved.**

### **Staff Program Reports**

#### **Maryland Market Money (MMM)**

Heather Hulse reported, September was an incredibly busy month; we saw a record September demand for MMM incentives as compared to any year previously. The data from markets on customer spending is still coming in but based on our accounting records, \$101,316 was sent to participating access points just in September alone for incentives. A record for the program. And based on the statistics, the \$101,316 will translate into at least \$202,632 spent in federal nutrition benefits and incentives spent with local farmers and food producers. Historically, after Labor Day, we would see benefits matching take a sharp drop once kids are back in school and families get busy, but this year the demand has not slowed down.

#### **Holiday Farm Guide**

Susan McQuilkin reported solicitations for listing in the Holiday Farm Guide launched in September. This guide helps consumers find their holiday farm favorites close to home. Farmers, producers of Southern Maryland grown, harvested and produced products are encouraged to submit a listing by the recently extended deadline, October 10. The guide is scheduled to be completed in early November and will be available online to view or download. A printed rack card promoting the guide will be distributed region-wide through public libraries, welcome centers, etc.

**[Holiday Market Submission Form](#)**

#### **Southern Maryland Meats (SMM)**

#### **RAC**

Craig Sewell reported the RAC design team found a few other things to add to the design; these changes have been declined due to the additional cost.

#### **Grain Elevator**

Discussions are in progress regarding the possibility of SMADC becoming involved in the management and operation of the Grain Elevator located in Lothian, lower Anne Arundel County. Director Watson Hampton and Craig Sewell will have a follow up call on October 21, to learn more and discuss possible funding options.

Of note, Craig Sewell has joined Lexicon, an organization assisting in the next generation of meat locally and worldwide. <https://www.thelexicon.org/>

News from the Netherlands is being reported that meat related advertising will be banned in an effort to reduce meat consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions. The board should be aware of what could possibly come from this and cause a ripple effect here in the U.S.A.

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

### **Adjournment**

**Mary Wood made a motion to adjourn. Lucille Walker so moved with Deana Tice as the seconded to motion. All approved.**

**Next SMADC Meetings (first Thursday of the month):**

**Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022- Second Thursday**