AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2018 at 3:00 pm

Allegany County Office Complex, Room 230, 701 Kelly Rd, Cumberland, MD

Members Present: Larry Crossland, Carl Robinette, Amanda Paul, and Tim Carney

Members Absent: Ben Sansom

Guests Present: Siera Wigfield (Allegany County MALPF Program Administrator), Chana Turner (MALPF Administrator), Kim Hoxter (MALPF Monitoring, Enforcement & Database Coordinator), Phil King NRCS Soil Scientist, and Brandon Butler (Allegany County Administrator)

Meeting Introductions

Phil King is a NRCS Soil Scientist for Maryland and Delaware, a guest brought by Carl Robinette.

Chana Turner and Kim Hoxter were present to help Siera Wigfield perform a baseline survey on the Perrin property, prior to settlement.

Tim Carney asked the status of the FY 2017 Applications. Chana Turner supplied the following update:

- DelSignore – settled
- Perrin – Baseline survey is done, and will be settled very soon
- Thomson – extension was filed there are some title issues
- Yonker – Title issues Siera Wigfield is working to follow up
- Romsburg – Baseline survey is turned in and settlement to come

Tim Carney asked what the average pay out is. Chana Turner replied $4,020 per acre statewide, $2,585 in Allegany County with the average size being 139 acres. There are 10 MALPF properties in Allegany County, soon to be 12.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda for May 3, 2018 Meeting

No changes made.

MALPF Program Update – Chana Turner

Chana Turner reported to the Board the MALPF Program is fully funded for first time in a long time. The Next cycle FY 2019 is one year and the applications are due July 2, 2018. In the past, the cycles were two-year. Chana also informed the group there has been a change in legislation in regards to the MALPF funds, the Counties that are certified retain 33% of Agricultural Transfer Tax and have 3 years to use their funds if they do not they must return them to the MALPF program for the whole state, this time period has been changed to 6 years.

Larry Crossland asked if there has been any work done to address agricultural land that has been previously mined, but not properly reclaimed. Chana responded often times these parcels do not meet the 50% of qualifying soils criteria. Chana also mentioned there is extensive title work done at MALPF to insure the mineral rights have not been separated from the property rights.

Brandon Butler mentioned there was a bill passed by Delegate Bietzel and Senator Edwards, the Dormant Mineral Rights Act, to join the mineral rights back to the land owners. Tim Carney responded there have been fraudulent filings and the companies have no evidence of owning the mineral rights. Brandon commented their lawyer’s license should be called into question if they are making fraudulent claims.
Chana Turner continued her legislative update. MALFP now had a definition of Agri-Tourism and invites counties to use their definition. There is also provision for special events to take place on MALPF properties. There is also a change about signs and advertisements on MALPF properties, they must be less than 4’x4’ in size, and this is retroactive.

Larry Crossland brought up an issue with the new ATV legislation, where he understood the ATVs can cross highways. Brandon Butler clarified that there was a bill passed, which is something Garrett County already does, it allows for side-by-side ATVs to cross county roads, not main roads. This bill does not give the ATV a license to ride on private property. Larry mentioned he and other farmers have trouble with people making trails, taking down fence, and cattle getting out.

Chana Turner also noted MALPF updated their definition of children to include stepchildren.

**Board Chair Appointment**

Tim Carney nominated Ben Sansom as the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board Chair. Carl Robinette made a motion to close nominations, and this was seconded by Larry Crossland. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Ben Sansom as Chair. (Congratulations Ben!)

**Update Board Contact Sheet**

Sign in sheet will serve as an update to the contact information.

**Review of FY 2019 Applications**

Siera Wigfield walked the Board through the questions on the Hartley FY 2019 Application. She explained she met with the Hartley’s that morning to clarify the application. In the future she will provide a projector with a map of the property, to help orient the Board members to where the property is located and the land included in the proposed easement.

Carl Robinette made a motion to approve the Hartley FY 2019 Application, this was seconded by Tim Carney.

The Board members present signed the Hartley FY 2019 Application Approval sheet.

**Adjournment**

Minutes prepared by Siera Wigfield, Recycling Coordinator/
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Hartley FY 2019 Application Approval

On Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 3:00 pm, The Allegany County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board met in Potomac Room, Allegany County Office Building, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, Maryland 21502.

As part of the agenda the Board has reviewed the Hartley Application for FY 2016.

The following Members of the Board Approve the Application

Tim Carney
Larry Crossland
Amanda Paul
Carl Robinette

Ben Sansom

Not Present (SWW)

Carl Robinette