

Baltimore Metropolitan Council



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Anne Arundel County
Baltimore City
Baltimore County
Carroll County
Harford County
Howard County

BMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS JANUARY 23, 2007

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Leopold, Anne Arundel County Executive
James T. Smith, Jr., Baltimore County Executive
Julia W. Gouge, President, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
David R. Craig, Harford County Executive
Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sheila Dixon, Mayor, Baltimore City

OTHERS PRESENT

Lorraine Costello, Harford County
Andy Frank Baltimore City
Alan Friedman, Anne Arundel County
Rick Gay, Baltimore County Public Schools
Joan Kennedy, Howard County
John Miller, Harford County Public Schools
Jeff Parker, Baltimore City Public Schools
Steve Powell, Carroll County
Frank Principe, Baltimore County

BMC STAFF

Larry W. Klimovitz, Executive Director
Regina Aris
Harry Bain
Harvey S. Bloom
Monica Haines
Barbara Herron
Ryan O'Doherty
Sandra K. Spears

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairman/Commissioner Julia Gouge. Since County Executive Craig was running a few minutes late, Commissioner Gouge postponed taking up any voting issues until County Executive Craig arrived. She introduced Mr. Rick Gay, Purchasing Manager for the Baltimore County Public Schools, to report on the work of the BRCPC Education Committee. Mr. Gay introduced the other members that were in attendance and summarized what the school committee is currently working on.

Mr. Gay reported the following:

- BCPS and the members of the BRCPC coordinated and organized a statewide Schools Purchasing Officer Conference in November, 2006;
- The School Working Group also included representatives from the Washington Area COG and the Eastern Shore Purchasing Consortium in their bi-monthly meetings to exchange information regarding other cooperative purchasing groups and to create additional co-op opportunities within the state;
- Members of the Schools Working Group, along with the Association of School Business Officials, lead the legislative initiative to increase from \$15,000 - \$25,000 the bid requirement threshold limit for public schools;
- Anne Arundel County Public Schools sponsored a textbook purchasing review for members of the School Working Group. The purpose of this meeting was to share the acquisition practices for textbooks in each respective district with the expectation of developing improved business practices and strategies for negotiations; School Working Group members worked with ASBO MD/DC in the development of a statewide bid/contracts posting web page that went live in September, 2006;
- School Working Group members are currently working with ASBO MD/DC in the development and piloting of a statewide e-procurement shopping platform that is projected to go live in May, 2007;
- Howard County Public Schools conducted a natural gas RFP that also included Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County Public Schools;
- Carroll County Public Schools conducted electricity RFP with Anne Arundel and Carroll County Public Schools;
- Anne Arundel County Public Schools was the lead agency on a cut sheet paper (copy, laser printers and duplicators) reverse auction. BCPS price for regular 8.5 x 11 copy paper is now \$2.39, compared to Anne Arundel/Harford price of \$2.28 and Howard County's price of \$2.311;

→ Additional US Communities cooperative contracts have been awarded by various school systems for Home Depot, Tech Depot, Hickman Roofing, Auto Zone, and SportTime; National Joint Powers Alliance; Staples, Scott & Williams Modular, and Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council; Corporate Express, Tremco, School Specialty, and BSN Sports and Grainger; Baltimore County Public Schools will take the lead in conducting a reverse auction for #2 fuel oil in 2007 that will include all members of the BRCPC. This experience with reverse auctions has made the School Working Group a national leader in conducting procurements using this methodology.

County Executive Ulman was interested in how school systems decide to become involved. Mr. Gay stated that some of school systems partner, some don't, and a decision is made on an individual basis. Mr. Klimovitz stated that several school systems' primary focus was to lock in that the longest term fixed price, primarily for budgeting purposes. County Executive Ulman stated that he was impressed with what he heard. This was followed by a brief discussion on the cooperative purchase of textbooks. It was reported that Baltimore County will save up to \$400,000 over the next year through negotiations with suppliers. Texas, Florida, and California lead the market in volume. Considering this and volatile transportation costs, publishers can't offer us lower than those three states.

Mr. Frank asked what Baltimore City's part was in this area. Mr. Gay stated that the Baltimore City representative is Jeff Parker and participates as warranted. County Executive Smith congratulated the committee on its work and a good job.

Mr. Klimovitz stated that the education subcommittee is just one of many you will hear about over the course of time. He added that in subsequent meetings, the Board will also be hearing from the Urban Area Work Group (UAWG), which typically gives an update to the BMC Board at each meeting. They are currently going through a membership transition and met last week in Howard County. Their reports will resume at the next BMC Board meeting.

