



**Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission**  
**Thursday, October 3, 2024**  
**Approved Minutes**

- SMADC Members:** Mary Wood, Joan Bearden, Dan Donohue, Linda Jones, Elizabeth Robinson, Russell Shlagel, Tresor Thomas, Jamie Tiralla, Priscilla Leitch, Caroline Trossbach, Steve Wall, Sydney Garner, Karl Shlagel, Charles Sasscer III
- Members Absent:** Senator Jack Bailey, Delegate Brian Crosby, Senator Michael Jackson, Delegate Gary Simmons, Willie Goddard, Edward Goodman, Bill Hitte, Brian Russell, Dan Rider, Jennifer David, Shelley Garrett, Commissioner 'BJ' Bowling, Steve Connelly, Deana Tice
- Staff:** John Hartline, Shelby Watson Hampton, Cristina Berthelot, Sophia Brauns, Kelley Koeppen, Kelly Swann, Sabrina Dobbins, Terri Wright Gresholm
- Guests:** Demetrius Briscoe (Senator Jackson); Rachel Jones (Steve Connelly); Martin Proulx-MDA; Kellie Hinkle- St Mary's County Department of Economic Development

**Minutes**

**Chairwoman Mary Wood called for a motion to approve the minutes for September 5, 2024. Jamie Tiralla made a motion to approve the minutes for June 6, 2024. Joan Bearden seconded.**

**Director's Report**

**New Member:** Danny Mast owner of Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales of St. Mary's County.

**Chairwoman Mary Wood called for a motion to approve the discussion of applicant. Dan Donohue made a motion to approve discussion. Linda Jones seconded the motion.**

**With no further question or discussion, Madam Chair called for a vote where everyone approved to welcome Daniel Mast to the board. Shelby will move forward in sending out the welcome package.**

**BLC Serenity Farm Request** – Serenity Farms submitted a letter stating how much they truly enjoyed hosting the BLC Challenge so much they would like to offer their farm to be our permanent venue for the BLC. The members liked the idea but would have decided to sit back and think about it and form a subcommittee to discuss further. Any members that would like to join this subcommittee, please contact Shelby ([swatsonhampton@smadc.com](mailto:swatsonhampton@smadc.com)).

**Staff Updates:**

**MMM Updates-** The MMM Program has replenished many access points with \$126,482 in incentive/match funding for September. \$41,365 of that specifically went to MMM access points in the 5 Southern counties SMADC serves.

**MMM E-Centives Pilot:** We are at a standstill at the moment while we await for the banking pieces. We are still working has been working with MDA's eFMNP program who is also implementing the same mobile application and offering technical assistance and help to access the technology requirements needed for both eFMNP and MMM e-incentives via the Healthy Together app. The team has also been facilitating meetings to enable SNAP/EBT and eWIC processing in the Healthy Together app to make benefits processing much easier for farmers in Maryland.



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**Maryland FarmLink:**

**Urban Farming Portal:** Maryland FarmLINK has been updated with an urban farming portal. This portal includes resources for programs and initiatives, grants and loans and links to connect farms with urban farming organizations. This portal is constantly being updated with resources as they become available. If you have any resources that you would like us to share please contact Sabrina ([sdobbins@smdac.com](mailto:sdobbins@smdac.com)) or Shelby ([swatsonhampton@smdac.com](mailto:swatsonhampton@smdac.com)).

**Mentor Match Program:** SMADC hosted the first informational workshop/meet and greet on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm. The workshop cost \$15 for mentees and was free for mentors to attend. In attendance, we had eight mentees and four mentors. This workshop led to the creation of three mentee/mentor pairs. These pairs will be signing contracts in October and the mentorship will begin shortly after. This is a 12-month program and will report after to the committee.

**BFRD Grant Update:** This grant has been extended until August 2025. As part of this grant, SMADC is working towards publishing a request for proposal for an urban agriculture coordinator. This coordinator will assist with the urban ag portal project management, actively engage through outreach efforts, identify training opportunities, and monitor and report on measurable outcomes.

**Outreach:**

**The SOMD Farms for the Holidays Guide:** Application is ready! It will have all the farms that are doing holiday activities holiday products or selling holiday products and many more items. If you would like to show your farm, please complete the application. It is due in two weeks. It is FREE.

**Regulatory:** SMADC continues to work with Amish and Mennonite communities to assist in Maryland Department of Health annual state inspections. We are working on an initiative with Senator Bailey, the State and MDA to give the ability for the Amish to use SMADC email address and phone number as their traceability requirement.

**RAC Update:** We took the information from last month's meeting and brought it to the TCCSMD Executive Board for further discussion. Comm. Alderson of St. Mary's County and Lisa Quill from Blue Catfish Fishery came up with a new idea. Blue Catfish Fisheries is working on a catfish processing facility in St. Mary's. They have over 7,000 sq ft of extra room. It would already be approved by USDA and MDE requirements. Comm. Alderson and others are invited to visit the Blue Catfish Fisheries to see if this would be a great spot for the RAC. This will help us save money and remain on budget.

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

**Adjournment** – Chairwoman Mary Wood called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Donohue made a motion to adjourn. Joan Bearden seconded the motion. All approved.

**Next SMADC Meeting:** Thursday November 7, 2024.