



**Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission**  
**Thursday, June 1, 2023**  
**Minutes**  
**FINAL APPROVED**

- SMADC Members:** Joan Bearden, Steve Connelly, Dan Donohue, Edward Goodman, Willie Goddard, Kayla Griffith, Bill Hitte, Martin Proulx, Dan Rider, Elizabeth Robinson, Charles Sasser III, Donna Sasser, Russell Shlagel, Delegate Gary Simmons, Tresor Thomas, Deana Tice, Caroline Trossbach, Lucille Walker Vice Chair, Steve Wall, Mary Wood Chair
- Members Absent:** Senator Jack Bailey, Lisa Barge, Eddie Bowling, Delegate Brian Crosby, Linda Jones, Ronald Marney, Barbara Polito, Brian Russell,
- Staff:** Cristina Berthelot, Kelley Koeppen, Heather Hulsey, Susan McQuilkin, Rachel Norris, Craig Sewell, Kelly Swann and Shelby Watson-Hampton
- Guests:** Margaret (Megan) Todd – Research Assistant ALEI, Sierra Criste – Financial Programs Associate, MARBIDCO, Cathy Cosgrove, Rachel Jones, MDA Director of Government Relations, and ALEI Interns: Beverly Bolster, Olivia Scuderi, Marissa Koontz

**Minutes**

**SMADC Chair Mary Wood called for a motion to approve the minutes from May 4, 2023. Dan Donohue made a motion to approve the minutes. Kayla Griffith seconded the motion. All approved.**

**Chairwoman Mary Wood addressed the members regarding the Farm Bureau presentation at the May Commission meeting with supportive remarks regarding SMADC's accomplishments and requested time at end of meeting for further discussion on the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**Guest Speaker** – Megan Todd, ALEI Research Assistant presented on “Navigating Regulations for Value-Added Specialty Crop Foods” and newly created “Regulatory Decision Trees for Maryland Producers to assist producers in understanding the various laws, multiple regulatory entities and licenses for value-added food production in Maryland.

**Director's Report**

**SMADC Commission Protocol/Membership Update** – Director Watson-Hampton reviewed the draft working document with revision from the May meeting.

**Motion for approval for discussion on the floor – Dan Donohue, Kayla Griffith –**

## **Motion to include all 5 amps as ex officio members of the Commission**

Members discussed the draft and offered further revisions and additions, including adding more farmer Commission members, membership terms

- #3 - Martin all 5 amps are included in the membership - One AMP from each of the 5 SOMD counties
- Voting- full commission meetings regularly scheduled full commission meetings – no vote needed
- Language concerning inclusion of AMPs – exofficio non voting incl
- Heritage Area Event Update
- Reminder Summer Break – Will be skipping August Meeting

## **Staff Program Reports**

In the interest of time, Director Watson-Hampton briefly summarized staff reports and updates, which were documented and emailed to Commission members in advance of the meeting, including:

### **Buy Local Program Update**

Buy Local Challenge Celebration – In person event: [Vendor Solicitation](#) launched on May 8. 25 vendors have been confirmed. The ‘soft’ application deadline is May 31 or until all spaces are taken. Celebration Highlights include 2 tastings featuring local aquaculture oysters and new this year in collaboration with MDA and the Chesapeake Chef Service deep fried Blue Catfish. 1,000 BLC Celebration tote bags will feature primary sponsor logos – MDA and St. Mary’s – other sponsors include MARBIDCO and RMC; combined sponsorships total \$3,500.00. Tickets/consumer launch 1 week of June. Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Secretary Atticks has confirmed his attendance.

### **BLC statewide**

SMADC and MDA are working together to promote the entirety of the Buy Local Challenge Week and its two main events - the SMADC BLC Celebration Event - and the Governor’s Buy Local Picnic hosted by MDA and Governor Moore to be held at the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s headquarters in Annapolis on July 20. A press release soliciting recipes to be submitted for the event can be seen here: <https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2023/05/16/governor-wes-moore-invites-chefs-to-submit-recipes-for-buy-local-cookout/>

### **Maryland Market Money Team**

SMADC is currently onboarding 9 new applicants for Maryland Market Money. Applicants direct-marketing farms and farmers markets throughout Maryland with 5 new access points in SOMD counties (2 - Prince George's, 1- St. Mary's, 1 - Calvert, 1 - Charles). SMADC is now accepting applications for Maryland Market Money for the 2023 farmers market season. Applications are open for all farmers markets, farm stands, and CSAs (or direct marketing farmers). Find and share the application here: <https://www.marylandmarketmoney.org/mmm-application>

During the 2023 fiscal year, MMM staff prioritized outreach to potential Southern Maryland access points, thus a new milestone has been reached. 24 out of 56 current access points (43%) are within the 5 Southern counties. To request MMM collateral (rack cards) in English and/or Spanish, please reach out to Cristina ([cberthelot@smadc.com](mailto:cberthelot@smadc.com)).

Lastly, the Community Refrigerator had its ribbon cutting ceremony last month at Christ Church La Plata well attended by Town Council of La Plata, Charles County Commissioners, and State Senator Ellis and various community partners. We're thankful for Charles County's support on this pilot project. Those interested in donating farm goods, food, or getting involved, please reach out to [SoMDFridges@smadc.com](mailto:SoMDFridges@smadc.com)

### **Infrastructure Team Update**

**RAC:** Final approvals on the Plans are continuing apace. The State Highway Commission has expressed its approval, as has the Fire Marshall. Soil Conservation is near approval. There is continuing discussion concerning wastewater treatment. It is believed that all approvals will be achieved by early June in time to go out for construction bids later in the summer. Waste water system – is an issue designed to slauhter process requirements and is recycled and disposed on land. SM is not accepting current plan, in favor of a BAT system.

**Lothian Grain Elevator:** The purchase of the Lothian Elevator site was approved by the Anne Arundel County Council. Bids for operating the elevator were due in May 25 with a selection anticipated in time for fall harvest. TCC/SMADC submitted a Letter of Interest for a RMPIF Cooperative grant for Planning and Design purposes for construction of a grain mill on the site. Reponses to the LOI are due in early June.

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

### **Adjournment**

**Dan Donohue made a motion to adjourn. Kayla Griffith seconded the motion. All approved.**

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

**Thursday, July 6, 2023**

**August – no meeting**