



Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
Thursday, March 2nd, 2023
Final Approved Minutes

SMADC Members: Joan Bearden, Steve Connelly, Dan Donohue, Edward Goodman, Kayla Griffith, Bill Hitte, Linda Jones, Barbara Polito, Martin Proulx, Elizabeth Robinson, Charles Sasscer III, Donna Sasscer, Russell Shlagel, Deana Tice, Caroline Trossbach, Lucille Walker Vice Chair, Steve Wall and Mary Wood Chair

Members Absent: Senator Jack Bailey, Lisa Barge, Eddie Bowling, Willie Goddard, Ronald Marney, Dan Rider, Brian Russell, and Tresor Thomas

Staff: Cristina Berthelot, Sophie Brauns, Tori DiVincenzo, John Hartline, Susan McQuilkin, Rachel Norris, Craig Sewell, Kelly Swann and Shelby Watson-Hampton

Guests: Kevin Atticks, Secretary of Maryland Department of Agriculture, Rachel Jones, Maryland Department of Agriculture Director of Government Relations, Sierra Criste – Financial Programs Associate, MARBIDCO

Minutes

Chairwoman Mary Wood called for a motion to approve the minutes from February 2nd, 2023. Dan Donohue made a motion to approve the minutes. Edward Goodman seconded the motion. All approved.

Guest speakers

Robert Cooper Maryland 4-H Foundation and Elaine Bailey, 4-H Southern Maryland Board Member



SMADC Slide
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2022 Numbers for 4H

About a 35% increase in 4-H over last year!

Also of note, there were 355 new volunteers in 2022. This equates to approximately 98,000 hours of service to the 4-H Program, which is a 50% increase from 2021. This service is a \$3.2 M contribution to the Maryland 4-H Program.



Director’s Report

Shelby Watson-Hampton reported the renewal of Kayla Griffith’s term for another year. As well as reporting on a draft of the Procedures/ By Laws that have been updated. The Committee agreed to wait until the next meeting to discuss further. This would allow the full committee time to review the draft.

ACTION: Email the draft of the Procedures/ By Laws for the Commission for review.

Staff Program Reports

Maryland Market – February is another month where the program is gearing up for the Spring farmers market season while some access points are still operating throughout the winter months. There are 12 access points in 10 counties offering MMM this winter. [Winter Markets](#)
 In partnership with the National Association of Farmers Nutrition Programs' MarketLink program, SMADC offered a [Federal Nutrition Benefits \(SNAP/EBT + eWIC\) Best Practices Training](#) to all Maryland farmers markets and direct marketing farmers on Thursday, February 23rd. 72 people registered and 48 attended.

Implementation of federal nutrition benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/EBT) or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at Maryland farmers markets, farm stands, and CSAs is a crucial part of ensuring that locally-grown, fresh food is accessible to everyone in our communities. However, the logistics of offering these benefits at markets or by direct-marketing farmers can be challenging. And we want to also make sure farmers have access to that additional revenue stream.

If you’d like to share the resources and recordings with your networks from our discussion of best practices to help avoid and overcome these challenges, you can find those here on the MMM website: [MMM Website](#) Program staff are also available to offer technical assistance to markets and direct-marketing farmers regarding federal nutrition benefits acceptance and/or make connections to find help/answers if we can't help directly.

Cottage Foods Workshop – Susan McQuilkin reported SMADC worked with the Maryland Department of Health to create a comprehensive Cottage Food workshop. The virtual presentation was scheduled for February 7, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The training provided an overview of Maryland’s Cottage food laws and regulations. Over 150 people attended, and the recorded video will be released when completed.

Acidified Food Workshop-

Lothian Grain Elevator – Craig Sewell reported that the elected officials are continuing research and discussion. He is hopeful there will be an announcement in the next few days.

Grandma's Hands' – Filming began in February featuring a 98 year old woman from Charles County making her crackling bread recipe. They are working on scheduling the other participants.

RAC – Craig Sewell reported we are four months into our six-month time frame for the final design to be completed. A bond bill was put in on behalf of Senator Jack Bailey for possible overage from rising costs. Adjustments to the plans including removal of one loading dock have been made to accommodate cost overruns. Once the final design is completed with St. Mary's we will move on to construction bids.

Member Updates – Members shared news and updates.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Mary Wood made a motion to adjourn. Dan Donohue so moved. Lucille Walker seconded the motion. All approved.

Next SMADC Meetings (first Thursday of the month):

Thursday, May 6th, 2023

Guest Speaker- USDA SBIR program director, Melinda Coffman

Thursday, June 1st, 2023

Guest Speaker- Margaret (Megan) Todd- Legal Research Associate, Presenting on Regulatory Decision Trees for Maryland Producers