

Baltimore Metropolitan Council



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Anne Arundel County
Baltimore City
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Carroll County
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BMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS JANUARY 26, 2010

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable John Leopold, Anne Arundel County Executive and Chairman
Honorable Sheila Dixon, Mayor, Baltimore City
Honorable James T. Smith, Jr., Baltimore County Executive
Honorable Dean L. Minnich, Vice President, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County

OTHERS PRESENT

Ned Cheston, Howard County
Alan Friedman, Anne Arundel County
Elaine Garven, Baltimore City
Frank Johnson, Carroll County
Steve Powell, Carroll County
Robert Maloney, Director, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Baltimore City
Marsha McLaughlin, Howard County
Rob McCord, Harford County
Frank Principe, Baltimore County

BMC STAFF

Larry W. Klimovitz, Executive Director
Dunbar Brooks
Monica Haines Benkhedda
Mike Kelly
Todd Lang
Mary Logan
Sandra Spears

Presentations

County Executive Leopold called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He introduced Lt. Robert Maloney, Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, to give the quarterly update by the Urban Area Work Group (UAWG). Lt. Maloney stated that he was happy to report that the issue regarding maintenance of contracts that were not previously considered by the Federal government has been resolved. Due to the efforts of the Board and many others in this matter federal guidelines have been reversed.

Lt. Maloney then presented a power point presentation. He reported on the UASI Grants Management Life Cycle. He stated that the jurisdictions are in the process of crafting the FFY '10 budget. He pointed out the timeline, applications due April 19, 2010 with a target allocation of \$10,975,050. It is a non-competitive award with peer review judging on completeness, adherence to guidelines, and effectiveness. The grant rules have changed with the submission of the application budget in advance. We've brought this to fruition and have a very good regional project as a result of everyone's leadership. Lt. Maloney also stated that for the first time we will have interoperable radios in the subways. This means we will be able to communicate without a patch in the subway tunnels. It is a multi-faceted project worth about \$500,000. MDOT provided \$350,000 from grants, \$50,000 from local and \$100,000 from UASI.

Mayor Dixon complimented Lt. Maloney's team and the group he works with in the region. She further stated that people do not realize the magnitude of how we are able to coordinate our efforts. She stated that the talent he and his team have has been extraordinary. The bar has been set extremely high and she stated that his vision will continue to enhance more opportunities, not only in the city, but in the region. Lt. Maloney thanked the Mayor. Mr. Klimovitz asked about "soft target community grants", such as community centers, church groups, etc. Lt. Maloney stated that we will sustain same level of funding. We were able to go back and reallocate some money to non-profits that were not funded. We completed out almost all of them. Lt. Maloney elaborated by saying that community-based entities have used those dollars in a good way.

Status and Next Step on Transportation Vision Report (Peer Workshops and Public Involvement Activities)

County Executive Leopold turned this item over to Mr. Klimovitz for introduction. Mr. Klimovitz introduced Mr. Todd Lang, BMC Director of Transportation, who sits as Secretary to the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB). He was the former Vice-President, Highway Division, Whitney, Bailey, Cox and Magnani, LLC. He holds a BS in Civil Engineering with transportation concentration from the University of Delaware; an MBA with finance concentration from Butler University, and an Odyssey Certificate in Environmental Studies from Johns Hopkins University. He brings a wealth of experience, education and knowledge to the BMC team.

Mr. Lang stated that he would give a brief update on the visioning process. At the direction of the BRTB, we are undertaking and moving forward with our visioning process to help guide our long-range transportation plan. As you know, our long-range transportation plan is a fiscally constrained regional transportation plan that is updated every four years and has a 20-year time horizon. The BRTB has directed us to also look at longer term planning efforts, (the visioning process) and to look out beyond that 20 year time horizon. We would begin looking at planned transportation investments and what land uses might be necessary to support those transportation investments. In the next year and a half, winding up in November, 2011, Mr. Lang stated we would be working on these two major planning efforts, both the long range transportation plan update and also the vision planning effort going out to the year 2060. We are currently negotiating a contract with a selected consultant to provide a regional economic update for the year 2060. Because most economic forecasts don't go beyond that 20-year time horizon,

we are undertaking an economic forecast going out to the year 2060 that's going to look at potential, (not an endorsed forecast), reasonable estimate for total employment, population and households in the Baltimore region. This will aid the scenario planning process and set limits so that we can start looking at planned and alternative land uses throughout the region and to try to support transportation investments.

