



**HOWARD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD  
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2009**

**Attendance:**

Board Members: Sean Hough, Chairman  
John Komsa, Vice Chairman  
Ricky Bauer  
James Eacker  
Shirley Matlock  
Lynn Moore

Staff: Joy Levy, Administrator, Agricultural Land Preservation Program  
Mary Smith, Secretary, Agricultural Land Preservation Program

**Action Items**

1) **Minutes from February 9, 2009 Meeting** – Chairman Hough called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and then asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting. There being none, Mr. Eacker motioned to accept the minutes as mailed. Mr. Komsa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion Items**

1) **“Farmland Forever” sign** – Ms. Levy announced that the County Executive recently approved the design of the new “Farmland Forever” property sign, which will be available at no cost to farmers in the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The purpose of the sign is to give ALPP participants an opportunity to show their pride in having preserved their properties, and to display to travelers of our rural roads the numerous farms in preservation. Ms. Levy informed the Board that construction and installation of the sign would be provided by the County. She stated that the forthcoming issue of “Howard Ag” will have an article and order form for interested property owners, and that the ag preservation web site will also have an order form. Ms. Levy displayed a “mock up” of the sign as it will look mounted and installed. She explained that this same photo will be in the Howard Ag article and on the web site.

Board member suggestions included minor changes to the text and securing both the top and bottom of the sign to the post to eliminate wind damage.

2) **Legislative update handout** - Ms. Levy distributed a summary of state legislative items that pertained to agricultural preservation, stating that it was a very active session with several new bills that will affect MALPF easement properties. Ms. Levy detailed each of the bills and informed the Board that most of the bills that passed were sponsored by MDA and will be beneficial to the MALPF program.

3) **Batch 14** – Ms. Levy stated that County Executive Ken Ulman will announce the opening of Batch 14 and the availability of the Farmland Forever signs at a press conference on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. at Larriland Farm. Ms. Levy encouraged Board members to attend the event.

Chairman Hough adjourned the meeting at 8:45.

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Joy Levy, Executive Secretary  
Agricultural Land Preservation Board