

# Baltimore Metropolitan Council



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## **BMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS JANUARY 29, 2008**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Leopold, Anne Arundel County Executive  
James T. Smith, Jr., Baltimore County Executive  
Dean L. Minnich, Vice-President, Board of County Commissioners  
Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Carl Balsler, Howard County  
Andrew Frank, Baltimore City  
Elaine Garven, Baltimore City  
Joan Kennedy, Howard County  
Steve Powell, Carroll County  
Frank Principe, Baltimore County  
Ed Cohen, Citizen

#### **GUESTS**

M. Richard Clinch, Economist, University of Baltimore  
Danyell Diggs, Department of Planning, Baltimore City  
Don Fry, President, Greater Baltimore Committee  
Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director for Administration, Baltimore City Department of Transportation  
Lieutenant Robert Maloney, Office of Emergency Management, Baltimore City Fire Department

#### **BMC STAFF**

Larry Klimovitz, Executive Director  
Regina Aris  
Harvey S. Bloom  
Monica Haines  
Barbara Herron  
Mary Logan  
Ryan O'Doherty  
Sandra Spears  
Sara Tomlinson

## Presentations

The meeting opened at 3:10 p.m. with Vice-Chairman Ulman suggesting that we begin with scheduled presentations.

Mr. Klimovitz stated that the first presentation, a quarterly update, by the Urban Area Work Group (UAWG) would be presented by Lieutenant Robert Maloney, Office of Emergency Management for the Baltimore City Fire Department.

Lieutenant Maloney provided a brief overview of the UAWG status and current projects (Power Point presentation attached). Lieutenant Maloney reported that the State passed thru 100% of the urban area initiative funds (UASI). In FY '07, the UASI award was \$11,910,000, a 23% increase from FY '06 award. Baltimore's UASI FY '07 grant application received the highest score in the nation. He further stated that the group was growing and now consisted of 16 subcommittees with subject matter experts that advise the UAWG. Lieutenant Maloney stated that two new areas UAWG will be going into involve regional collaboration with the National Capital Region and Hampton Roads and major tasks and milestones in 2008.

He then listed UAWG core functions. They are:

- Collaboration of local experts to develop regional security strategy and spending plans
- All expenditure of funds focus on preparedness gaps and prioritized needs (these are predetermined)
- Projects are prioritized regionally rather than simply dividing UASI funds among the Urban Areas's several jurisdictions; and
- Coordination of purchasing goods, regional training, exercise, and drills.

Although funding has increased, the list of needs from 2007 (\$39,000,000) exceeds available funds and we expect 2008 to be the same (See Attachment). FY 2007 project highlights are as follows:

- Expanded radio interoperability throughout the region with our CMARC Project
- Sustained "Ready? Set? Good? Campaign and improving citizen readiness
- Expanded several existing successful projects; and
- New initiatives including pet sheltering, bomb response, and traffic modeling.

Lieutenant Maloney then discussed FY '07 multi-regional collaboration. In the FY '07 application instructions, DHS encouraged UASI to submit multi-regional projects. We were successful in proposing joint projects with Hampton Roads, Virginia, the National Capital Region, and a Maritime Security Project.

Lieutenant Maloney then reported on the continuing non-profit/community infrastructure security grants. He stated that in FY '05 UASI awarded over \$1 million to 29 organizations in the region. In FY '06 \$500,000 worth of funds were allocated and in FY '07, \$634,000 were allocated. DHS issued an additional non-profit grant, which UASI helped coordinate with the non-profits in our region. Because of that work, Baltimore UASI ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 34. This is the money that we are now in the process of distributing. He then discussed individual UASI allocations (see attachment). He then reviewed the 2008 grant application timeline. The application will be submitted in April, 2008 with an expected award announcement in July, 2008.

An upcoming issue that requires attention involves the shelf life of emergency supplies. The current Shelf-Life Extension Project Request to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) involves only military stock piles, not local governments. There is concern from one of our subcommittees that we

are buying prophylactic drugs with an expiration date, and when they expire, it is a tremendous amount of money to replace them. The UAWG will seek the support of the federal government to get FDA to implement a project in the Baltimore region to extend shelf life in order to save funds and preserve capabilities.

County Executive Smith asked about FY '08 projects. Lieutenant Maloney said that he would make the list of requested projects available to him. We have extended the deadline for these projects and are up to \$31,000,000 in requests.

Mr. Klimovitz asked is this was the first time the State has passed thru a 100% of available funds. Traditionally, the State hasn't passed thru 100%, but this was a promise the Governor made as Mayor. We are hoping that it continues for FFY '08.

With conclusion of the UAWG presentation, County Executive Ulman introduced Don Fry, President of the Greater Baltimore Committee and Richard Clinch, University of Baltimore Economist to brief the Board on the *Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report*. A copy of the report is in the packets of all Board members.

Mr. Fry stated that the GBC looks from a regional perspective in how we can find solutions that negatively affect our region's economic competitiveness or viability. Over the last few years, we have done this report in collaboration with the BMC, and also this year with the University of Baltimore. He gave special thanks to Mary Logan and Ryan O'Doherty for helping to coordinate this publication.

