

MINUTES OF THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY RURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT TASK FORCE
PATUXENT BUILDING * LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND
Monday, May 3, 2010

Members present were Merl Evans, John Parlett, and Phil Dorsey. Others present were Phil Shire, Donna Sasscer, and Bob Schaller.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of April 12, 2010 were approved as presented.

Status of IPA: Mr. Evans stated there is no longer monies available for the IPA and due to the economy there won't be monies available in the near future. Ms. Sasscer stated in order to move forward with the IPA we would need a dedicated funding source. Mr. Evans stated the issue with the 1.5 million dollars no longer being available is disheartening. Mr. Parlett stated we discussed the funding of the IPA just a month earlier only to find out that the entire 1.5 million is now gone. Mr. Evans asked when the money was removed from the budget. Ms. Sasscer stated the budget amendments were done over time therefore she can't give an exact date. Mr. Dorsey asked which budget year the funds were spent. Ms. Sasscer stated it was FY 2009 and FY 2010. Mr. Dorsey asked if the 1.5 million was used to purchase "X" amount of development rights on farms. Ms. Sasscer stated yes. Mr. Parlett stated we would have liked to have known a year ago that the IPA was not going to move forward due to reallocation of monies to fund other items. Mr. Dorsey asked who made the decision to utilize the IPA funding for other projects. Ms. Sasscer stated we get told by finance that there is going to be a budget amendment. Mr. Evans stated he's not suggesting monies have been misappropriated but there has to be some accountability.

Continued Discussion on Zoning Ordinance and RPD: Mr. Berlage stated the staff draft of the Zoning Ordinance is now available and posted on the website for review and comments. Mr. Parlett recommended having printed copies available for purchase. Mr. Berlage stated he would consider this. Mr. Berlage gave a brief overview of the changes incorporated in the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Parlett recommended asking the County Commissioners to extend the open comment period to 30 days. Mr. Berlage stated this is a useful recommendation and he would pass this along to the County Commissioners.

It was decided to hold a joint meeting with the Ag Boards to discuss the Zoning Ordinance changes. Ms. Sasscer stated she would work on scheduling this meeting and send out an email confirming the date and time.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 7, 2010 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the middle conference room at LUGM.