



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

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Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
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Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture Meeting Minutes June 2, 2020

GICA Members Present

Members (Ex Officio)

- Julie Oberg, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Suzanne Dorsey, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Kirk Engle, Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
- Val Lazdins, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
- Dr. Craig Beyrouy, University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Member Organizations

- Amy Moredock, Maryland Association of County Planning Officials
- Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO
- Laura Price, Maryland Association of Counties
- Colby Ferguson, Maryland Farm Bureau
- Charlotte Davis, Rural Maryland Council

General Public Members

- Susanne Zilberfarb, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation
- Kurt Fuchs, Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit
- Cheryl DeBerry, Garrett County Maryland Economic Development
- Leslie Hart, Washington County Department of Business Development
- Lisa Barge, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation
- Kathryn Danko, Perdue Farms Inc.
- Pat Langenfelder
- Dr. Mortimer Hugh Neufville
- Thomas Skilton

Additional Attendees Present

MDA Staff

- Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary
- Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs
- Jason Schellhardt, Director of Communications
- Megan Guilfoyle, Public Information Officer
- Karen Fedor, Program Administrator, Agriculture and Seafood Marketing

Others

- Adam Gruzs, Maryland Department of Planning
- Chas Eby, Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- Kelly Dudeck, Grow and Fortify
- Kevin Atticks, Grow and Fortify

- Kristin Fleckenstein, Maryland Department of Planning
- Holly Porter, Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc.
- Robert McCord, Maryland Department of Planning
- Stephen Schatz, Office of the Governor
- Hannah Schaeffer, Office of the Governor
- Jonathan Cribbs, *The Delmarva Farmer*

- I. Welcome
 - A. Conference call was called to order at 1:02pm.
- II. Roll call of commission members
 - A. Cassie Shirk took roll call of all GICA members present and asked other attendees to announce themselves and the organization they present.
 - B. Secretary Bartenfelder welcomed everyone and discussed how GICA plays a very important role in supporting and guiding our state's agricultural community and food production industries.
- III. Presentation by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency
 - A. MEMA's mission: To proactively reduce disaster risks and reliably manage consequences through collaborative work with Maryland's communities and partners
 - B. MDH has been the lead agency on COVID-19, focusing on numerous priorities such as expanding hospital capacity, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), testing, contact tracing, and nursing home support.
 - C. MEMA oversees the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) which includes MDH, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of General Services (DGS), Commerce, Maryland National Guard (MDNG), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and Federal partners including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 - D. MEMA continues to be the conduit to FEMA assets and resources through Federal Request for Resources Form (RRF).
 - E. Coordination of communications and operations in several state-level task forces.
 - F. Controlled flow of information to residents including rumor control through establishing State's Rumor Control web page.
 - G. Coordinated missions with MDNG to meet the needs of the State.
 - H. Assembled the Poultry Task Force using Maryland Incident Management Team (IMT) and MEMA SEOC Staff providing incident management support functions along with MDH and other state agencies. Key areas:
 1. Testing of poultry workers, both at facilities and through community-based locations,
 2. Contact tracing,
 3. Occupational health and safety walkthroughs and recommendations at poultry plants,
 4. Producing communications materials that were translated into multiple languages
 5. Secured and distributed face coverings for workers.
 6. Created and distributed take-home care kits. and
 7. Expanded the Md. Dept. of Aging's Caregiver Service Corps to include Eastern Shore.
 - I. Kathryn Danko thanked the state of Maryland for everything it's done regarding COVID-19 coordination for the poultry industry. She said the partnership with Maryland is strong.
- IV. Census 2020

- A. Maryland is ranked 11th in the nation for self-response and 2nd in the region, behind only Virginia. We are currently behind Indiana at 65.2%, but we will be putting them in our rear-view mirror soon. St. Mary's County has surpassed its 2010 self-response rate, with Calvert County expecting to surpass its 2010 self-response rate today. Five other counties are within 2% of their 2010 self-response rate.
- B. Census response has never been easier - you can respond online, over the phone, or by paper questionnaires. The self-response period has been extended until Oct. 31, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- C. Census data is important for apportionment and redistricting; funding for critical, life-saving programs, and emergency planning (vaccines).
- D. The top USDA programs that receive nearly \$2B in funding from the Federal government based on Census data:

1. SNAP	\$1B
2. Housing loans	\$445M
3. School Lunch	\$174M
4. WIC	\$116M
5. School Breakfast	\$70M
6. Child and Adult Care Food	\$56M
7. Community Facilities	\$13M
8. Water and Waste Systems	\$14M
9. Rural Rental Assistance	\$18M
10. Cooperative Extension	\$6M
- E. 7 flyers have been created and shared - All are available on Planning's website
 - 1. Rural Flyer (English and Spanish)
 - 2. Aging
 - 3. Business
 - 4. Faith based
 - 5. GW Census Funding Flyer
 - 6. School lunch (English and Spanish)
- F. Census represents \$1,850 annually per person. Maryland lost out on over \$1 billion in Federal Funding. Each year Maryland received \$16B in census derived funding.
- G. The Census information is confidential and cannot be shared.
- H. Despite the virus, Maryland is on track to having the best count ever. We need everyone to be a Census Ambassador.

V. Strategic Plan for Maryland Agriculture

- A. During the 2019 General Assembly, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) was asked to work with the Harry H. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology to develop a statewide strategic plan for Maryland agriculture. The plan is intended to analyze the external forces and trends impacting the industry; identify strengths and challenges facing our farmers; and identify initiative areas to secure a bright future for Maryland agriculture.
- B. Beginning in August 2019, MDA assembled a writing team comprised of MDA staff and representatives from several industry organizations to begin developing this document. We hosted a series of public listening sessions throughout the state and offered an online survey for those unable to attend. These information gathering sessions resulted in a large body of data that has been distilled into a broader consensus for this report.
- C. The strategic plan identified six "Initiative Areas" for the industry to use as a roadmap as we move forward:
 - 1. Market Development
 - 2. Infrastructure Development

3. Continued Commitment to Conservation
 4. Workforce Development
 5. Partnerships for Technical Assistance
 6. Embracing Technology
- D. The Harry Hughes Center brought together a group of agricultural stakeholders, including MDA, in early January 2020 to discuss work already being done to address the priority areas identified in the plan; learn more about what others are doing; identify areas of potential collaboration; and identify some short- and long-term action items. The group is anticipated to meet again later this month.
- VI. GICA Toolkit for Local Communities
- A. The GICA toolkit for local communities was first created in 2011. This toolkit aims to provide local communities and officials with a basic understanding of the current state of Maryland agriculture. It suggests tools, methods, and resources that will help farmers, their neighbors, and local officials to better work.
 - B. A lot of the information in the toolkit is still very valuable for local communities, but there's a lot of information that is outdated.
 - C. MDA to begin updating the toolkit. We would like the commission to also assist in this effort. If members haven't had a chance to review the toolkit, please take some time in the upcoming weeks to read through it and provide feedback to MDA. If there are sections of the current toolkit that you don't think are helpful or necessary, please share that information as well.
 - D. The plan is to bring a revised version of the toolkit to our GICA meeting in the fall/early winter.
 - E. Leslie Hart - Interested in getting the analytics off the website to see how many people look at this document or download it. If it's not being utilized maybe, we need to look into a whole different kind of toolkit.
 - F. Amy Moredock offered to assist in reorganizing an agritourism workgroup to ensure relevant information in that area is added to the toolkit. Amy also noted that the toolkit should include updated information on renewable energy production.
- VII. Member Discussion
- A. Laura Price - As MACo begins to work towards its 2021 legislative priorities, please feel to reach out directly if you'd like the organization to consider something. They are happy to coordinate on any issues.
 - B. Susanne Zilberfarb - MAEF and its affiliates remain dedicated in engaging students, parents, and teachers in online agriculture-based eLearning experiences. MAEF has posted daily lessons through its "Kids Off" campaign focused on agriculture and STEM. 350,000 unique people have taken advantage of eLearning provided.
 - C. Steve McHenry - The Pandemic Adjustment Loan Fund Program and the Pandemic Adjustment Equipment Grant Fund Program have been made available to help Maryland's food and fiber producers, harvesters and primary processors adjust to the business disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic.
- VIII. The conference call concluded at 1:57pm.