With County Executive Craig's arrival and joining the meeting, Commissioner Gouge asked for introductions then calling for nominations for BMC Chair and Vice-Chair from the floor for Calendar Year 2007. County Executive Smith motioned to nominate County Executive Craig for chair and County Executive Ulman for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by County Executive Smith and unanimously approved by voice vote. Commissioner Gouge congratulated County Executive Craig and Ulman and wished them well for their leadership.

Action Item – CY 2007 Meeting Dates and Times

Mr. Klimovitz stated that from this point forward Commissioner Minnich will be representing Carroll County, replacing President Julia Gouge, on the BMC Board and Mr. Steve Powell will continue to be the Carroll County Management Committee representative.

Mr. Klimovitz continued by stating that over the past year we have had a difficult time maintaining quorums at our quarterly Director meetings. He gave a history, stating that in the past, the BMC Executive Board meeting dates have been coordinated with the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) in order to maximize efficiencies of members' time. This resulted in four meetings per year in each capacity. Recognizing this, FHWA has indicated their cursory agreement to consider reducing the number of times the BRTB elected officials must meet in a given year, the primary purpose of which is to receive briefings and allow an opportunity for concerned and interested citizens to address local elected officials on transportation matters as they relate to the MPO process.

Mr. Bloom stated that there would have to be an amendment to the BRTB bylaws, as well as time allowed for public comment. County Executive Smith asked if requiring only one meeting/year would result in too crowded an agenda or unacceptable time constraints on persons asking to speak publicly. Mr. Bloom stated that he didn't think that would be the case. This was followed by a brief discussion on the times of the meetings. The question was asked if in order to increase public participation we should make the meeting time later. Mr. Bloom responded by saying that we have tried different times and dates and it really didn't seem to make a difference. It was suggested that the dates for these meeting could be April, July or October. Mr. Bloom stated that the new long-range plan will require public comment, so he suggested a meeting in October. Subject to FHWA acceptance and receiving public comment, the Board agreed with amending the BRTB Bylaws to require a minimum of one elected official meeting per year with the understanding that this was a minimum requirement only, and that additional gatherings of the BRTB local elected officials could be scheduled as warranted.

Action Item 5 – FY 2008 Budget Requirements

Mr. Klimovitz referenced the budget sheets in the packets, which includes tentative UPWP pass thru amounts. He stated that the chart shows anticipated requirements for FY 2008 local dues and program support payments. He noted that these amounts remain unchanged for the sixth consecutive year. He also stated that even though funding allocations from FTA and FHWA would normally dictate a higher match from local jurisdictions than what baseline dues cover, the differential is more than met with BMC's continued financial stability and higher income generation. The Reservoir Program dues are based on the amount of water taken from reservoirs. These amounts are provided by local DPWs. The Cooperative Purchasing Program pays for the BRCPC coordinator and expenses; ENDZONE dues haven't changed in years. County Executive Ulman asked how the dues levels compare to previous years. Mr. Klimovitz stated that they have remained the same for the past six years. Mr. Klimovitz also referred to the December income statement in the packet. A motion was made by County Executive Leopold to accept the recommended dues level for FY 08 and seconded by County Executive Smith. The

motion was unanimously approved by voice vote, enabling formulation of the proposed BMC FY 2008 budget for consideration of the meeting to be held on April 24, 2007.

Action Item 6 – Consideration of Grant Request and In-kind Contributions for George Washington University Proposal.

Mr. Klimovitz referenced the proposal distributed in the packet for a request for BMC financial support of a study entitled “*Understanding Hispanic Maryland – Phase I*”. Mr. Klimovitz stated that Hispanics make up 5.4% of population, 24% of which do not have command of the English language. The purpose of the study is to inventory and document the means by which interaction is provided to the Hispanic community and suggest improvements. The requested GWU support amount would be \$5,000 total for Phase I (first six months of study). There would be two staff people working on this, along with support from the State Human Relations and the Governor’s Commission on Hispanic Affairs. We have the funds in the current budget to support this request. The data and understandings derived from this beginning study correlates well with BMC’s outreach activities in regard to the UPWP and MPO process. Funds are available in the FY 2007 budget to support this project. There is no commitment to future support of any additional study phases.

County Executive Smith questioned Phase II of the project. Mr. Klimovitz stated that it would take place in FY 08. County Executive Smith stated that the letter states it will be done without outside sources, and he wanted clarification. County Executive Ulman asked when we would expect to get the work product. Mr. Klimovitz stated it would be in two years. Mr. Bloom stated that with regard to Phase I and II, our plan requires that we work with minority groups. We are doing various activities, so this buys us what we need. Commissioner Minnich made a motion to approve and it was seconded by County Executive Smith. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote to support this grant request.

