

ABC Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2022, 7 pm @ Catocin Mountain Orchard

Frederick County Office of Economic Development

Council Members in attendance: Tom Mullineaux, Bob Black, Tim Pry, Tom Barse, Gary Grossnickle, Sarah Welty, Brian Sweeney, Katie Stevens, Becca Tucker

Tom M determined quorum and called the meeting to order

Tom B made a motion to approve the December 20, 2022 minutes. Sarah W 2nd the motion. No discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

Industry Updates:

- **Livestock** (Tim Pry)- No updates, things the same, there will be a Farming Frederick episode coming featuring Needwood Farms, corn \$7.10 bean 14.85, selling hay, holding steady
- **Craft beverage** (Tom Barse)- Lost a brewery in Baltimore Co that opened a tasting room before Covid, New Carroll Co brewery- Liquidity Aleworks, Eric Aellen has taken over Red Shedman upon Victor Aellen's retirement, Grape harvest good, New hop (Monocacy) successfully harvested- Milkhouse made 3 beers, released beers at an event on Feb. 7- great success, beers are selling great, brewers want the hop, working with Grow & Fortify to extend the grant, 12 ewes ready to lamb next month, Challenges with Meat processing -Wagners shut down
- **Crops/Livestock** (Brian Sweeney)- Fertilizer prices looking much better than last year and with grain prices holding year looks optimistic. Cattle doing well- \$2/lb feeders and looks to hold strong for the future. Landowner concerns with Data Centers- Butz property rezoned. Nutrient Management Plan issues ongoing- no one to write them, farmers could be deemed ineligible for cover crop and other cost-share programs if plans don't get completed on time- local leaders looking to put a bandaid on the issue, but there is no long term solution
- **Dairy/Crops** (Gary Grossnickle)- Milk \$20.55/cwt and falling, Beans \$15 and falling, corn steady, Amish buying a lot of ground in Frederick County
- **Produce** (Bob Black)- H2A ruling changed today. Producers will be required to pay H2A supervisors more money. Optimistic for the season but concerned about the warmer weather if a late freeze comes. Increased regulations concerning. Wood chip study on apples- keeping roots cooler.
- **Equine** (Sarah Welty)- Two Equine Sales (Wolfe & Eyler) back-to-back in December. Wolfe's top selling horse \$25k, they are bringing in high-quality horses. Prices still holding high. Eyler's quality of horses was down, canceled their upcoming sale. They are struggling to compete with Wolfe's. Wolfe's upcoming sale on the 11th

OED Update:

- Ag Innovation Center Community Meeting March 8th 1-5pm at the Fairgrounds, March 9th site visits and tour of processing facilities

- Frederick County 275th – Jubilee Utica Park June 10th
- ABC Membership Update- Victoria Robinson applied to be a member. Sarah W made a motion to approve Victoria's membership to ABC. Gary 2nd the motion. No discussion. Motion passes unanimously.
- Frederick County's Top 50 EmPOWERed leaders – Nominations open

Legislative Update:

- Tom M- Ag very well represented on the County Transition Team, had the last meeting last week. Made recommendations to CE- Main focus is to change the culture of County departments to be more customer-oriented. Rather than saying "No" from the initial conversation, work on figuring out ways to help.

Other business:

- Sarah- Blueprint for Education Ag Teacher concern- trying to move CTE from Dept of Education to Dept of Labor- career bound kids will get internships for 11th and 12th grades. The concern is how many ag businesses can train and hire interns at a set price? Children will be expected in middle school to choose career path or continuing education path.

Next Meeting: April 25, 6:45pm @ Catoclin Mountain Orchard

Meeting Adjourned.