Each of our BRTB subcommittees is working on a topic paper to help educate the public on these issues. Following this, we will begin a review of consultant contracts for the next stage in our visioning process, the public outreach and education process. It is anticipated that this process will be initiated in the next month or two with a peer workshop. At the workshop, we will be discussing the process and methodology that has been outlined to us through the BRTB. We will also be looking and learning from other areas, and explaining how the visioning process will help us move forward in making important transportation and land use decisions. This is all in preparation for the major public education and outreach process, which is going to kick off in the next four months and extend through the next year.

Mr. Klimovitz reinforced that public outreach is very important. Once we begin public outreach efforts, we get the Board to hear more and more about this process, locally.

Mayor Dixon asked what the outreach efforts would involve. Mr. Lang responded by saying that we are planning a two-step process. Working with our consultant, we have asked them to help identify those groups that we may not normally reach and make this as broad-based and inclusive as possible.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the BRTB has been asked to take a role in reaching out to the public as well.

Action Item – Presentation of BMC Board Resolution 2010-1

County Executive Leopold referred to the resolution endorsing the outline and schedule for “vision” activities through summer, 2011. He stated the Board of Directors is being asked to pledge its support for an inclusive community-based public involvement process for the development of the vision and the 2011 LRTP. He asked for discussion. As there was none, he called for a motion. County Executive Smith made a motion for approval and it was seconded by Commissioner Minnich. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Klimovitz stated that we did not have a quorum at this moment.

Program Updates

October-December, 2009 Financials

Mr. Klimovitz stated he reports on these updates to our financial condition because as our financial status impacts member jurisdictions. The first quarter of FY '10 we were running deficits. This was not unexpected because we are on a reimbursable grant basis. As cash flows tighten reimbursements for grants are being held to the last possible time. In October, we reported an annual net income of \$57,246.00, so we had gone from red to black. In December,

we are sitting at \$61,623.00 in the black. He stated that he expects a see-saw effect because of the reimbursable grants. We are 50% of our way through our fiscal year and have spent 30% of our budget. We are looking to save money everywhere we can. We still have big moving expenses to plan for. There are some things paid out of this year and some out of the 2011 budget. Our emergency fund authorized a few years ago is sitting at about \$1.1 million. There is also \$101,000 in money market which provides for our cash flow needs in the event of payment delays to us. There are a total of nine CDs, worth almost \$1.1 million. You authorized 25% of our annual budget as an emergency fund. Our operating expense for three months is approximately \$300,000, so this is about the limit that is set.

BRCPC Activities

Mr. Klimovitz referred to the agenda packet and the sheet listing recent BRCPC accomplishments and what was discussed at their last meeting. Much time is consumed with electricity buys and for FY '10 and beyond. We are operating approximately 9.5% under budget overall for our electricity needs. We are now buying 25 mw blocks of power for FY 2012 and 2013. For the current fiscal year, we've bought about 91% of the power that we believe the jurisdictions will need. For 2011, we bought about 86% of the power at very good prices. For FY '12 we are about 65% hedged. We have been advised by PEPCO Energy Services, our link and billing agent to the PJM grid is going out of business as of the end of the calendar year. No new contracts will be accepted. Our contract is due to expire in November, 2010. A new RFP will be undertaken to provide a replacement. Lastly, the Energy Board met on January 12th and interviewed our two prospects for our long-term power purchase. One is a proposed waste energy facility in Fairfield, Baltimore, a 25 mw facility. The other is a company operating a wind farm off the coast of Delaware/Maryland. Negotiations will continue through the Energy Board. We are looking to make a recommendation with one or both firms by the end of February. There is a significance difference in price, but these are subject to negotiation. More information on this will be available at the next Board meeting, but you will likely hear about it through your procurement officers prior to that time.

Also, we are going to have a credit sitting on the books of PEPCO for electricity services. It appears to be a little over \$8 million for the entire consortium. We asked South River to certify this and weigh different options to distribute this credit. Two alternatives would be to reduce future billings, the other involved an actual check to the participants in the consortium. This will be presented at the next Energy Board meeting and will come back for reconsideration before any decision is made.

Executive Voices

Mr. Kelly reported that the first event took place in November with Executives Craig and Leopold at Anne Arundel Community College. There were approximately 70 attendees. It brought people from around the region to look at the relevant issues that they share in common. The next event is scheduled for March 11 at Loyola College with Executives Smith and Ulman and will be a look at the current Legislative Session. Mr. Kelly stated that he will begin to look for other topics for the next event next year. He stated he will also have a budget to report on. To date, each event has paid for itself.

