

**Governor's**  
**Intergovernmental Commission**  
**for Agriculture**

*Report to*  
*Governor Martin O'Malley*

*October 1, 2007*

*Roger Richardson – Secretary*  
*Earl F. Hance – Deputy Secretary*

*Maryland Department of Agriculture*

## **Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture**

Report to Governor Martin O'Malley  
October 1, 2007

The Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA) was established on June 29, 2006, to "promote the economic profitability of agriculture in the State by ensuring that all appropriate State agencies work in a cooperative, coordinated manner with local government and industry groups in planning, implementing, overseeing and evaluating intergovernmental initiatives related to agricultural affairs of the State."

The Commission currently has 25 duly appointed members. Meetings were held on October 30, 2006; May 3, 2007; and September 14, 2007. The Commission's initial effort was to provide several training sessions for local government officials to better understand how their actions can support a business-friendly climate for agriculture. Two events have been held, and a third is scheduled. (Agendas follow at the end of this report.)

*Monday, January 22, 2007*

**Land Use Issues (for Newly Elected Officials and Staff) - Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, Annapolis**  
Approximately 50 individuals attended this session designed to give newly elected and appointed officials and their staff an insight into the complexity of land use issues and resources to help them address these issues constructively.

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

**Land Use Forum for Local Governments - Maritime Institute, Linthicum**

This event was organized primarily by the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. in cooperation with the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture. Additional support was provided by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Town Creek Foundation. Elected and public officials from Maryland's counties and municipalities were invited to attend. Approximately 150 individuals learned about increasing pressures on Maryland farmland and about tools for agricultural land preservation and growth management such as Transferable Development Rights (TDRs), Purchase of Development Rights (PDRs), and zoning.

*Planned - Friday, October 19, 2007*

**Barriers to Sustainable Agriculture - Rural Maryland Summit, Solomons Island**

This event is planned to address specific ways in which local regulations can support or hinder the profitability and sustainability of agricultural operations. About 50 individuals are expected to attend.

At its meeting on September 14, 2007, the Commission decided to pursue the following goals for the coming year:

1. Request that the Governor support the need for federal and state solutions to current labor shortages and immigration questions. Labor availability is a critical concern for agriculture; it is equally important for tourism, education, and other industries as well
2. Identify an agricultural ombudsman at each agency to be the initial point of contact for questions concerning agricultural matters. DHMH reports that this has saved time and money for the agency and for those needing assistance with health matters.

3. Develop informative materials with clear, positive information about agricultural issues. Provide these materials with agency Public Information Offices to have on hand before any negative events appear in the media.
  
4. Establish a federally-approved “Food Process Authority” in Maryland to further expand economic opportunities for adding value to our agricultural products. Currently, Maryland citizens must travel to New York or another state to access this resource, at a cost of about \$1000 per person for the week-long training. This need was discussed about a year ago by the University, DHMH, and the Department of Agriculture (MDA). Representatives of these groups will reconvene to develop a plan and budget to address this need.



## ***LAND USE ISSUES WORKSHOP*** **(For Newly Elected Officials and Key Staff)**

Maryland Department of Agriculture  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 22, 2007

**Workshop Objective:** Provide an opportunity for elected officials and key staff to learn about land use and have the ability to ask questions about regulatory impact on the agricultural industry.

**Target Audience:** By invitation only; recently elected officials (state and county) and staff.

**Where & When:** MDA; Monday, January 22, 2007 (10:30 - 3:00)

**Workshop Format:** Workshop will include a moderator, 3 panels, and a summary of local examples.

### **AGENDA**

- 10:30 Welcome – Dr. John Brooks
- 10:40 Introductions and Agenda Review – Steve McHenry
- 10:45 Ag Stewardship: Demographic Changes, and the Environment
  - A. MD Farm Bureau Perspective - Buddy Hance
  - B. AgroEcology Perspective - Russ Brinsfield
  - C. Chesapeake Bay Foundation Perspective – Kim Coble
  - D. MALPF Perspective – Jim Conrad
- 11:45 Land Use and Other Regulatory Issues
  - A. Right to Farm – Kurt Fuchs
  - B. State Perspective on Health Issues – Jody Menikheim
  - C. State Perspective on Land Use Issues – Dan Rosen
  - D. County Perspective on Land Use Issues - Faith Elliott-Rossing
  - E. County Perspective on Health and Regulatory Issues – Nancy Giorno
- 12:45 Lunch
- 1:30 Agriculture in Maryland
  - A. Agricultural Challenges and Policy Issues – Sen. Mac Middleton
  - B. What is Agriculture: Facts and Figures – Pat McMillan
  - C. How Agriculture is Changing – Luke Howard
  - D. The Farm as a Business – Kenny Bounds
- 2:30 Examples of Local Successes and Challenges – Dr. Gerrit Knaap
- 2:45 Q&A and Next Steps – Dr. John Brooks
- 3:00 Adjourn



HARRY R. HUGHES CENTER FOR  
AGRO-ECOLOGY, INC.

**Land Use Forum for Local Governments**  
**Wednesday, June 13, 2007**  
**Maritime Institute of Technology, Linthicum, MD**



*Hosted by the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.  
In cooperation with the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture  
Support provided by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Town Creek Foundation*

**8:30 a.m. Coffee and Refreshments**

**9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks**

*Governor Harry R. Hughes, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.  
Mr. Kenny Bounds, Government Affairs Officer, Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit  
Ms. Michelle Mauthe Harvey, Facilitator*

**9:15 a.m. Demographic Change and the Expansion of Urban Areas in Maryland, 1970 to 2000**

*Ms. Bernadette Hanlon, Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education, UMBC*

**9:35 a.m. Questions from audience (facilitated by Michelle Harvey)**

**9:45 a.m. Expected Cost of Tripling Maryland's Preserved Acres: Using a Hedonic Price Analysis on Agricultural Land Values from 1997-2003**

*Dr. Lori Lynch-Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland*

**10:05 a.m. Questions from audience (facilitated by Michelle Harvey)**

**10:15 a.m. Markets for Preserving Farmland in Maryland: Making TDR Programs Work Better**

*Dr. Virginia McConnell, Economics Department and Affiliate, Center for Urban Research and Education  
Dr. Margaret Walls, Resources for the Future*

**10:35 a.m. Questions from audience (facilitated by Michelle Harvey)**

**10:45 a.m. Break**

**11:00 a.m. The Feasibility of Successful TDR Programs for the Upper Eastern Shore, Maryland**

*Mr. H. Grant Dehart, Land Preservation Consultant  
Mr. Robert J. Etgen, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy*

**11:20 a.m. Questions from the audience (facilitated by Michelle Harvey)**

**11:30 a.m. Morning Wrap-up and Collection of Index Cards**

**11:45 a.m. Lunch**

**12:30 p.m. Lunch Speakers: How can Land Protection in Maryland be Enhanced?**

*Secretary John R. Griffin, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (invited)  
Secretary Richard E. Hall, Maryland Department of Planning  
Secretary Roger L. Richardson, Maryland Department of Agriculture (invited)*

**1:00 p.m. Introduction to the Afternoon Panel**

**1:15 p.m. Implementation of the New Jersey State TDR Program**

*Ms. Courtenay Mercer, Director of Planning, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Office of Smart Growth*

**1:30 p.m. TDRs, PDRs, Zoning and Other Tools for the Protection of Farmland**

*Mr. Gregg Bowen, Planning Director, Calvert County*

**1:45 p.m. Use of Zoning for the Protection of Farmland**

*Ms. Gail Webb Owings, Planning Director, Kent County*

**2:00 p.m. Question and Answer Session**

*Index card questions will be addressed first*

*General questions from the audience will follow*

**3:30 p.m. Closing Comments/Evaluation Reminder**

*Deputy Secretary Earl F. "Buddy" Hance, Maryland Department of Agriculture*

*Dr. Russell B. Brinsfield, Executive Director, Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.*

**Thank you!**

***-DRAFT-***



## ***Barriers to Sustainable Agriculture***

Friday, October 19, 2007  
Rural Maryland Summit – Solomons Island, Maryland



- 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.**      **Continental Breakfast**
- 8 a.m. to Noon**      **Barriers to Sustainable Agriculture**  
*Presented by the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture*
- 8:00 – 8:45**      **Update on Farmland Preservation Program, June workshop on Transfer of Development Rights, and other related issues (Moderator: Earl "Buddy" Hance, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture)**
- 8:45 -9:30**      **How new Health Department regulations offer new opportunities for economic activity within safety considerations; the importance of Transparency and Consistency for both regulatory compliance and farm profitability (Moderators: Dr. Alan Brench, Chief, Division of Food Control, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and Rodney Glotfelty, Health Officer, Garrett County)**
- 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.**      **How Right to Farm Laws reinforce the local jurisdictions' commitment to Sustainable Agriculture, minimize Time and Cost in addressing multiple needs, and Improve Interaction between residential and the agricultural community. (Moderator: Kurt Fuchs, Assistant Director for Government Relations, Maryland Farm Bureau)**
- 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.**      **Break**
- 11:00 a.m. to Noon**      **How local Zoning Regulations impact Sustainability – Definitions of Agriculture, Infrastructure and Supporting Services, Flexibility of Regulations (NOT a density discussion) (Moderator: Cheryl DeBerry, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Garrett County Maryland Economic Development Garrett County)**
- Noon to 1 p.m.**      **Lunch**