

Baltimore Metropolitan Council



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

BMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APRIL 22, 2008

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Sheila Dixon, Mayor, Baltimore City
Honorable John Leopold, Anne Arundel County Executive
Honorable Dean L. Minnich, Vice-President, Board of County Commissioners
Honorable Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Cramer, Baltimore City
Andrew Frank, Baltimore City
Elaine Garven, Baltimore City
Emery Hines, Baltimore County
Joan Kennedy, Howard County
Steve Powell, Carroll County
Frank Principe, Baltimore County

GUESTS

Noel Chesser, South River Consulting
Darla Herbold, Howard County
Pat Keller, Baltimore County
Steve Myers, Baltimore County
Bert Wilson, South River Consulting

BMC STAFF

Larry Klimovitz, Executive Director
Regina Aris
Harry Bain
Dunbar Brooks
Barbara Herron
Mary Logan
Jody McCullough
Ryan O'Doherty
Sandra Spears

The meeting opened at 3:00 p.m. with Chairman Ulman suggesting that we begin with scheduled presentations.

Mr. Klimovitz stated that the regularly scheduled UAWG quarterly report would not be given at this meeting because the group is involved in a two-day meeting in Charlotte, NC for the Urban Area Strategic Initiative (UASI Conference). Instead there would be two other presentations. One is a status report requested at the last meeting when the Board approved moving ahead on co-sponsoring a series of workshops with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) on studying the impacts and relationships between transportation planning, land use planning, vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse effect, etc. County Executive Leopold had also requested that we touch upon population growth and other infrastructure challenges. It was also directed that this be a “bottom up” approach, starting with the Planning Directors with a presentation to the Board after completion. Mr. Klimovitz introduced Mr. Pat Keller, Director of Baltimore County Planning to present the update.

Mr. Keller extended a personal thank you to the BMC and stated that the Planning Directors met with ULI to discuss what the project would “look like” and affirm its goals. Essentially, it really blends two things: measuring our carbon footprint under current development plans and the second being population growth and how do we best accommodate growth to develop our respective jurisdictions in the most responsible and efficient manner possible. Currently, 41 people/day enter our region to live. Local government is responsible for making sure there is housing, jobs and infrastructure. He then went on to explain that ULI was hoping to work with us on a project that would blend the concepts of carbon footprint, climate change, wetland use and transportation. Essentially, we are proposing having three workshops, spread out over a month’s time. We would invite other local stakeholders, municipalities, and specified state agencies to be part of this process (Department of State Planning, Economic Development and State Highways). What we want to achieve is a set of uniform definitions, tools, and methods, if possible, for helping to guide future land use planning efforts. This effort will look at the region in the sense of a land use “transect”. Another important part of this would be the public education aspect, as needed and the presentation to you. The local Planning Directors believe that these workshops have merit. The start date looks like some time in September.

County Executive Ulman asked if a presentation would be made to the Board at the next meeting in July. Mr. Klimovitz stated that we are not anticipating the actual workshops to start until September. This was followed by a discussion as to the Planning Directors coming back to the Board at their next meeting. County Executive Ulman stated that he is glad to know that the Planning Directors are meeting bi-monthly. Mr. Klimovitz added that ULI has put together a “top end” budget of approximately \$80,000. We are optimistic about getting a \$25,000 community action grant through ULI. We should know about this in May. The University of Baltimore is contributing \$7,500. ULI is also working with several companies to assist in the sponsorship. County Executive Ulman thanked the group for pulling this together. Mr. Keller reminded the Board that the State, through MDP, is looking at a statewide land use policy framework.

Mr. Klimovitz then introduced Darla Herbold, Chairperson of the BRCPC Energy Board. Ms. Herbold thanked the Board for the opportunity to make this presentation and introduced the team working with her on energy: Steve Myer, Senior Buyer, Baltimore County, Harry Bain, Regional Coordinator at BMC that supports the BRCPC, and the consultants from South River, Noel Chesser and Bert Wilson. Ms. Herbold reported they are proud of the progress that has been made in the area of energy procurement. She then mentioned some of the other members in the group: Debbie Henderson, Harford County, Bill Schull, Anne Arundel County, Rick Shelton, Carroll County, Cecil Moore, Baltimore City, and Brian Snyder, Annapolis. They are the respective purchasing agents in each of the jurisdictions. She then reported on the current role of purchasing agents and how it has changed in the areas of energy

procurement. Several of the jurisdictions have a few institutions which are not currently participating in our buying consortium. They are already engaged in ongoing contracts and are waiting for those contracts to expire at which time they may join and participate in our energy portfolio. Other entities may take more persuasion. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Myers who reported on electricity. He discussed our combined buying power and regional capacity restrictions. He stated that cost and supply fluctuates daily, so you can't predict it down to the kilowatt hour. In 2007, electricity cost us 7.8 cents per kilowatt hour. In 2008 it is about 9 cents, exclusive of distribution charges from BGE. County Executive Ulman wanted to know what the current market rate was. Mr. Myers stated it is about 12 cents. Mr. Myers explained how we can work to reduce the increasing capacity charges. Mr. Myers stated that we are going to survey and meet with each jurisdiction with facilities staff and come up with a plan. Another alternative is to encourage additional capacity be built into our area. We are proposing hedging longer term through a separate long-term power purchase agreement. Currently, we buy in advance when the market is giving us a better price. We are preparing an RFP soliciting proposals to spread our risk and procure larger pieces of power over a longer term period of time. This was followed by a brief discussion regarding the PJM grid with several Board members. Mr. Klimovitz clarified that if a new generator comes forward to construct a 100 mgw plant, the site would encompass approximately 3-4 acres and a 2-3 year construction timeframe. This was followed by a discussion on how this plan would also involve "green power".