First Meeting of Regional GIS Committee

Mr. Klimovitz then reported on the Regional GIS Committee. At last meeting he asked for Board backing for assembling this committee, similar to BRCPC, UAWG, our Pawn Shop Group, Bank Robbery Task Force, Coop Forecasting, etc. We saw the need in dealing with Planning Directors and the GIS staff representing each individual jurisdiction. They had their first meeting on January 11th, selected a chairman, and laid out what their goals and responsibilities would be. A regionally-based GIS ‘geo-portal’ is supported by all representatives. Part of the rationale behind this is that regional GIS managers felt that regional needs were not being adequately addressed under MSGR, the state effort.

McHenry Row Relocation Status

Mr. Klimovitz was happy to report that construction of McHenry Row at Locust Point is continuing. Project financing packages have been completed. The loan application that the developer had sought has been approved by HUD. With that approval, M & T Bank released the funds to the developer to continue. Our new occupancy date is September, 2010. We have resumed discussions with the floor plan/ layout engineers. We have RFPs out for our telephone and data network system. We have draft language written for a new lease amendment with Mr. Sapperstein and a lease extension here at Lighthouse Point for at least four months. Mr. Sapperstein has agreed to pick up any additional costs to us as a result of the lease extension, on a reimbursable basis. Therefore, the schedule delays should not cost BMC any additional funds. We are trying to safeguard ourselves against future budget problems.

2011 Budget Preparation

Mr. Klimovitz reported on BMC’s budget preparation. Earlier he sent a summary chart listing the BMC proposed 2011 dues and payment structures, etc. This was addressed to local Budget Directors and Management Committee staff. We break it down into three pieces – baseline dues, monies to support reservoir management, and separate dues for the cooperative purchasing of BRCPC. Local dues haven’t changed for six years. He stated that he provides this chart to show member jurisdiction savings. This is valuable information.

Mr. Klimovitz noted upcoming Board dates. These dates are already on your calendars. We will present and approve the BMC budget at the April, 2010 meeting. He stated that they should note the time differences for the April and October meetings as they will be followed by the BRTB.

Action Item – Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2009 BMC Board Meeting

County Executive Leopold called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 BMC Board meeting. Mayor Dixon motioned for approval. The motion was seconded by County Executive Smith. The minutes were passed unanimously by voice vote.

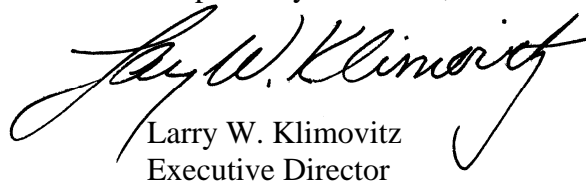
Action Item – Election of Chair for Calendar Year 2010

County Executive Leopold called for a nomination for chair. Commissioner Minnich nominated County Executive Smith and the nomination was seconded by Mayor Dixon. The nomination was unanimously approved by voice vote. County Executive Leopold stated that the vice-chairmanship election will be taken up at the April, 2010 meeting.

County Executive Smith thanked County Executive Leopold for his leadership over the past year. He stated that BMC has been involved with many things since he has been associated with it. He credited County Executive Leopold with establishing the Regional Sustainability Committee and promised to continue the work with that. He stated that the Board has also been working with BRCPC with regard to energy and solar power. He thanked him for leadership and the things that have been done. The visionary process for the 2060 Plan is going to be challenging. He stated that it is going to involve the public, but it also must involve the State Growth Task Force. We have to coordinate with the State agencies, particularly MDE and MDP because many of their decisions and regulations are going to affect us, particularly if the vision results in doing more compact development around our transportation infrastructure. We still have to follow-up on the solar/energy power and see if we can take advantage of that as we have taken advantage of the consortium. We have to move forward with the regional GIS Committee and try to coordinate the technology regionally so that we get the maximum benefit. We also have to move forward with the Regional Sustainability Committee and develop a long-term sustainability plan for our entire region. He stated that we have a lot to accomplish, but all of us have to take an interest in the 2010 Census and make certain that our jurisdictions give it the serious attention it deserves because so much flows out of those numbers. Once it is done, we have those numbers for the next ten years. Each of our jurisdictions needs to get engaged. He stated that these are some of the things we are involved with. Because of the inclusive way we are approaching this as a result of things that happened in the past, it takes a long time to engage the community and give them a chance to have input before decisions are made. He thanked the Board for giving him the responsibility to complete these tasks and said he looked forward to working with everyone to get the job done in 2010 and beyond.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Larry W. Klimovitz
Executive Director