Program Updates

Completion of Phase II BRAC Transportation Analysis

Mr. Klimovitz discussed the BMC component of the overall BRAC analysis. He stated that BMC served as a subcontractor thru the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) to provide the transportation analysis. The last component of the study was delivered to MDP in December, but not yet released to the public. The BMC analysis was coordinated with your BRTB representatives and Planning Directors. This analysis should be viewed as a “point of departure” from which to begin future BRAC-related planning efforts.

County Executive Smith stated that Senator Mikulski is making a big pitch for BRAC impacted funding. He asked if we have been coordinating with them. Mr. Klimovitz stated that we have had no contact. Mr. Bloom stated that MDOT has been working from the planning and construction standpoint. County Executive Ulman stated that folks are coming to him and are roughly on the same page. He suggested that anything we could do to combine our efforts would be helpful.

Mr. Klimovitz stated that as a regional group if everyone joined together, there would be a lot of clout. He added that each county has a contact. He also offered any help from the BMC to aid county staffs. County Executive Ulman stated that from Howard County's perspective, we should be talking to other jurisdictions to get on the same page. County Executive Smith asked if BMC could review the plans and pick out priorities taking into account BRAC. He suggested that after this review, a package be put together to consider as a group to approach a regional plan geared to BRAC. He stated that this would also show the core priorities in the region that have to be addressed.

County Executive Leopold stated that he recently met with Representative Ruppertsberger and Secretary Porcari to expedite the construction schedule. Looking at this the I-175 completion date is 10 years. We need to accelerate that schedule, so whatever BMC staff could do would be helpful. We'd like to see it in place as growth develops not after. Mr. Klimovitz stated that the BMC has the expertise, but lacks political backing. We have enough planning documents in this organization, in light of BRAC. We should try to unite around core transportation package and target the Feds. Mr. Bloom stated that locals could put together within 60 day time period. This would be an ideal time. If we can get to them and all locals regional priorities and preparation of next transportation plan in July, August, and September, it would be a great idea to get to next General Assembly. The DC area gets nice things, but we are going to have to get together as a network in the metropolitan area and eventually get to a point where it makes sense politically and jurisdictionally. We can use BRAC as cover or catalyst for us to do this. If we don't get unified regionally, we are going to get shortchanged. We all have transportation issues. Mr. Klimovitz added that the work product will begin and support of such a plan will make feds sit up and take notice. We are also contemplating the amount of CMAC monies; some may come to BMC. County Executive Smith said that another advantage is that government has established a group with the Lt. Governor as chair. We could take the package to him. County Executive Leopold stated that this will also have an impact on schools. This is something that we all should think about when businesses are located on military installations. Jurisdictions will lose that tax base. This was followed by a brief discussion. Mr. Bloom stated that the Board may benefit from household and distribution and spread of households throughout jurisdictions that employers will be relying on.

Status of Regional Protective Action Coordination Guidelines

Mr. Klimovitz explained the significance of this agreement, which was created to help coordinate and manage a regional disaster requiring the work of emergency workers throughout the region. The Regional Emergency Compact and MEMAC Plan were voted through UAWG. This agreement has been through the counties and MEMA. It is now in the hands of Chief Goodwin for Mayor Dixon's signature. Each of the emergency management people has also reviewed this agreement.

Acceptance of New MEMA Grant in Support of Ready-Set-Good Campaign

Mr. Klimovitz stated that this grant was for promotion and advertising in preparation for winter emergencies. The program entitled the, "Ready – Set – Good" Campaign has been

married up with most county websites and is supported by \$150,000 in grant monies through MEMA. Emergency coordinators have been briefed on this effort.

Update on BRCPC Activities

Mr. Klimovitz reported that BRCPC has estimated electricity cost savings of about 16%, compared to Standard Offer Service (SOS) rates for first six months of the fiscal year. South River Consulting will be preparing a presentation for the Management Committee.

Update on Regional Pawn Data Project

Mr. Klimovitz summarized for new Board members that this project sets up a single information server whereby each police agency is sharing pawn data to recover stolen property and possibly leads to solutions of other crimes. It allows police departments in the region to share data more easily. Currently, if something is stolen in one jurisdiction and sold in another, this new system will allow for sharing of that information. The Baltimore Police Department has taken the lead for purpose and hosting of the equipment. Currently, hardware is in the procurement stage. Mr. Frank asked who is the contact person was for Baltimore City. Lt. Gearhart, the lead for Baltimore City, is moving along quickly and once it is procured, it can be operational in 30 – 60 days. It was suggested that a press conference be held to announce the regional crime effort that will recover a lot of property and aid other investigations. County Executive Smith thought this was a good idea to try to raise the profile of BMC.

As there was no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by County Executive Smith and seconded by County Executive Ulman.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry W. Klimovitz
Executive Director

