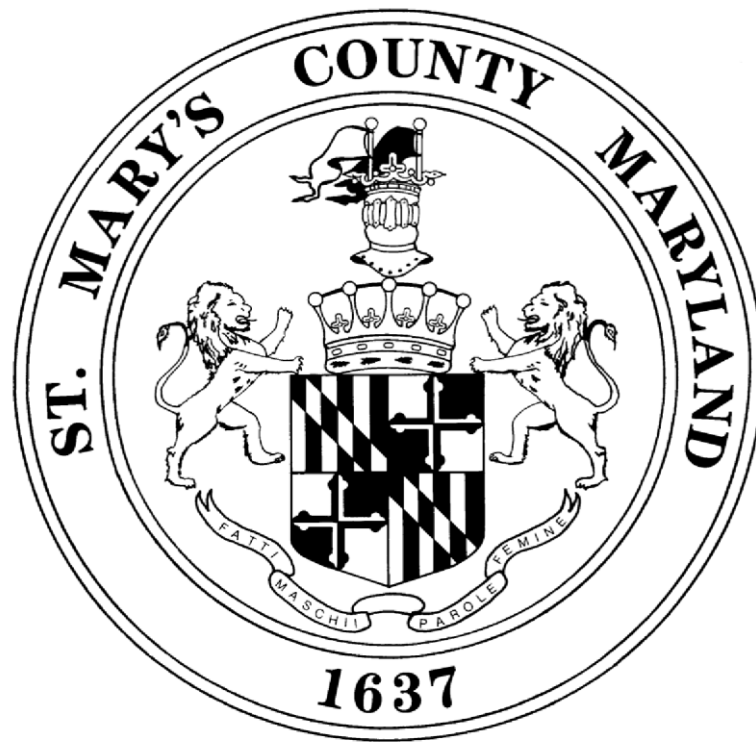


St. Mary's County Animal Control Advisory Board



2020 Annual Report

**ST. MARY’S COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Introduction

The St. Mary’s County Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) was adopted as a Board on January 8, 2019 effective January 22, 2019.

The Board shall advise the Commissioners St. Mary’s County (CSMC) on all matters relating to the development and management of the Animal Shelter and the St. Mary’s County Animal Control Ordinance. The purpose of the Board is to assist in animal shelter site selection, building design, emergency plans, and policies and procedures. The Board will review and discuss budgets and operational plans of the animal shelter and advise on animal shelter staffing and spay and neuter policies. The Board will assist in the development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan for the Animal Shelter, serve as a liaison to the community to increase support and awareness of the Animal Shelter, and review and make recommendations on Animal Control Ordinance.

The membership of the ACAB shall be eight (8) citizen members; the Animal Control Supervisor from St. Mary’s County Government or other member of Emergency Services designated by the Director (ex officio) and a representative from the St. Mary’s County Health Department.

Current Members	Position	Appointment Date	Expiration Date
Dr. Pat Richardson*	Chair	07/01/2020	06/30/2023
Melissa Carnes	Vice-Chair	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Melinda Brown	Secretary	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Rita Weaver	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Dr. David Langford	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Aubrey Briggs	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2020
Drema Ballengee-Grunst*	Member	07/01/2020	06/30/2023
Cesar Afanador	Member	03/10/2020	12/31/2022
Susan Morris	Member (ex-officio)		
Joy Wilson	Member (ex-officio)		

**indicates second consecutive term*

Meetings

The ACAB has regular meetings every first Wednesday on every odd month. The regularly scheduled May 2020 meeting was canceled due to the state and county restrictions put in place during the Coronavirus response and prior to remote meeting capabilities being established. One special meeting was called in the Month of February to review the shelter staffing study.

Attendance

The St. Mary’s County ACAB held five (5) meetings in 2020 with one (1) special meeting called with four (4) absences for the year.

Elections

Election for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary Positions were held in January 2020. Dr. Pat Richardson was elected Chairperson, Melissa Carnes was elected Vice-Chair, and Melinda Brown was elected Secretary.

Shelter Site Selection and Building Design

The St. Mary's County ACAB was kept informed of the progress of the shelter design and build status.

Shelter Staffing, Budgets, and Policy

The ACAB was presented the animal shelter staffing study during the February 2020 special meeting. The board requested additional studies to determine the cost and feasibility of a contractor workforce or a combination government and contractor force. The request was denied by the St. Mary's County Commissioners.

ACAB Subcommittees

The Animal Shelter subcommittee met twice last year for the purpose of developing a priority list of items for the new shelter and livestock area. The list was disseminated and shared with the Department of Public Works.

The ACAB Animal Control Ordinance subcommittee, the Public Education subcommittee and the Bylaws subcommittee did not host meetings during 2020. The Public Education subcommittee reached out to staff from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter in Calvert County for information regarding their approach and statistics on the medical needs of animals received at their clinic. Additionally, information on statistical trends at the Tri County Animal Shelter was acquired through a Public Information Act (PIA) request and shared with ACAB members.

Conclusion

The ACAB is dedicated to serving the citizens and domestic animals of our community by advising the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on Animal Shelter and Animal Control Ordinance matters. During 2020, the county made significant progress toward the establishment of the St. Mary's County Animal Shelter by finalizing the design of the building and moving forward with initial construction phases, to include submission of site plan and building permits. The shelter is scheduled to break ground in early 2021. Due to the state and county restrictions put in place during the Coronavirus response, the ACAB sub-committees were limited in their ability to meet. The professionalism and support of relevant county staff, specifically, the Department of Emergency Services and the Department of Public Works, was integral to our success in 2020. We are looking forward to the developments ahead while serving on this board in 2021.

Questions or Comments about this report are welcome, and, may be sent to the Animal Control Advisory Board via the Secretary mbrown20659@gmail.com.