

Article - Agriculture

2-510.

(e) (1) (i) Within 30 days after the receipt of an application to sell, the Foundation shall notify the governing body of the county containing the subject land, that an application to sell has been received.

(ii) 1. Within 60 days of the notification, the county governing body shall advise the Foundation as to local approval or disapproval of the application. The Foundation shall grant a 30-day extension of this response period if the county governing body applies to the Foundation for an extension and states its reasons for seeking an extension.

2. Upon local approval of the application, the county governing body shall submit a statement of the total current development rights on the subject land to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, along with the application approval notification. The statement shall include the total number of development rights that have been subdivided or transferred.

(2) In deciding whether to approve the application, the county governing body shall:

(i) Receive the recommendation of the county agricultural preservation advisory board established under § 2-504.1 of this subtitle; and

(ii) Rank all applications based on:

1. [its] ITS locally established priorities as approved by the Foundation, which, for purposes of enhancing competitive bidding, may include a system that ranks properties in ascending order with respect to the proportion obtained by dividing the asking price by the value of the easement; AND

2. ~~ANY GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE FOUNDATION TO IDENTIFY PROPERTIES WHOSE PURCHASE WILL FURTHER THE GOALS OF THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

(3) (I) IN CONSULTATION WITH COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES, THE FOUNDATION SHALL ADOPT GUIDELINES TO IDENTIFY EASEMENTS FOR PURCHASE THAT FURTHER THE GOALS OF THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

(II) GUIDELINES ADOPTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF:

1. LOCATION IN A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA OF THE COUNTY;

2. SOIL AND OTHER LAND CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY;