



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2024-003

**BALTIMORE COUNTY
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD**

WHEREAS, Baltimore County is home to a diverse agriculture community represented on over 783 farms – spanning across 70,217 farmland acres; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County has invested \$8.9 million to preserve 70,927 acres of farm and forest land – a leader in the state for permanently preserving prime farmland and woodland; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County agriculture provides high-quality, locally-grown and produced food and fiber for all the citizens of this county, State and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County agriculture is an economic engine for the region, employing more than 5,000 employees, and yielding in excess of \$92 million annually in market value of products sold; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County is committed to the advancement of agriculture, promoting public understanding about the contribution of agricultural enterprises to the beauty of our county side, protection of soil and water, the economy, the safety of our food supply, and to meet our energy needs; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County is committed to encouraging healthy diets and building a resilient, inclusive, sustainable agri-food system ensuring that all residents have access to the food they need to grow and thrive; and

WHEREAS, a key recommendation outlined in the 2024 Baltimore County Acres of Opportunity: Valued-Added Agriculture, Agritourism, and Craft Beverage Regulatory and Policy Report is to establish an Agriculture Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, it is important to engage with a diverse group of industry leaders and businesses in shaping Baltimore County's Agriculture strategies;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is this 11th day of March 2024, by the County Executive of Baltimore County, Maryland, ordered that the Baltimore County Agriculture Advisory Board shall be, and is hereby, created, and as this Order may be amended by the County Executive, from time to time, the

Advisory Board is charged as follows:

Section I: Baltimore County Agriculture Advisory Board

- A. Purpose. The Baltimore County Agriculture Advisory Board (hereinafter, the "Board") will formulate and make proposals for the advancement of Baltimore County agriculture by serving as an advisory body to the administration, county council, and county and state legislators on matters pertaining to agriculture. Additionally, the Advisory Board will serve as a collaborative forum for partnerships between public and private elements of the local economy to be identified and developed. The Baltimore County Agriculture Advisory Board shall perform the following duties:
1. Provide input to create a comprehensive, data-informed long-term strategy with goals and metrics that tie together agriculture, economic development, workforce development, tourism, and arts and culture activities.
 2. Contribute to reviewing the existing and proposed policy and regulations affecting the agriculture industry.
 3. Identify ways to build a strong agricultural workforce pipeline to meet the current and future needs of the agriculture industry.
 4. In cooperation with Baltimore County Public Schools, enhance the school-based agriculture education within the school system
 5. Increase public awareness of agriculture.
 6. Support the County's efforts to promote and market agriculture.
 7. Serve as a collaborative forum for partnerships between public and private elements of the agriculture industry.
 8. Provide an annual board recommendation report to the County Executive.
- B. Membership.
1. Voting Members. The Commission shall consist of up to twenty-four voting members, including:
 - a) Chairperson and Co-Chairperson.
 - b) Organizational Representatives. The following organizational representatives shall be appointed by the County Executive. An individual appointed under this subsection shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive, concurrent with their term of office with the specified organization, or so long as they hold the specific organizational affiliation.

- i. A representative from the Baltimore County Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Board;
 - ii. A representative from the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District, Board of Supervisors;
 - iii. A representative from Baltimore County Farm Bureau, Board of Directors;
 - iv. A representative from the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Board of Directors.
 - c) Industry Representatives. The following industry representatives shall be appointed by the County Executive.
 - i. Agriculture Education;
 - ii. Agribusiness;
 - iii. Agritourism;
 - iv. Agriculture Service;
 - v. Dairy;
 - vi. Direct Farm Market;
 - vii. Equine;
 - viii. On Farm Alcohol Production;
 - ix. Field Crops;
 - x. Food Processing/Value Added Products;
 - xi. Forestry;
 - xii. Livestock;
 - xiii. Nursery, Greenhouse Grower;
 - xiv. Nursery, Retail Garden Center;
 - xv. Certified Organic;
 - xvi. Poultry;
 - xvii. Urban Farmer;
 - xviii. Vegetable/Fruit;
 - xix. Veterinary;
 - xx. Viticulture.
 - d) An individual appointed under this section may resign their appointment in good standing with at least two weeks advanced written notice provided to the County Executive and Board Chairperson.
2. Non-Voting Members. The following may serve, or may be represented by a designee in an advisory, non-voting capacity:
- i. The Director of the Baltimore County Department of Planning;
 - ii. The Director of the Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals, and Inspections;
 - iii. The Director of the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability;
 - iv. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service;
 - v. Baltimore County Soil Conservation District; and
 - vi. University of Maryland, Baltimore County Extension;

- C. Terms. Members will serve a two-year term, beginning on May 1, 2024. A member may not serve more than two full, consecutive terms.

The terms of appointed members are staggered as required by the terms in effect for members of the Board on May 1, 2024.

At the end of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. Qualifies means the individual appointed has the appropriate knowledge, education, expertise, background, or affiliation consistent with this Executive Order, as determined by the County Executive, in order for the appointee to assist with carrying out the duties of the Board, and who otherwise satisfies membership requirements, in accordance with said Executive Order.

- D. Quorum. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and an affirmative vote of the majority of those present at any meeting shall be sufficient for any official action.

- E. Chair. The Chairperson of the Board shall be selected by the County Executive.

- F. Compensation. A member of the Board:

1. May not receive compensation as a member of the Board; but
2. Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses necessarily incurred, if approved by the Board and provided for in the County's operating budget

- G. Meetings. The Board shall meet at the request of the Chairperson, or the Chairperson's designee, as frequently as required to perform its duties but no less than four times per year. The Board Chair will identify committees to work on matters pertaining to the board mission and duties.

- H. Removal for Incompetence, Misconduct, or Excessive Unexcused Meeting Absences. Upon learning of incompetence or misconduct, and following written notice to the voting member, the County Executive may remove a voting member for incompetence or misconduct, as determined by the County Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Board Chairperson, and following a majority vote by the Advisory Board members present at the meeting calling for the vote to have the voting member removed for incompetence or misconduct. A voting member may also be removed by the County Executive following written notification from the Chairperson to the County Administrative Officer and voting member of the voting member's absence from a majority of the scheduled board meetings within any twelve-month period, unless the voting member has a bona-fide excuse, such as illness or other legitimate reason communicated to the Chairperson. The County Administrative Officer may also remove

a non-voting member or their designee for incompetence or misconduct as determined by the County Administrative Officer, or for failure to attend a majority of the scheduled board meetings within any twelve-month period, unless the non-voting member has a bona-fide excuse, such as illness or other legitimate reason communicated to the Chairperson.


Section II: Staff Assistance

Staff assistance shall be provided by the Baltimore County Office of Agriculture within the Department of Economic and Workforce Development.

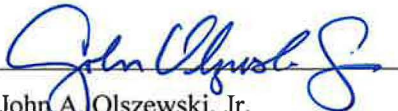
Section III. Effective Date.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately according to its terms, and shall remain in full force and effect, unless revoked by the County Executive.

ATTEST:



Dawn Kile
Executive Secretary



John A. Olszewski, Jr.
County Executive

Reviewed for Form and Legal Sufficiency and approved for Execution.



James R. Benjamin, Jr.
County Attorney