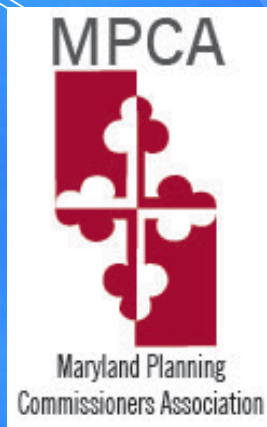


Putting Your Skills Into Motion

2016 Annual Conference
October 27th and 28th
Frederick, MD



Welcome Message from the MPCA President, Robert Reed

Welcome to the 33rd annual conference held by the Maryland Planning Commissioners Association. I am delighted to be holding this year's conference in Frederick County. It's a joy to have worked with the local hosts of the county and its municipalities to put together a full day of informative and insightful sessions.

This year's theme, **Putting Your Skills Into Motion**, is meant to spur us on to take our experience and what we learn and put it into practice in our communities as we serve on our commissions and boards.



The 2016 conference will deliver you enriching sessions, but it also brings you into contact with citizen planners and practitioners from across the state to exchange ideas. Don't miss this opportunity to network and learn from your colleagues. After all, the citizen planning puzzle is solved with Education, Association and Information.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Reed

President, Maryland Planning Commissioners Association and member,
Calvert County Planning Commission

Secretary of Planning Wendi W. Peters – Friday Lunch Keynote Speaker

Mt. Airy native Wendi Peters was appointed as secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning on July 6, 2016 and sworn in by Governor Larry Hogan on July 26, having served previously as deputy secretary. Secretary Peters has served as a community leader, citizen planner and elected official in the town of Mt. Airy, notably as chair of the town's Recycling and Sanitation Commission, member of both its board of appeals and planning commission, and two terms on the Town Council. She was the first woman elected to two terms on the council.



As councilwoman, Ms. Peters initiated a comprehensive inventory of development projects and available lots to enable implementation of growth management measures; had oversight of installation of new water meters for a more efficient water system; saved tax dollars by establishing a single stream recycling program to reduce solid waste; and expanded and recruited business investment in her community.

As an active member of the Maryland Municipal League, Ms. Peters served on the Communications Committee from 2006-2008. Chairing the committee from 2007-2008, she helped establish and promote municipal communication initiatives throughout the state. She was selected by the Daily Record as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2010 and 2012 for her leadership, community service and mentoring. Ms. Peters has also been inducted into the Mount Airy Hall of Fame in recognition of her service and volunteerism in the community.

At-A-Glance schedule

Thursday, October 27

- 11 am Registration opens
- 12:30 pm Planning Commissioner Training Course LIVE!
- 3 pm Planning at Work in Frederick Panel Session
- 4:30 pm Frederick City Historic Tour with Beer & Wine Tasting
(Meet at the Historical Society Museum front steps -
24 East Church Street, Frederick)
- 6 pm MPCA Board of Directors Meeting
- 7pm Cocktail reception sponsored by the Holiday Inn

Friday, October 28

7:30 am	Registration Opens
7:30 am	Breakfast
8 am	Conference Opening
9:15 am	Concurrent Session 1
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Concurrent Session 2
12:15 pm	Lunch & Keynote Speaker Secretary of Planning Wendi W. Peters MPCA Annual Meeting/Election of Officers
1:45 pm	Combined Session 1
2:45 pm	Break
3 pm	Combined Session 2
4:15 pm	Conference ends

Conference Sponsors



MPCA 2015 Annual Conference

Friday, October 28

8 a.m. - Conference Opening

Registration/Breakfast/Welcome

Rob Reed, President,
Maryland Planning Commissioners
Association and member, Calvert County
Planning Commission



The Honorable Jan Gardner, Frederick County Executive

The Honorable Randy McClement, Mayor, City of Frederick

9:15 am - Concurrent Session 1

A. Legalized Marijuana – Growth and Sales: Can Your Code Handle It?

An in depth and frank discussion of the challenges facing citizen planners integrating the growth and sales of medical marijuana from an official that has already dealt with this issue in Carroll County, including code changes, effects on your comprehensive plan and dealing with citizen's concerns and objections.



Phil Hager, Director, Carroll County Department of Planning & Carroll County Legislative Liaison

B. Nuts and Bolts A: Ex Parte Communications and The Open Meetings Act – Don't Get Caught In Violation

Even your e-mails can place you in jeopardy of violation. Find out what you need to know to be in compliance on both issues and the legal ramifications of being in violation. Understand the nuances of the Open Meetings Act and its effect on your communications with the public and other members of your own Commission or Board.



Sharon Kemper Suarez, AICP, Frederick County Planning Commissioner

Break 10:30 am

10:45 am - Concurrent Session 2

A. Free Help in Developing Your Comprehensive Plan from The APA

Sometimes you can really get something for nothing! Learn how to apply for and get pro bono help from the National APA in developing your comprehensive plan. See how this unique opportunity can benefit jurisdictions with a smaller planning department.



