

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ARAC) MINUTES

In-person Meeting

December 11, 2024, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Adopted 2/12/25

ATTENDEES:

ARAC Members:

Pharyn Smith, Chair and Citizen Member
Dan Donohue, Co-Chair and Forestry Industry Representative
Bill Ritchie, Citizen Member
Jennifer Cross, Farm Bureau Representative (by phone)
Cheryl Abrams Davis, PGCAR Representative
Tracey Duval, Citizen Member

Staff Attendees:

Marian Honeczy, M-NCPPC
Kathy Canning, County Council Legislative Officer

Public:

Julie Wolf, DoE
Jason Sierra, SCD Urban Agriculture

AGENDA:

2 pm Meeting called to order

Presentation: Prince George's County Food Equity Council by Dr Camille Range, Director

Dr Range discussed the three programs: Urban Agriculture and Land use Planning, Equitable Access to Healthy Food and Nutrition Education, and Diverse and Sustainable Local Food Economy. County food pantry locations map is posted on website. Cold storage units to extend shelf life of fresh food donations. See website for more information (pgcfec.org). Full Food Equity Council meeting on Jan 28, 2025. Contact Dr Range at crange@institutephi.org with questions or if interested in joining.

Old Business: Approval of ARAC minutes of Sept 11, 2024

The group agreed that minutes were correct and voted to adopt.

Welcome New Members

Welcome to Tracey Duval. Ms Duval introduced herself and her interest in agriculture.

ACTION: Status for Remaining Members

Discussion on empty positions. Ms Smith will reach out to Ms Brewer regarding the status of the USDA Member's paperwork. Recruitment was discussed.

Feedback from October Southern Farm Tour

Thanks to Steve and Cheryl for their coordinating effort! All agreed to hold it again next year. Cheryl proposed that we follow up on all three farms annually for updates.

Jennifer Cross – Updates from the National Farm Bureau and MD Farm Bureau conferences

Informed members that members of Prince George's County Farm Bureau are also members of Maryland Farm Bureau. Gave updates on numerous topics including raw milk, urban agriculture tax credit, changing national policies and 2025 meetings/conference dates:

- Feb 5th MD Farm Bureau Legislative Day (fee) held at Calvert House
- First week Dec 2025 MD Farm Bureau convention
- March 7 – 10th Fusion conference in Denver CO

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=798736&>

Feedback from M-NCPPC District 9 Open House and Charrette

Discussed open house. Members gave their comments on Plan 2035's interaction/impact on agriculture in District 9.

Discussion of 2024 Annual Report: Requests and Recommendations

Paper copies of the draft Annual Report were distributed, and will be sent by email. No discussion but all were requested to submit edits and comments by Jan 15th. Final version will be submitted to all for final review Jan 22nd. Discussed submitting final report to both COW and TIEE.

Upcoming Events

- National Urban Farm Festival – Sunday May 4th, 10- 5pm in Brandywine
- Future Harvest Conference – Jan 17th and 18th at Silver Spring Civic Bldg.
- Taste of Maryland Agriculture Dinner - Feb 6, 6-9:30pm at MD Live Casino (fee)

Floor was opened

- Julie Wolf discussed DoE's Climate-Smart Commodities Grant. Requested flyer (both English and Spanish versions) be emailed to members.

Next Meeting/Agenda

To be held hybrid or at least with virtual option in case of bad weather.

Date: Feb 12th at SCD office.

7. Adjournment

3:35 pm The Committee adjourned.