County Executive Ulman thanked Mr. Myers. He asked Mr. Myers to explain about how allowing more members into our consortium would affect us. Mr. Myers stated that it is advantageous for others to follow our energy procurement policy. We have advocated others to join. However, the benefit is to the new members; adding them in would not help current members further reduce costs. This was followed by a discussion on which groups would be advantageous for us to pursue. Mr. Klimovitz asked if the Board was comfortable for the Energy Board to move ahead on this. It was agreed that they were. County Executive Ulman stated that is the best success story in the region.

County Executive Ulman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2008. County Executive Leopold motioned for approval and it was seconded by Mayor Dixon. As there were no changes or additions to the minutes, they were approved unanimously by voice vote.

County Executive Ulman asked Mr. Klimovitz to give a brief overview of the FY 2009 Budget. Mr. Klimovitz stated that this budget has been reviewed and approved by the Management Committee on April 8th. Mr. Klimovitz stated that there would be no increase in dues. County Executive Ulman called for a motion to approve the FY 2009 Budget. Commissioner Minnick motioned for approval and it was seconded by Mayor Dixon. As there were no changes, the budget was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Klimovitz reviewed the financials for March, 2008. He stated that even though we are 75% of the way through the fiscal year, we have expended about 62% of our budget which leaves us well within budget. He added that we are currently tracking a net income of under \$100,000. At the beginning of our budget year for FY 2008, we projected net income at \$74,000, so we are ahead. Net income at the end of the year will go into the emergency fund.

Mr. Klimovitz introduced Mr. O'Doherty to brief the Board on HB 1177. He stated that it went through the House and then stalled on the Senate side with the eventual failure of HB 1177. It was his understanding that there are new efforts underway in local government to pass mandatory electronic reporting of pawn transactions. BMC is interested in seeing this move forward to allow better use of the Regional Pawn Database. It is currently only being used by a small number of shops, so we would like to see it spread throughout the region. This was followed by a brief discussion on who was participating.

Mr. Klimovitz stated that the next update is on CMAQ Projects. He introduced Ms. Aris, the newly appointed Assistant Director of Transportation. Ms. Aris reported that collectively the BRTB was able to persuade MDOT to provide one million dollars in FY '08 to fund congestion mitigation air quality projects. The BRTB received 12 applications totaling about \$3 million. With only one million available, a technical committee comprised of the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration and our staff did a qualitative and quantitative review of all 12 projects. This group made the recommendations presented to you today. There are six projects. Ms. Aris then reviewed the handout (attached). The BRTB approved this recommendation on March 25th.

Mr. Klimovitz reviewed BRCPC's updates (attached).

Mr. Klimovitz stated that the Board previously discussed a regional traffic safety initiative to be kicked off in the spring. We asked for your engagement to do some type of public service announcement or recording, working with MDOT and SHA. He introduced Ms. Herron to give an update.

Ms. Herron reported that the Regional Highway Safety Campaign was endorsed several months ago. We need to remind citizens to obey the rules of the road. BMC staff has been working with a consultant on developing the media campaign. She also stated that we met with staff from SHA's Office of Highway Safety, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Management Systems, and Johns Hopkins Blumberg School of Health. We reviewed crash data, discussed it, and based on those discussions; we agreed to focus the campaign on teenage drivers and their parents. This focus will complement a campaign that is being developed by SHA, which is "Choose Safety for Life". This will be launched on April 19th. We hope to launch our effort the beginning of June. We are currently developing two 60 second radio spots. Each one will have a spot for you to record your own message within it. Ms. Herron stated that she is working with the local PIOs to get dates convenient for you so you can record individual messages. Ms. Herron then reported on the "Ready? Set? Good Emergency Preparedness" campaign. Last year we had signs on MTA buses and we are doing that again this year. We are also adding signs to shopping carts in various food chains in each of the jurisdictions. She mentioned the enclosed card (attached) for distribution in your jurisdictions. She stated that one of the most exciting things is that we have been able to enter into partnership with Channel 45 to showcase our existing TV spot in June, September, November and December. We will also include a full page ad in three issues of their program guide. This gets mailed to 150,000 households. They are going to produce a second TV spot for us. We have also met with reps of Walmart and they are interested in becoming a retail partner. Ms. Herron thanked Ellen Koebler and Elise Armacost from Baltimore County for help with the Ready? Set? Good campaign. She also thanked Vivian Laxton from Carroll County and Sue Collins from Harford County. We would also like participation from other jurisdictions.

Mayor Dixon asked about Baltimore City's participation. Ms. Herron said that Kevin Cartwright has attended, but his schedule doesn't allow him to participate regularly. Mayor Dixon stated they would follow up on this and get back to her.

Mr. Klimovitz then reported on the meeting with MTA officials on April 9th. He stated that he, Mr. O'Doherty and several members of the Transportation staff met with Paul Wiedefeld, Administrator for MTA, Henry Kay, Deputy Director, and Diane Ratcliffe, Director of Planning and Programming for MTA. We will be meeting quarterly to trade information. One item we discussed with them was transportation trust fund revenues as a result of the special session. We discussed how much monies might be generated and the likelihood of its impacting the Long Range Plan. The bottom line is we are stilling waiting to see estimates from MDOT. MDOT's finance staff is working through that and we are hopeful that later in the spring we will find out if any new monies are coming in. We discussed the Red and Green lines and ridership numbers. We also discussed current and future improvements for MARC. Mr. Wiedefeld stated that evening service and late night service have been added. In the equipment area,

they have 26 new diesel locomotives on order and are expecting them to be delivered this year. They are also in negotiations for 13 new bi-level cars to add to the capacity of MARC. They are also working on improving stations throughout the region.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry W. Klimovitz
Executive Director