Patricia Haddon, AICP, Principal Planner, Calvert County and President, Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association

B. Nuts and Bolts B: How to Make a Motion and The Steps of a Development Application

Learn the best way to present this critical procedural element of every meeting and when a development application comes before you, learn the elements of the application and your responsibilities during the process.



Robert McGrory, Former Town Manager, Brunswick, Maryland

12:15 pm - Lunch/Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Wendi W. Peters, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning

A Vision for Planning in Maryland

Under Governor Larry Hogan, the Maryland Department of Planning has embraced three main focus areas: Economic Development, Flexibility, and Respect for Local Authority. The secretary will share her vision for how good planning can help to change Maryland for the better by focusing on people and places. Citizen planners should always be considering how their efforts can enhance how we live, grow and share a common future.



MPCA Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

1:45 pm – Combined Session 1

Maryland Department of the Environment – What’s New That Will Affect Your Jurisdiction

Find out the details of the administration’s policy on the environment and how it will affect your decisions and local codes, as well as the Administration’s thoughts on the septic law.

The Honorable Ben Grumbles, Secretary,
Maryland Department of the Environment



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

2:45 pm – Break

3 pm – Combined Session 2

The Future of Utilities and Their Effect On Your Planning and Code Decisions, A Panel Discussion



Solar and wind facilities are joining natural gas, coal and nuclear power in generating electricity in Maryland. Hear perspectives on the trends in energy and power generation and learn about how to prepare your codes and comprehensive plans to adapt to these changing conditions. What do you and your jurisdiction need to do to keep up?

Robert Stewart, Manager, Smart Grid and Technology, PHI

Rebecca Rush, Managing Member, DERP Technologies, LLC

Harry Benson, Director of Development, Everpower Wind Holdings

Moderator: Peter Conrad, AICP, Manager, Local Assistance and
Training, Maryland Department of Planning

MPCA 2015 Annual Conference

Presenter Bios



Jan Gardner

Jan H. Gardner, County Executive, was elected Frederick County's first county executive in November 2014. She previously served as a County Commissioner for 12 years, including as President of the Board of County Commissioners from 2006 to 2010. She currently serves on the Board of

Directors for both the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, as well as the 21st Century School Facilities Commission. County Executive Gardner is a Past President of MACo. She serves on the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Advisory Board, the Frederick Area Committee for Transportation, and the MACo Legislative Committee and Tax Committee. Additionally, she is a founding member of the Business and Industry Cabinet, serves on the Tourism Council of Frederick County Board of Directors and the Frederick County Solid Waste Steering Committee. County Executive Gardner has been named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by the Daily Record three times and is a member of the Circle of Excellence. Her business experience includes accounting, operations planning and new product development for the Quaker Oats Company, a Fortune 100 company. She gained valuable federal government experience as the State Director for U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski. County Executive Gardner earned an MBA from Xavier University and a BBA in Finance and Economics from the University of Notre Dame. She also is a graduate of the Rawlings Leadership Training Program through the University of Maryland.



Randy McClement

Randy McClement is currently serving his second term as Mayor. He has been an active member of the Frederick community for many years. He has served on a number of boards and commissions that have given him a breadth of knowledge about our city, notably: past president of the Tourism Council

of Frederick County; Downtown Frederick Partnership Promotions Committee participant; chair of the Charter Review Committee; commissioner on the Ethics Committee; 12-year member of the Chamber of Commerce; and president of Frederick Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League. Before he and his wife, Maryjane, opened the Market Bagel & Deli in downtown Frederick, Randy worked six years in government sales, 13 years as a property manager – 6 of those years as director of management. He has lived in Frederick County since 1994 and as City of Frederick resident since 2003. He has one daughter, Melissa, who currently lives in Richmond Hill, Georgia with her husband Dan and two children, Charlotte and Jacob.



Philip Hager

A lifelong resident of Maryland, Philip R. Hager has enjoyed a diverse career in planning, land use, environmental restoration, and public policy analysis at the Federal, regional and local government levels. He also has significant private sector experience as a land use, location analysis, and planning consultant.

Mr. Hager has worked as a demographer and public facilities planner for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County, as County Planner and Coordinator of Comprehensive Planning in Worcester County, as Executive Director of Planning & Zoning in Allegany County, and as a Planning and Project Development Team Leader for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He also worked on Capitol Hill for the U.S. Senate. Currently, Phil serves as the Director of the Carroll County Department of Planning and also serves as the County's Legislative Liaison.



Sharon K. Suarez, AICP

Sharon Kemper Suarez, AICP, brings over 25 years of professional planning experience to her roles as Frederick County Planning Commissioner, board member of MPCA, and chair of MPCA's new Program/Education Committee. In 2012 she retired from Montgomery County Department of Planning, where she was the coordinator of housing research and policy. Before joining Montgomery County, Ms. Suarez led consultant teams on projects spanning the topics of housing, land use, parking, comprehensive community and regional policy, military master planning, preservation, and the environment. During her planning career, she has provided training in ethics and public participation at the national, regional, and local levels. Ms. Suarez has a Master of Public Administration in Executive Leadership from American University, a BA cum laude in Liberal Arts from West Virginia University, and Preservation Planning Certification from Goucher College's Welch Graduate Center. Ms. Suarez is a member of the American Planning Association (APA) and the Maryland Chapter of APA. She lives in downtown Frederick, Maryland, with her husband, Alan Feinberg, RA, AICP.



