

Joint Committee Retreat
Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources
House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources
Graves Mountain Lodge
205 Graves Mountain Lane, Old Blue Ridge Turnpike, Syria, VA 22743

Monday October 3, 2022

12:30 PM Joint Committee Meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge
The Joint Committee will convene in the Large Lounge

1:00 PM Tours for the Members of the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees

NOTE: Due to space limitations and security concerns , tours are **NOT** open to the public.

The Committee will visit:

1:45 PM Remington Solar Power Facility, 11870 Lucky Hill Road, Remington 22734

- Learn about a utility scale solar facility
- A public private partnership with the Commonwealth and Microsoft
- Facility has been operational since 2017
- 20-megawatt project built on approximately 125 acres of land

2:45 PM Cool Lawn Dairy Farm, 11241 Merry Run Lane, Remington 22734

- Look at conservation practices on a dairy farm
- Learn about challenges of dairy farming

4:15 PM Culpeper Battlefields Brandy Station Park, Brandy Station 22714

- A brief overview of the new state park proposal. It will represent 1,700 acres of Cedar Mountain Battlefield and Brandy Station Battlefield, but will also include elements of the battlefields at Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station
- DCR will also share their role in waste/recycling efforts at state parks

6:00 PM Old House, 18351 Corkys Lane, Culpeper 22701

- Learn about a value-added agriculture enterprise
- A family-owned winery, distillery, and brewery

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Joint Committee Meeting - Graves Mountain Lodge, Large Lounge

8:30 AM Issues Impacting the Future of Farming

- Statistical Analysis “Farms Under Threat”
 - **Jamie Mieru**, American Farmland Trust Mid-Atlantic Regional Director
 - **Jacob Gilley**, American Farmland Trust Mid-Atlantic Sustainable Grazing Manager
- Development of Prime Farmland and Forest Mapping Tool
 - **Dr. Dan Goerlich**, Associate Director, Economy, Community and Food, Virginia Cooperative Extension –
 - **Pat Donovan**, GIS Laboratory Manager, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech
- George Washington Carver Agriculture Research Center
 - **Carl Stafford**, Senior Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, VA Cooperative Extension

9:45 AM Break

10:00 AM Environmental Credits – Benefits and Challenges

- Emerging Carbon Credit Markets
 - **Jennifer Gagnon**, Coordinator, Virginia Forestry Landowner Education Program, Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources
- Nutrient Credit Banks and Challenges – Update from DEQ Workgroup
 - **Melanie Davenport**, Water Division Permitting Director, Department of Environmental Quality
- Update on HB206 Solar Mitigation Workgroup
 - **Mike Dowd**, Air and Renewable Energy Division Director, Department of Environmental Quality

11:00 AM Learning About Waste Diversion & Recycling

- Update from the Waste Diversion and Recycling Task Force
 - **Kathryn Perszyk**, Director of Land Protection and Revitalization, Department of Environmental Quality

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Understanding Biogas

- **Jessica Niekrasz**, Vice President, American Biogas Council

1:45 PM Energy and Market Opportunities to Reduce Wood Waste

- **Mike Davis**, Fuel Procurement Manager, Novec Energy Production / Halifax County Biomass

2:30 PM Adjourn