Used in the report are about 505 different indicators and 20 other metropolitan regions throughout the country. We currently can trend about 10 years of data. Mr. Fry then discussed emerging trends, stating that the region has grown and become a much more affluent region. It also has become a more costly place to live. We were once in the top five "lowest cost of living regions" but this has obviously changed, particularly with the housing market. Mr. Fry introduced Richard Clinch of the University of Baltimore, to give his presentation on some of the other details (See Attachment).

County Executive Smith asked about the "boundaries" of the region. Mr. Fry stated it is the exact region that his body (GBC) represents and that of the BMC.

Mr. Clinch then gave his presentation. He discussed the top rankings as outlined in the report.

He continued by saying that we are emerging from the "Rust Belt". The things that are going to drive the economy in the future are: defense, aerospace, biotechnology, life sciences, and health sciences. He then turned the presentation back to Mr. Fry.

Although as a region we are making progress, competition is becoming more fierce everyday. It is important that we focus on policy issues that affect quality of life, including economic growth and transportation, a major issue particularly with our low rankings of air pollution and travel time for the average commuter. Although we did very well in education and governmental employment, the other six sectors of the businesses that we looked at, from financial to non-farm workers, we are trailing the national average. We are one of the bigger exporters of our professional talent. We need to find a way to keep the talent base we are educating in this region. We strongly believe that individual jurisdictions are not the drivers in the regional economy; the region is what drives the regional economy. Mr. Fry concluded his presentation and thanked the Board for their attention.

In the absence of Chairman Craig, Vice-Chairman Ulman presided over the remainder of the Board agenda.

**Call for Nominations for BMC Board Chair and Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2008**

Vice-Chairman Ulman asked for a motion for nominations. County Executive Smith nominated County Executive Ken Ulman for Chair and County Executive Leopold for Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Minnich. As there were no objections, the motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Klimovitz stated there were press releases prepared and ready to go out from Howard County and BMC at the end of the day. County Executive Ulman stated chairing the BMC Board is a great opportunity and we have just scratched the service of working together. Using BRPC as an example, he stated that he intends to have us work closer on the energy front, in the areas of transportation and land use planning and BRAC preparedness. Mr. Klimovitz welcomed County Executive Ulman as Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2007 Board Meeting**

Mr. Klimovitz stated that a second draft was issued to correct minor errors and order of items. He and staff have reviewed them recommend approval of the minutes. Motion was made by Commissioner Minnich and seconded by County Executive Smith. As there were no changes or additions to the minutes, they were approved unanimously by voice vote.

County Executive Leopold asked Mr. Klimovitz if there are other regional organizations such as ours in the Chesapeake Watershed. Mr. Klimovitz stated that there are several other regional planning organizations such as ours with various focus. County Executive Leopold referred back to the State of the Region statistic on population growth. He stated that with all of our best management practices, and in dealing with environmental concerns, he felt we were simply “running in place”. He stated we are “putting out the small fires”, but the long-range problems still exist because of the ever increasing population. He thought it would be useful for our region to have some type of forum about population growth. He suggested that if there are other groups like the BMC, that we contact them to organize a forum to address this problem. Mr. Klimovitz suggested he would take this matter up in a forthcoming meeting with the regional planning directors and representatives of the Urban Land Institute (ULI).

County Executive Ulman added to the discussion by saying that these comments get to the heart of understanding each other’s jurisdictions and where we are going internally with land use planning. The State is taking a new look at smart growth and local land use prerogatives, but when it comes to water, wastewater, solid waste, purchasing energy, pooling resources, and the environmental impact, we should have an ongoing discussion on what we can partner on as a region. He suggested that maybe we could have our planning staffs give individual reports so we know what is going on.

### **Request by Baltimore City Department of Transportation for Financial Participation and Assistance in “Red Line Summit”**

Mr. Klimovitz directed everyone to the handouts regarding a “Red Line Summit,” Baltimore City has made a request in support of the Red Line Summit, to fund it not only through the upcoming UPWP, but also requesting BMC contribute \$25,000 to help sponsor this event. This request has the support of Mayor Dixon and Deputy Mayor Frank. Mr. Klimovitz invited Jamie Kendrick to explain the summit and directed the Board to the letter of request and his recommendation of approval. He reminded the Board that funds are available to support this request.

Mr. Kendrick thanked the BMC for helping move the Red Line to the point it is today. The Red Line is a 12-mile corridor running east-west from Social Security over to Bayview. If we look at the Red Line for its pure transportation benefit, we are missing a tremendous opportunity to think about how our region works together and how this project can benefit the region and the communities that it will pass through. Mayor Dixon spoke at length about this project in her inaugural address and announced it as one of her top priorities. The Mayor committed to the residents of Baltimore and of the region that she was going to take a leadership role in helping to move this project forward. If you think about the Red Line,

not as a transportation project, but as a billion and a half dollar public works project, the opportunities for the vendors, jobs, etc. are tremendous. The Mayor is committed to convening this Red Line Summit to help the residents of the region to see what the opportunities could be around job, economic development, historic preservation, and environmental protection/preservation and to develop a compact with the community on how we advance the Red Line Project in a way that benefits the communities involved. The summit will be convened on May 10 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Mr. Klimovitz stated that a motion was needed to make the expenditure from the budget. Motion was made by Commissioner Minnich and seconded by County Executive Smith. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. County Executive Ulman thanked Mr. Kendrick.

