

**Maryland Food Center Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

7801 Oceano Avenue  
Jessup, Maryland 20794  
September 21, 2023

Present:

Gail Yeiser, Chair  
Gerardo Martinez  
Carlton Brown  
Kerry Greer  
Jim Eichhorst  
Susan Summers  
Ryan Phillips

Ben Seigel, for the Honorable Brooke Lierman, Comptroller

Wendy Scott-Scott Napier, for Atif Chaudhry, Secretary, Department of General Services

Mark Powell, for Kevin Atticks, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Dr. Darren Jarboe, for Dr. Craig Beyrouthy, Dean and Director, University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mark Petrauskas, Assistant Attorney General  
Dr. Donald J. Darnall, Executive Director, MFCA  
Angela Hopkins, Senior Director of Real Estate and Finance, MFCA  
Gary Decker, Director of Market Operations, MFCA  
Peggy Torre, Executive Projects Coordinator, MFCA

Guests: Hanu Pershad, Human Resources Manager, MFCA

**Meeting Convened**

Ms. Gail Yeiser called Members of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Food Center Authority (MFCA) to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 21, 2023.

## **I. Regular Session**

### **A. Approval of Minutes**

- A motion was made by Ms. Susan Summers to accept the Minutes from the June 22, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Ryan Phillips and unanimously approved. (Exhibit 1)

### **B. MFCA Updates**

- Dr. Donald Darnall introduced our new Human Resources Manager, Mr. Hanu Pershad. He is replacing Amy Broadwater, who has retired after a long career with the MFCA. Hanu gave a brief introduction to the Board members of his background and areas of expertise.

- Dr. Darnall introduced our newest Board member, Mr. Gerardo Martinez. He comes to the MFCA with much experience in the agriculture community. He currently owns and operates a farm in Edgewater, Maryland.

- Dr. Donald Darnall updated the Board that BioEnergy Devco did exercise both renewal options and the lease is now in effect through February 26, 2048.

- Dr. Donald Darnall advised the Board that we are continuing to coordinate with NAFCO, Howard County Government, Merritt, Ms. Myriem Seabron and Mark Petrauskas (from the Attorney General's office) to finalize the Howard County Reforestation requirements for the development of the area behind the Maryland Market Center.

- Dr. Donald Darnall provided the Board with an update on the Dock Expansion Project at the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market. MFCA just recently reviewed the current drawings with the architects. We still need to update and get feedback from the affected tenants at that market. We are hoping to go out for bid for the initial phase approximately June/July of 2024.

- Mr. Gary Decker let the Board know the sidewalks that the County required the MFCA to install should be completed soon. He also gave an update on the Stream Restoration project. The community feedback meeting was held, as required by Howard County.

- Ms. Angela Hopkins let the Board know that our audit is currently underway. The MFCA are using new auditors for FY 23, and the audit report is due by September 30. Ms. Angela Hopkins will provide a summary of the audited financial statements for the Board at the next meeting.

C. **Statement of Revenue and Expenses affecting private tenants and users of Authority Projects** affecting private tenants and users of the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market and the Maryland Market Center were reviewed by the Board. Both markets have been made aware of these statements. A motion was made by Ms. Susan Jarboe to accept the R & D's and was seconded by Mr. Jim Eichhorst, with all in agreement.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jim Eichhorst, seconded by Mr. Mark Powell, and unanimously approved.