

**THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 @ 1:00 PM
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING
41770 BALDRIDGE STREET
LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Present:

Chairman David Willenborg

Vice Chair Richard Watts

Member George Anas

Member Richard Shin

Member Barbara Hill

Chris Beaver, Attorney

Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary

Kevin Hall, Inspector

Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

Not present:

Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Anas made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Member Hill made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on April 10, 2025, seconded by Vice Chair Watts; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Extension of Conditional Approvals**

The Creek – Arthur C. Brinkley and Celeste C. Baird - Requesting 60-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Arthur C. Brinkley and Celeste C. Baird appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Ms. Baird stated that they didn't think that they would need another extension, but the grease trap situation has caused a bigger issue, and the Health Department is requesting more information on items that they have already approved. Ms. Baird is requesting a 90-day extension to be safe rather than a 60-day extension she originally asked for. Vice Chair Watts made a motion for a 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

McKay's grapes, grains, and gatherings – Thomas F. McKay - Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Thomas McKay was not present when called. The Board moved the request to the end of the meeting should Mr. McKay arrive later.

Mrs. Laschelle McKay arrived on behalf of Mr. Kay and was heard after the violation cases were concluded.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Violations**

DJ's One Stop Shop – Employee- Francis Bernard Istvan – is an employee of a license holder and sold or provided alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one years in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Francis Bernard Istvan appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Istvan stated that the violation did occur. Mr. Istvan explained that he made a mistake and probably should not have worked that day because he was tired and has many health issues. He stated he didn't ask for ID because the lady was very confident and, in the past, CI's seemed nervous. Vice Chair Watts made a motion for a fine of \$150.00, seconded by Member Anas; motion carried.

DJ's One Stop Shop - Licensee(s): Manmohan S. Malhi and Amar S. Malhi - Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County

Manmohan S. Malhi and Amar S. Malhi appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mr. Manmohan S. Malhi stated that the violation did occur. Manmohan S. Malhi stated that he has an ID check scanner and signage that all patrons have to show ID. Mr. Malhi explained that he personally trains all employees and has made these changes since he got his previous violation. The Chair stated his concern was the effect this could have on the license since it was a second offense and he personally does not like to take away a business's license. Member Shin made a motion for a \$1000.00 fine and RAST training for the licensees. The licensees were reminded that they also had \$250 held in abeyance from his previous offense and would need to pay that as well. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Watts; motion carried 3:2 Chairman Willenborg and Vice Chair Watts opposed.

Pax River Ale House – Melissa Akaras and Jane Carroll - Purchase of alcoholic beverages from an unapproved source in violation of Section 6-311(b)(1) of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Section 5.04(e)(1) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Melissa Akaras appeared before the Board and was sworn in. A letter from Mrs. Jane Carroll waiving her right to speak was received. Mrs. Akaras stated that the violation did occur. This violation was discovered during a routine inspection by Inspector Hall. Mrs. Akaras explained that her General Manager had made a bad decision when making this purchase, but she wasn't trying to hide anything. The General Manager had run out of a

certain beer and knew she needed it before the next order was delivered so she sent someone to ABC Liquors to purchase it and put the receipt in the files. Vice Chair Watts made a motion for a fine of \$1000.00, seconded by Chairman Willenborg; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS continued

McKay's grapes, grains, and gatherings – Thomas F. McKay- Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Mrs. McKay explained Mr. McKay's absence to the Board and requested to be able to speak on his behalf. Mr. McKay was contacted via phone and stated that he was giving permission to Mrs. McKay to speak on his behalf. Mrs. McKay is a member of the LLC but not a licensee. Mrs. McKay was sworn in and went on to present the request. The landlord will be turning the premises over to McKay's on June 1 and they hope to be open by August. Vice Chair Watts made a motion for a 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

For the month of April, Deputy Myers reported:

- 17 Alcohol Compliance checks – 3 alcohol violations
- 13 DUI's- Sheriff / 5 DUI's - MSP
- 2 stationary surveillance – Fitzies Marina and Pub/ Back Road Inn - no violations
- 5 Alcohol Violation Summon served.
- 20 postings on businesses who failed to pick up their renewed license, prohibiting alcohol sales/service until the license was picked up
- 5 State Park surveillance - no violations
- Bermuda Spring Bar Crawl – no violations

BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT

For the month of April, Inspector Hall reported:

- 22 postings on businesses who failed to pick up their renewed license, prohibiting alcohol sales/service until the license was picked up
- Posted and checked non-renewed licenses for no alcohol on premises
- Verified 6 businesses with tax holds had removed and secured all alcohol

ST MARY'S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION

Mr. Guy Combs attended the meeting to represent the SMLBA. He updated the Board on the legislative sessions alcohol bills that failed: grocery store bill and the tax & tip bill that included mandatory sexual harassment training.

BOARD MEMBERS TIME

- **Discussion on when a suspension should be made effective**

Mr. Combs remained to hear the Boards discussion on suspensions. The Chair inquired why the LBA would want a delay in a suspension. He explained that a licensee could already ask the Board to delay a suspension at the time of the violation hearing. Mr. Combs stated that he would check with the LBA as to their reason for wanting to delay a suspension until after the 30-day appeal period.

The Board discussed the reasons for appeal and concerns of delaying suspensions, especially when the violation is a peace and safety issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Watts made a motion to adjourn at 2:25 pm; seconded by Member Anas; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Hildebrand, Recording Secretary

David Willenborg, Chairman