### **Program Updates**

The last Agenda item was to present continuing program updates. Mr. Klimovitz asked the Board to refer to their Agenda packets. The report went as follows:

December, 2007 Financials - As of the close of December, net income is \$108,540.31. We are well ahead of where we need to be insofar as net income for the year. He then directed the Board to the balance sheet which shows approximately \$960,000 in CDs, which comprises the emergency fund. This was put together last year by the Board and it sits as a dedicated fund. Financially, Mr. Klimovitz stated that he has only good news to report.

FY 2009 Budget – Mr. Klimovitz has briefed the Management Committee on this item and stated it is his intent to come before the Board on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with a budget recommended by himself and the Management Committee. This date is contingent upon the completion of the UPWP budget by the BRTB. At this point, we are expecting the transportation grant that comes to the BMC to be about the same for FY '09 as it was for FY '08. However, we are expecting the “pass-thru” (monies that revert to local government in support of regional planning) will increase from \$617,000 (FY '08 aggregate amount of pass-thru) to somewhere over \$900,000 in total pass-thru monies coming back to the jurisdictions. That was predicated upon a 5% cost of living increase that the local reps thought was supportive plus support of several regional planning projects in Baltimore City.

Update on CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Projects) – This was discussed at the Board's fall meeting. This is a continuing program that we were successful in getting MDOT to appropriate \$1 million in FY 2008 and another \$1 in FY 2009 for projects that we would have a hand in, being able to approve and distribute locally, such as diesel retrofit, clean fuel vehicles, hybrid vehicles, idle reduction technologies, all having to do with air quality. He then introduced Ms. Regina Aris for more details.

Ms. Aris reported that 12 applications have been received this year. She stated that the total requested is for \$2.9 million. The Technical Evaluation Committee has almost completed their work who will then pass our evaluations on to a subcommittee to look at policy objectives and achieving air quality reductions. Ms. Aris stated that our goal is to bring recommended projects to the BRTB members in March.

BRCPC Update - Mr. Klimovitz then reported on BRCPC activities. He was specifically asked to give a synopsis on the electrical savings and where we stand on the purchase of electrical energy. He directed the Board to their Agenda packets and the bar graph showing actual budget versus BG&E standard operating service and what it is that we actually budgeted, what we have used, and compared that to the Standard Operating Service costs and how much we saved. Mr. Klimovitz pointed out we have 20 participants in our consortium for electrical energy for FY '07. He explained that we don't pay for the energy until we've used it. At the end of the fiscal year, there is a “settling up” period between BRCPC, local jurisdictions, South River, PJM and our electrical provider. We are not completely through this process yet, but based on what we know for FY '07 we have saved approximately 12 million dollars.

County Executive Ulman asked if this pool was larger, could it bring down the cost further. County Executive Ulman stated he is thinking about the school systems, and if other jurisdictions would join, and if we could further expand to drive down our cost. County Executive Ulman thought it would be a good idea to look into this. County Executive Ulman stated that he would like to have South River provide a report looking into increased participation, the estimated costs and have them explain what they think the point of diminishing returns might be. He also suggested that a reminder letter be circulated to each of the Board members to see who is participating from each jurisdiction and have a discussion with our partner agencies.

Regarding natural gas supply and procurement, we have bought a good amount and hedged a lot against FY '08 and 20% toward FY '09 a good rate. Heating oil contracts are currently in place and underway. He then reported on the Houston Galveston Area Council contract. As a result of that, some of the administrative costs come back to BMC.

County Executive Ulman asked about the "carve out" on solar energy and how it works with this contract. Mr. Klimovitz stated that this minimum threshold is worked into the electricity supplier contract. County Executive Ulman also inquired about fuel for vehicles and whether or not we are acting as a group. Mr. Klimovitz stated that we piggyback on contracts, unless we have long standing contracts that are about to expire. Mr. Klimovitz then briefly updated the Board on other large contracts such as HGAC, furniture, and public contracts for food service.

**BRTB Retreat Held on January 10, 2008** – Mr. Klimovitz stated that he attended the annual retreat of the BRTB. They discussed CMAQ, development of the UPWP work program for FY '09, development of budget for FY '09, and modifications to Transportation 2035.

**BMC/ULI Forum on Climate Change** – Mr. Klimovitz reported that BMC will be co-sponsoring an event which will focus on the need for better coordination relating to land use. It will involve a series of workshops. He discussed this with the Management Committee and they suggested we focus this on the Planning Directors. County Executive Ulman asked what is required from the Board. Mr. Klimovitz stated only a commitment to support is needed. County Executive Leopold raised concern with population growth as it relates to local/state planning. This is a subject which should be raised as a potential forum subject.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry W. Klimovitz  
Executive Director