



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING
Department of Development Review & Planning

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Steven C. Horn, Division Director
Michael L. Wilkins, Director

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, June 24th, 2019
Approved 7/22/2019

Members Present: Samuel Tressler III, Chair; Dick Bittner, Vice Chair; Paul Spurrier, Eric Troxell (arrived 7:08 p.m.), Richard Grossnickle, Honorary Member

Staff Present: Anne Bradley, Program Administrator; Shannon O'Neil, Planner I

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

I. Officers

A. Chair

Mr. Bittner nominated Vice Chair Tressler for the vacant Chair position. Mr. Toms seconded the nomination. The motion was approved unanimously, with one member, Mr. Troxell, absent.

Vote: Yea 4 Nay 0 Absent 1

B. Vice Chair

Mr. Troxell nominated Mr. Bittner for the vacant Vice Chair position. Mr. Spurrier seconded the nomination. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vote: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 0

C. Honorary Member

Staff presented an honorary lifetime membership award to Richard Grossnickle. Mr. Grossnickle served on the Ag Board since 2008. He was appointed as Chair of the Board in 2012.

II. Minutes

A. Minutes from May 20, 2019

Staff presented the minutes from the May 20, 2019 meeting for approval. Mr. Spurrier made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, with Mr. Toms abstaining because he was not present at the previous meeting.

Vote: Yea 4 Nay 0 Abstain 1

III. Critical Farms

A. FY-2019 Applications Review

Anne Bradley presented the nine applications on 1,395 acres to the FY-2019 Critical Farms program. Staff don't believe that we will be able to make all nine applicants offers, but want the flexibility of being able to make all applicants offers in the event one or more backs out. Staff recommended ordering appraisals on all nine properties and returning to a 5-year option period.

Vice Chair Bittner made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to make all nine applicants offers and move back to a five-year option period. Mr. Spurrier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vote: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 0

IV. IPP

A. Allowable Uses Table for IPP Easements

Staff presented an updated IPP Allowable Uses Table for the Board's review and discussion. The Board feels that this table will be helpful to prospective applicants and grantors.

Mr. Bittner made a motion to approve the Allowable Uses Table. Mr. Toms seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vote: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 0

B. Discussion of Forested Land

Council Member Hagen called into the meeting to discuss his proposal to add additional protections for significant forested land into IPP easements.

V. Program Status Reports

A. MALPF

Staff reported that the County Council will review the 12 MALPF applications recommended by the Board at their 7/2/2019 meeting.

B. IPP

Staff reported that two properties from the FY-2018 cycle will go to settlement on 7/17/2019. Additionally, staff discussed a zoning violation on the Butler IPP easement.

C. MARBIDCO Next Generation

Staff reported that the next deadline for the Next Generation program is July 31, 2019. We will likely have 1-2 applicants.

D. CREP

Staff reported that the Soil Conservation District has been on hold issuing new CREP contracts since the new Farm Bill was adopted.

E. Rural Legacy

Staff reported that several projects are pending settlement and a new grant will be announced in October.

Chair Tressler adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.