ABC Meeting

**Minutes**

# February 26, 2019, 7pm

**Frederick County Office of Economic Development**

* Council Members in attendance: Dick Bittner, Tom Barse, Gary Grossnickle, Brian House, Charlotte Brewster, Sarah Welty, and Katie Stevens
* Dairy (update by Gary Grossnickle) – dairy industry taking a hit across the country right now, Frederick losing several farms over the coming months. Industry headed to 3,000-5,000 cow herds or direct to consumer, milk is averaging $16 a hundredweight, with a large volume of fluid milk in the market.

* Organic (update by Dick Bittner) – wet weather has made it especially challenging for organic industry, looking to diversify crops that are planted and ability to maintain those crops.
* NRCS (update by Charlotte Brewster) – Government shut down made it challenging as trying to figure out the 2018 farm bill. In April next group of farmers will find out if they get funding for projects.
* Equine (update by Sarah Welty) – Equine industry is concerned with protesting in the city, how can this be controlled in the future. Oakdale school system is looking to add an Agriculture program in middle schools.
* Agritourism (update by Brian House) – 2018 was a good year, for the Christmas tree season, but hoping for dryer weather this year.
* Craft Beverages (update by Tom Barse) – three brewery bills in Annapolis which would have a great impact on the craft beverage industry in Frederick. There is a demand for 2 row barley to be malted in Frederick as well as regular winter wheat.