

RESOLUTION NO. 13 - 20

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A LOCAL POLICY FOR THE
MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION (MALPF)
EASEMENT ACQUISITION PROGRAM IN WORCESTER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Worcester County is a certified county that participates in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation's (MALPF) easement acquisition program, which enables interested landowners to sell perpetual agricultural easements on their property to the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, individual Maryland counties may adopt additional eligibility criteria for MALPF easement acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, the statewide criteria for eligibility to apply to sell a MALPF easement (minimum size and soil requirements) can include properties enrolled in conservation programs that remove land from agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland have determined that land that is primarily removed from agricultural production and enrolled in a paid conservation program should not be considered for agricultural easement purchase as the program's purpose should be to preserve active farmland; and

WHEREAS, owners of land primarily enrolled in paid conservation programs are receiving annual payments already; and

WHEREAS, although land primarily enrolled in paid conservation programs tend to be marginal and unlikely to rank highly enough to receive purchase offers, all applications must be processed and, if forwarded to the State, appraisals must be carried out which are paid for from County and State funds; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners have determined that in order to make the best use of the limited funds for agricultural land protection and to preserve the best farmland in the County, a local policy is needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland that in addition to State policies regarding minimum applicant requirements of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easement acquisition program, the following local policy is hereby adopted:

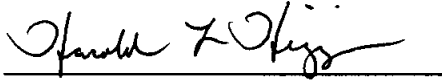
1. For properties enrolled in conservation programs (including but not limited to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Conservation Reserve Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program), Worcester County applicants to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easement acquisition program will only be accepted if the conservation program encumbers sixty-six percent (66.0%) or less of the property.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

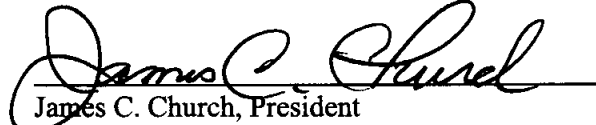
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of August, 2013.

ATTEST:

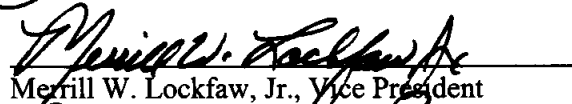
WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



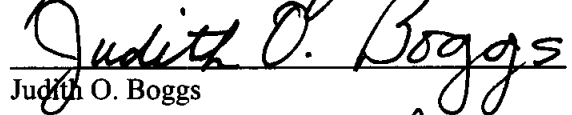
Harold L. Higgins
Chief Administrative Officer



James C. Church, President



Merrill W. Lockfaw, Jr., Vice President



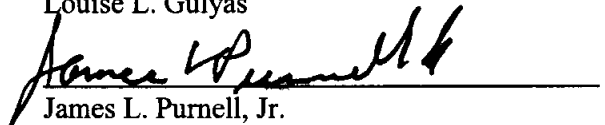
Judith O. Boggs



Madison J. Bunting, Jr.

Absent

Louise L. Gulyas



James L. Purnell, Jr.



Virgil L. Shockley