Bob McGrory

Bob McGrory most recently served as City Administrator for the City of Brunswick, and was previously Town Manager in Centreville. In those roles he has worked extensively with planning commissions and boards of appeals at both the municipal

and county levels on comprehensive planning, site development, subdivision development, public works agreements, annexations, and parliamentary and open meetings issues. Mr. McGrory is a graduate fellow of the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance at the University of Maryland. Bob also served for seven years in elected office as Mayor and Town Council Member in Bladensburg, Maryland. He is a past President of the Maryland City/County Management Association and has served as a facilitator to help elected and appointed leaders throughout the state use best practices for government.



Patricia Haddon, AICP

Patricia Haddon, AICP, is a Principal Planner with Calvert County. Employed initially as a Transportation Planner, she routinely performs planning functions such as transportation planning, water and sewer, and other infrastructure planning, urban planning,

comprehensive Town Center planning, and participates in public education, outreach, and the creation and adoption of plans and regulations that support County programs and policies. Patricia has been a local government planner for over 20 years. She holds a Master of Science in Zoology and Ecology from the University of Maryland and became an American Planning Association Certified Planner in 2007. Patricia is a resident of North Beach, Maryland and is the Vice Chair of the Planning Commission there. Patricia is also the President of the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association.



Ben Grumbles

Ben Grumbles was confirmed as Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment by the Maryland State Senate on March 6, 2015. He had been nominated by Governor Larry Hogan in January 2015 to lead the department. Prior to that,

he was President of the U.S. Water Alliance, a Washington-based environmental nonprofit organization that educates the public on the value of water and the need for integrated and innovative solutions. Ben has served as the Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed Assistant Administrator for Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as the Senate-confirmed Director of Arizona's Department of Environmental Quality and as Environmental Counsel and Senior Staff Member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Science Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Ben has broad experience in energy, climate, air, waste and agricultural policy

and regulation. He is a member of the National Academy of Science's Water Science and Technology Board and a frequent lecturer and analyst on environmental law and policy. He has a master's degree in environmental law from George Washington University, a J.D. from Emory University School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University. Ben is one of Baltimore's newest residents but he has lived in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with his wife and children, over the last 30 years.



Robert Stewart

Rob Stewart is Manager, Smart Grid and Technology for PHI's Smart Grid and Technology Group. PHI is an Exelon Company and the parent company of Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), an electric utility serving Washington, D.C. and suburban Maryland;

Delmarva Power, an electric and gas utility serving Delaware and the rest of the Delmarva Peninsula; and Atlantic City Electric, an electric utility serving southern New Jersey.

Rob serves as the utility functional area manager of R&D for PHI. In his present role, Rob leads an effort that is responsible for further developing and managing PHI's approach to evaluating and deploying advanced technologies and concepts for application on the electric system. Some of Rob's specific areas of responsibility deal with the interface between the customer and the Smart Grid. This includes microgrids, storage, the development of PHI's Home Area Network (HAN) strategy as well as the integration of electric vehicle chargers and renewable generation / intelligent management and control capabilities.



Rebecca Rush

Rebecca Rush is the managing member of DERP Technologies, LLC, developer of power controls technologies to improve the potential for more distributed generation in critical areas. The Power Continuity Unit (PCU, patent pending) is designed

to enable local generation systems to serve economically in normal conditions and as primary generation sources as part of Microgrids during energy emergencies. She is also Chair of the FEWSS project, a 501c3 initiative that provides community and facility strategic energy planning and risk mitigation support for local governments, farms, businesses and non-profit organizations. FEWSS projects support mission-critical functions and develops continuity-of-operations and power storage options



Harry Benson

Mr. Benson has 25 years of environmental entrepreneurial business development and management experience with the last 11 years as Wind Energy prospecting and project developer for EverPower Wind Holdings Inc. Mr. Benson was the

lead developer on the 140 mw Twin Ridges Wind Farm in Somerset County PA which went commercially operational in December of 2012. EverPower will be building the second phase of this project in 2017/18.

Mr. Benson also has lead development responsibility for EverPower's New England and Mid Atlantic development/mergers and acquisitions and EverPower's Military installation's renewable business development. Prior to working for EverPower Mr. Benson had 17 years in the Recycling Business, the last 10 with Georgia Pacific's Harmon Associates. In 1990 Mr. Benson worked for Maryland Department of the Environment, and was the chief of the office of waste minimization and recycling. He is a long standing environmentalist, recycling and renewable energy advocate. He has a BS in Journalism with minor in Marketing from University of Maryland-College Park. He is married with 3 kids (two in college) and a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.



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State of Maryland
Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Maryland Department of Planning
Wendi W. Peters, Secretary
Ewing McDowell, Deputy Secretary

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