

LABQUEST Minutes for Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Announcement: The next in-person LABQUEST meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 12:30, place TBD.

Betsy Bretz thanked everyone for coming and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Rob Richardson facilitated the remainder of the meeting. We thank WOMC for allowing us to meet in their board room.

White Oak Medical Center (WOMC)

Nichole Reilly represented the WOMC since the executives were off site. She reported:

- White Oak's Got Talent show in October was a great hit – some great singers.
- There are presently no covid cases at the hospital.
- A mission's trip to Peru is being put together for October 2026 where they will provide medical care.
- There was a discussion about sending a letter of support to the governor urging him to appoint Dr. Patsy McNeil, with Adventist Health Care, to the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC). Dan Wilhelm and Peter Myo Khin had sent letters from the Greater Colesville Citizens Assn. and Tamarac Triangle Civic Assn., respectively. Rob agreed to send one from LABQUEST.

Viva White Oak (VWO)

The County Executive has submitted his Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) package to the council for their action. That package will formally be introduced by the council on Tuesday, November 18, and they will set a public hearing date of January 13 at 1:30. The maximum amount for which bonds could be issued is \$420M. There will be multiple draws against that limit with the first one expected to be \$150M. Our objective is to get the first draw approved so MCB can start site work. There are multiple issues related to subsequent work but those can be addressed while Phase 1 work is underway. Based upon what Jewru Bandeh said, the TIF approach will likely be used for other major developments in the county.

Science Report

Charles Warr highlighted some items from his November 7 report, including the following:

- FDA has approved 'imlunestran' (Inluriyo) from Eli Lilly as an oral treatment for breast cancer.
- There is a link in the report about the use and tips on how to wear compression socks.
- Researchers from the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC, Spain), and West China Hospital (Sichuan University, China) have developed a bioactive nanoparticle that can pass the blood/brain barrier. The treatment repairs the barrier's ability to selectively expel the brain's metabolic waste products that makes up the amyloid plaque characteristic of Alzheimer's Disease.
- Researchers have identified causal relationship between Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and exposure to cadmium and lead in air pollution.
- Many millions of chickens worldwide have been euthanized after being infected with bird flu from the droppings of wild birds. Japanese tech company NTT has invented a self-guided, laser-

toting drone to scare them off. Certain wild migratory water birds, like ducks and geese, are not affected by the flu.

- Ezekiel bread is highly recommended for its health benefits. It is found in the frozen food section of the grocery.
- The state and the Conowingo Dam operator, Constellation Energy, reached a \$340 million agreement to achieve agreed-upon water quality standards by mitigating impacts from the dam's operation. The dam on the Susquehanna River is one of the largest privately owned dams in the US. The river provides 40% of the water going into the bay.
- The science report contains information about multiple solar projects around the world.
- Solar equipment has been installed on balconies for years in Berlin and in Utah. It is nearing approval in the NY state legislature.
- The last coal-fired plant in New England has been shut down.

From the November 14 report:

- FDA has approved the oral administration, non-hormonal Bayer (Leverkusen Germany) medication for the treatment of menopause.
- Phase 3 human trial investigators reported favorable preliminary results concerning an oral weight reduction medication.
- There are five articles dealing in geothermal energy. Some of the systems can serve an entire neighborhood or small town.
- Revolution Wind has restarted construction of their 65 turbine, 704 MW wind farm that can power 350,000 homes offshore in Rhode Island and Connecticut. They have also connected the first turbine.

FDA

It was reported that FDA had named longtime oncology chief Richard Pazdur as the new Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Director.

Montgomery County

Jewru Bandeh reported the following:

- A job fair will be held on November 6.
- A ribbon cutting event was held for the new Federal Job Center in Wheaton on Oct 9.
- The Executive is working on the capital and operating budgets for next year.
- He is working to have District 14 and 20 representatives at the December 3 East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) meeting so that the board could indicate where east county needs state support.

Submitted by Dan Wilhelm