

Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Environment & Production Subcommittee
September 29, 2022 1:00pm -2:00pm

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Group Discussion
 - A. Review Updated Proposed Recommendations
 - I. Task Force on Climate Change Mitigation Metrics for Agriculture
 - Suggestions/Comments: (1) There are some identified redundancies in terms of task force, data collection and m itigation efforts with existing MDA programs, moreover the idea of support practices vs. crops growth are different (MDA is supportive of all farmers and does not support monetary incentives for one crop vs. another). Encouragement or incentivisation of crops could be undertaken at the market. (2) There are several concerns associated with both measuring crops and practices; some practices were not examined as of yet (e.g. quantitative assessment of practices, and comparative quantitative value), the same can be said of certain types of crops. Furtherm ore, there are equity issues within the work that's happened to date, therefore we should take advantage of data in existence, and begin looking at outcomes (e.g. incentivize those storing carbon, by examining annual soil tests which include organic matter numbers). (3) Is it too late to update the language of this recommendation, to indicate the task force will review the work of the last 4 years to determ ine a benchmark with baseline data, to create program ing alternatives or strategies?
 - II. Pilot Farm Conservation Transition Program to Mitigate Climate Change



- Suggestions/Comments: (1) There is support for the conservation program, there are State programs that support specific climate friendly practices (e.g. the climate focused climate smart commodities program). This pilot program with a small amount of funding to support practices, will measure the impact of those practices, there is a need for this program in Maryland due to discrepancies between what MDA says is available and farmers' perception. Implementing a program specifically for climate mitigation that measures impacts, can inform future policies. (2) The original language should be included as a stand -alone option. (3) There are some redundancies in terms of existing p rograms, language changes may be needed, and other considerations for the parameters MDA follows to support all farmers, not to provide incentives for a particular crop. This recommendation can be drafted to provide incentives for market analysis, and exam ining existing programs, in terms of GHG reduction rather than soil health or nutrient run -off.
- III. Baseline Assessment and Reduction of Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Public Food Purchasing
 - Suggestions/Comments: (1) MDA is charged with establishing and running the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program, it is too early to add additional requi rements, since there is still ongoing education with institutions, recruitment with farmers, and no interest from other States has been indicated. (2) Language change suggested to remove the following statement, "provide recommendations and technical assis state agencies to implement these recommendations and institutions impacted by the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program (HB 1488)". (3) The alternative draft proje ct needed for 70,000 should be used. It does not make sense to have a competitive grant process because it is up to the State agencies to do these reductions; the Department of General Services is the agency equipped to



conduct the baseline assessment (vot ing will be based on the alternative project needed for 70,000).

- IV. Increase prioritization of and funding for enforcement and technical assistance around existing state environmental protection laws for agriculture, including water pollution control permits, nutrient management plans, and the phosphorus management tool.
 - Suggestions/ Comments: (1) There are three reports cited within the recommendation, one report confused compliance mandates for farmers, the report mischaracterized the amount of farmer entit ies not in compliance. More information needed from MDA. (2) The citations for the reports should be removed for language consistency, and more discussion is needed to further understand this topic. (3) There are other reports that demonstrate non -complian ce with nutrient management plans, which also indicate compliance can be improved.
- V. Support Maryland Agricultural Marketing and Urban Agriculture
 - Suggestions/Comments: (1) This recommendation illustrates the intention of the committee to support these efforts, however this can be introduced in another section of the report, and be removed as a recommendation.
- B. Subcommittee Recommendation Voting usi ng Polling Activity
 - Task Force on Climate Change Mitigation Metrics for Agriculture
 Move to Parking Lot: 11
 - II. Pilot Farm Conservation Transition Program to Mitigate ClimateChange Move to Parking Lot: 7
 - III. Baseline Assessment and Reduction of Maryland's GreenhouseGas Emissions for Public Food Purchasing Supported: 9
 - IV. Increase prioritization of and funding for enforcement and technical assistance around existing state environmental protection laws for agric ulture, including water pollution control permits, nutrient management plans, and the phosphorus management tool. Move to Parking Lot: 4
 - V. Support Maryland Agricultural Marketing and Urban AgricultureNot Supported: 8
- 3. Next steps and adjourn

