

# **Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Meeting**

November 14, 2011/1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **Career Programs Building Hagerstown Community College Hagerstown, Maryland**

### **Meeting Summary**

*Members:* Jon Laria, Marty Baker, Derick Berlage, Greg Bowen, Dave Carey, Kelly Cartales, Diane Chasse, Cheryl Cort, David Costello, Sandy Coyman, Richard Hall, Frank Hertsch, Steve Lafferty, David Lever, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Rollin Stanley, Roger Venezia, Duane Yoder

*Attendees:* Steve Goodrich, Tom Osborne, Wendy Scott-Napier, Chris Uhl

*MDP Staff:* Chuck Boyd, John Coleman, Dave Cotton, Jenny King, Pat Russell

#### **Introductions/Administrative Matters**

The Chair, Jon Laria welcomed everyone to the meeting and appreciated everyone's patience in getting started. He then introduced Duane Yoder, President of the Garrett County Community Action Committee and Western Maryland representative on the Task Force.

Mr. Yoder welcomed everyone to Hagerstown, Maryland. He noted there are quite a few things going on in "Mountain Maryland." Mr. Yoder presented a power point presentation. He explained that there are eight incorporated towns in Garrett County. He noted how the towns work together- sharing information and experiences. The towns have small populations and some are struggling.

Mr. Stanley asked what the top three infrastructure needs of the towns were. Mr Yoder replied that definitely economic development is necessary for all of the towns. Other needs are sewer and technology.

Mr. Yoder said members should let him know if they have any questions or concerns regarding his presentation.

#### **Septics Task Force**

Mr. Laria reminded the Commission about its relationship with the Septics Task Force. The Executive Order required two joint meetings between the Commission and the Task Force which

was fulfilled. He noted that some of our members sit on both bodies. He noted that the Commission is not going to debate the work of the Task Force. The Commission will have a full presentation once the Septic Task Force report is completed.

Mr. Hall noted that the Septics Task Force report is due in December. The next meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2011 to discuss recommendations. The Task Force consists of several workgroups – Agriculture, Land Use, Funding and Infrastructure.

Mr. Laria advised that the meetings are open and everyone should feel free to attend.

### Workgroup Reports

#### Funding Workgroup

Mr. Stanley reported on the Funding Workgroup. He said that in dealing with land preservation strategies, he has been having trouble getting people interested in this effort. He discussed how the Blue Ribbon Commission can tie into this and that they have come up with some recommendations.

Mr. Stanley said with regards to the TIF strategy, the workgroup is meeting again tomorrow to talk about how to draft this.

Mr. Laria suggested looking at Best Practices in other places, including legal tolerances and political issues. Mr. Laria said the group is functioning very well now and needs to focus on putting together a compelling packet of legislation that makes sense.

Mr. Costello asked – how close are we to the policy recommendations? Mr. Laria said it is important that the group work on legislation and make it a compelling package. He said we need to see how we can keep the process going.

#### Concentrating Growth Workgroup

Mr. Berlage gave a power point presentation. The three questions that were addressed by the subcommittees included – persuading more people and businesses to choose existing communities when they choose where they will live, work and invest; encouraging development in places that are targeted for growth and revitalization; and what is the best way to implement sustainable growth policies in rural areas of the State.

He said they also looked at infrastructure. Mr. Stanley suggested that State legislation is something else to take a look at.

Mr. Coyman felt this was a good report and suggested lack of infill and streamlining could be a focus.

Mr. Laria suggested everyone go back and read the written report if they had not already. He added that the group should continue down this path because there is a real opportunity here.

### PlanMaryland Workgroup

Mr. Carey informed members he was giving the workgroup's report on behalf of the Chair, Gerrit Knaap. He briefly went through the comments of the workgroup and where the Plan is in regards to the group's perspective. He stated that the MD Department of Planning is still working on the draft, which will be submitted to the Governor this month. He noted the actual implementation is about a year away. The workgroup incorporated a number of recommendations in today's report.

Mr. Carey said that the Plan has been cut down and this has helped for a better understanding by the reader. He noted several of the major points contained in the workgroup report (which can be found online) including the role of the Growth Commission and the Smart Growth Subcabinet. He noted that the next phase of PlanMaryland includes guidelines for the planning areas.

The next workgroup meeting will be in December and the group is working on the development into the implementation phase.

### PlanMaryland Workgroup Discussion

Mr. Laria stated this is a very good report and felt that the workgroup has done a good job. He said there is a lot more in the process to go and the Commission will have a substantive role going forward.

Mr. Laria asked for motion to approve the workgroup's comments, adopt the work of the group and the position they have on the Plan. Mr. Carey so moved; seconded by Ms. Schmidt-Perkins.

Mr. Berlage felt that there are still many questions that need to be addressed. He noted that even though he will vote yes for the motion, he hopes that a lot of the questions will be addressed.

Mr. Yoder felt the report is good and put together very well but had a few issues. The selection criteria for designating places were not mentioned and have not been recommended for the designation of the PFA's. He added this is a very fundamental piece and needs to be addressed. Mr. Yoder felt that until this problem is resolved, he could not go forward with approving the report.

Mr. Hall advised Mr. Yoder that the PFA was established in the State law in 1997.

Mr. Boyd said the Plan sets forth that all of these efforts are built on and sets a structure for future opportunities.

Mr. Coyman said the Plan really needs to look at how the State and local government relate.

He said we need to be looking at designated growth areas. He felt the Plan includes policies based on three separate areas – Western Maryland, Central Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

Ms. Cort felt that PlanMaryland is a very helpful guide and appreciates the recommendations.

After hearing several other comments and concerns, Mr. Laria asked for the motion to be voted. All represented were in favor except for one nay.

WIP Workgroup

Mr. Laria reported that the WIP workgroup has followed up on the recommendations and prepared a letter to the Governor (copy attached in today's packet) submitting the recommendations adopted by the Growth Commission.

Public Comments

None

Chairman Laria adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.