



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Deborah A. Carpenter, AICP, Division Director

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

## Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

### Open Session Meeting

Minutes of Monday, November 27, 2023

Winchester Hall - Second Floor, Winchester Room

APPROVED 12/18/2023

**Members Present:** Samuel Tressler, III, Chair; Dick Bittner, Vice Chair, Sandy Tucker, Andrew Toms, Matthew Toms

**Staff Present:** Anne Bradley, Ag Preservation Program Administrator, Beth Ahalt, Planner II.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tressler at 7:00 p.m.

#### I. Minutes

##### A. Open Session Minutes from October 23, 2023

Staff presented minutes from 10/23/2023 for review and approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Bittner.

The motion was approved 3-0-2-1.

Ag Board Members	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Samuel Tressler, Chair	X			
Dick Bittner, Vice Chair	X			
Andrew Toms			X	
Eric Troxell				X
Sandra Tucker	X			
Matthew Toms			X	

#### II. Ag Board

##### A. Chairman and Vice Chairman Election

Chair Tressler nominated Vice Chair Bittner to serve as the new Chair for the Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board. Vice Chair Bittner declined the nomination. Ms. Tucker nominated Andrew Toms to serve as the new Chair for the Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board and nominated Mr. Troxell to serve as the Vice Chair for the Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board. Mr. Toms accepted the nomination for Chairman, and wanted to table the nomination for Vice Chair for the next meeting. The motion to nominate Andrew Toms as the chairman to the Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board was made by Sandra Tucker and was seconded by Mr. Bittner.



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Ag Board Members	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Samuel Tressler, Chair	X			
Dick Bittner, Vice Chair	X			
Andrew Toms	X			
Eric Troxell				X
Sandra Tucker	X			
Matthew Toms	X			

### **III. IPP**

A. Staff presented the FY 2024 IPP Applications to the board for their review. Staff made the recommendation to approve applications #24-01 through #24-15 to be sent to a public hearing. Mr. Andrew Toms moved to approve applications #24-01 through #24-16 and send those applicants to a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tucker.

Ag Board Members	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Samuel Tressler, Chair	X			
Dick Bittner, Vice Chair	X			
Andrew Toms	X			
Eric Troxell				X
Sandra Tucker	X			
Matthew Toms	X			

### **IV. Program Status Reports**

A. MALPF- Staff reported that the applications that were approved in a public hearing on 9/5/2023 are being appraised by two appraisers hired by MALPF. The appraisals will be sent to MALPF and reviewed by them, and then offers are made to landowners. Staff is hopeful that this will occur in early spring 2024. Staff reported that another property went under easement in the FY 22 cycle and that the funding was ordered for the last farm in the FY 22 cycle. After that farm settles, the FY 22 MALPF cycle will be closed. Staff also reported that one farm has settled in the FY 23 MALPF cycle, and that staff is working with landowners to the settlement table in that cycle.

B. IPP- 47 applications were received by county staff and the applications were reviewed at the meeting this evening.

C. Critical Farms- The applications to the FY23 Critical Farms cycle will be reviewed in closed session at the November meeting.

D. MARBIDCO Next Generation- One property recently settled in this program, and that there is still a lot of interest in this program.

E. Rural Legacy- Staff received a 3.135 million grant recently in this program for both the Mid-Maryland and Carrollton Manor Rural Legacy areas, and that

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there are still multiple properties that are working toward settlement, and that there is still a lot of interest in the program.

- F. CREP- Staff reported that the funding is still good and that there is still a lot of interest in this program. Staff also reported that because of the farm bill lapsing that the Farm Service Agency is no longer able to accept CREP contracts at this time.
- G. Inspection Update- Staff reported that inspections are being taken place for MALPF, IPP, Rural Legacy and CREP.
- H. Other Violations Update- Staff reported that the Knott Violation has been rectified, the MALPF violation heard at the October meeting is on the MALPF board agenda for November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **V. Ag Preservation Advisory Board Meeting for the month of December**

Staff asked members of the Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board if having a meeting scheduled for December 18, 2023 in the Winchester Room at Winchester Hall at 7pm would work for their schedule? The usual 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month falls on the Christmas holiday.

### **VI. Motion to go in to Closed Session**

A motion to go in to Closes Session to review the Critical Farms Program and make a recommendation on offers was made by Andrew Toms and seconded by Dick Bittner.

Ag Board Members	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Samuel Tressler, Chair	X			
Dick Bittner, Vice Chair	X			
Andrew Toms	X			
Eric Troxell				X
Sandra Tucker	X			
Matthew Toms	X			

A motion to adjourn the open session meeting was made by Mr. Bittner at 7:55 pm.