

RESOLUTION NO. 15 - 21

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
WORCESTER COUNTY AG-TOURISM SIGNING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland (County Commissioners) have declared that agriculture is the backbone of Worcester County and worthy of certain efforts to enhance and expand its visibility; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing interest and demand for the general public to experience various facets of agricultural production and farm life and to purchase agricultural products directly from the producing farms, all of which has collectively been described as Ag-Tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) have recently joined forces to develop a program to install Ag-Tourism signs along Maryland State Highways; and

WHEREAS, in order for local farms to participate in the State signage program the local county must establish their own Ag-Tourism signing program; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners have determined that it is desirous for Worcester County to participate in the State program and to that end have approve a local Ag-Tourism signing program; and

WHEREAS, § ZS 1-324(f) of the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article provides that the County Commissioners may erect certain signs for governmental purposes without complying with the terms of the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article with respect to off premise signs where it is determined that such signs are necessary to promote local tourism;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland that:

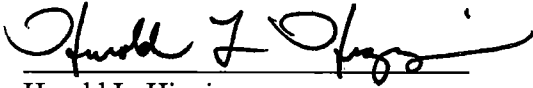
1. The County Commissioners find that:
 - a. Preservation and promotion of local agriculture, and particularly Ag-Tourism, is of vital interest to both the economy and general well-being of Worcester County, Maryland; and
 - b. Participation in the State Ag-Tourism signing program and the establishment of a local signing program is desirable; and
2. The County Commissioners have determined that those signs erected by the County in conjunction with the State Ag-Tourism signing program are necessary and appropriate to promote local tourism; and
3. The County Commissioners hereby adopt the Worcester County Ag-Tourism Signing Program as attached hereto.

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

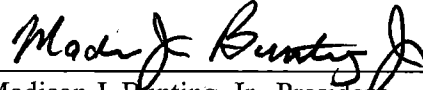
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of July, 2015.

ATTEST:

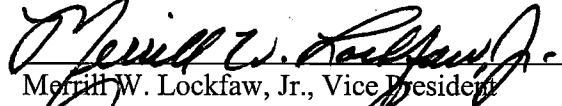
WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Harold L. Higgins
Chief Administrative Officer



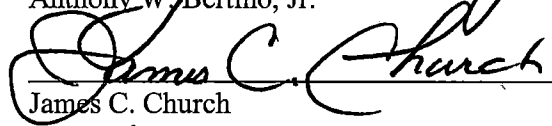
Madison J. Bunting, Jr., President



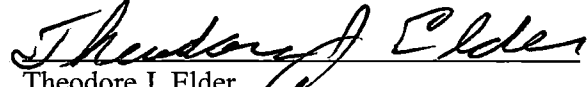
Merrill W. Lockfaw, Jr., Vice President



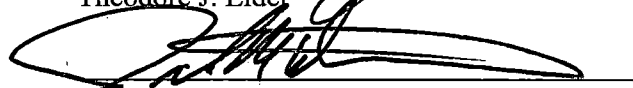
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.



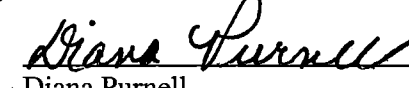
James C. Church



Theodore J. Elder



Joseph M. Mitrecic



Diana Purnell