

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Meeting

September 26, 2011/1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Building Cambridge, Maryland

Meeting Summary

Members: Jon Laria, Calvin Ball, Greg Bowen, Karl Brendle, Russ Brinsfield, Rudolph Cane, David Carey, Kelly Cartales, Sandy Coyman, John Dillman, Alan Girard, David Goshorn, Rich Hall, Don Halligan, Frank Hertsch, Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Brigid Kenney, Pat Langenfelder, David Lever, Rob Merritt, Sam Parker, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Ray Skinner, Rollin Stanley, Roger Venezia (representing Bob Walker), Duane Yoder

Attendees: Natalie Chabot, Candace Donoho, Kurt Fuchs, Katie Maloney, Tom Osborne, Anne Roane

MDP Staff: Chuck Boyd, John Coleman, Peter Conrad, Jenny King, Shannon Marino, Andy Ratner, Pat Russell, Joe Tassone

Introductions/Administrative Matters

The Chair, Jon Laria thanked everyone for coming to Cambridge today for the meeting. He noted there is a full agenda for today's meeting, and then thanked Mayor Jackson-Stanley for taking him on a tour of the City previously. He then turned the meeting over to her for a few words.

Mayor Jackson-Stanley welcomed members and staff to Cambridge and thanked everyone for letting them host the meeting today, noting that there is quite a lot going on the Eastern Shore. Mayor Jackson-Stanley then presented a brief powerpoint entitled: *Revitalizing Cambridge, Maryland as a Sustainable Community*. She said the City of Cambridge is committed to becoming a model sustainable community.

The Mayor then introduced Anne Roane, City Planner of the City of Cambridge. She began by saying that the City has undertaken many projects. Some of these include: the Public Safety Building, which opened in 2007; adoption of the Comprehensive Plan after almost three years of being in the process of writing it and was finally adopted in March, 2011; development of the Economic Strategic Plan; the EPA Building Blocks initiative, one of 36 cities over 26 States that were chosen to be a host – The Zoning Ordinance.

Ms. Roane stated that there are quite a few other projects and these will all be posted on the website. She noted that they have established partnerships with the Federal government,

including EPA Building Blocks Workshop, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad, Safe Routes to Schools. Other partnerships include the State agencies, State and local government, non profits and neighborhoods.

Mayor Jackson-Stanley said as you can see there are lots of projects going on in the City and hopes that people will visit often.

Mr. Laria thanked the Mayor and Ms. Roane for their presentations. He then continued by summarizing the meeting agenda. He noted that Chuck Boyd will be giving a PlanMaryland update summary report and will be coming back to the November meeting with specific recommendations. Mr. Laria said the workgroups will be presenting their reports and noted that the WIP workgroup has been working very hard, and will be presenting specific recommendations today.

PlanMaryland Update

Mr. Chuck Boyd presented a brief synopsis of PlanMaryland. He noted there have been a few changes to the original draft. There are now 90 pages of the report compared to 180 pages in the original draft. An Appendix has also been added. Mr. Boyd referred to the hand-out in today's meeting package which specifically details the changes.

Workgroup Reports

Mr. Carey said the PlanMaryland Workgroup has been working very hard on this effort and has received substantial amount of feedback. Three more meetings have been scheduled – September 28th, October 12th and October 26th. The Workgroup plans to provide the Commission with its full report and recommendation on the Plan at the November meeting. Copy of the Workgroup status report was provided to members in today's packets.

Mr. Laria added that he appreciates everyone's hard work. He felt that the second version of the Plan has been written very well and simplifies somewhat. He noted that the Workgroup will report with their refinements at the November 14th Commission meeting.

Secretary Hall said we still have work to do, but would not be where we are today without everyone's help. He said we have come a long way and credits everyone for their efforts.

Mr. Coyman thanked everyone for coming out with the 2nd draft which he felt was very good and much appreciated.

Concentrating Workgroup

Mr. Berlage began by saying his workgroup plans to have the full list of recommendations by the next meeting in November.

He then briefly went over the workgroup activities, copy of which was included in the meeting packet. Three of the goals that the Subcommittees came up with include:

Goal 1: Making sustainable Growth Centers Attractive Places to Live, Work and Invest;

Goal 2: Streamlining Development Approvals in Sustainable Growth Centers; and

Goal 3: Identify a Sound Approach to Rural Growth Centers.

Mr. Berlage read through each of the goals and noted that the list is tentative, but wanted to give members an idea of the group's discussions.

Indicators Workgroup

Mr. Coyman said his group has some partial results. Staff at MDP pulled together the indicators for the beta testing. The group came up with some findings and recommendations. He noted that at the November meeting the group will have the final recommendations. The indicators need some more work, testing and experience with the local jurisdictions. He said that the group went over the matrix. There is a potential for assessment of smart growth. Mr. Coyman said they are moving forward and working with jurisdictions to complete their analysis. See copy of the Indicators Workgroup status report in today's meeting packet.

Education Workgroup

Mr. Ball indicated the group is taking a look at how they can expand their membership numbers. He said the group has identified several goals to help with their achievement. He then reviewed the four goals that the group has established (copy of the report was distributed). These goals include: Identification of Additional Members; Target Audience Identification; Marketing Strategies; and Identifying local needs for sustainable communities to enhance education initiatives.

Housing Workgroup

Secretary Skinner reported his group have been extremely busy and have had several meetings. Their primary focus is on the development of a statewide housing plan. The framework for this plan is PlanMaryland. Secretary Skinner advised that Secretary Hall attended one of their workgroup meetings to talk about how housing was addressed in the Plan. In their discussion, various issues and concerns were raised. The group also discussed policy considerations to identify themes, objectives and actions for the Housing Plan.

A copy of the full Housing Workgroup status report was included in today's meeting packet. The workgroup is scheduled to meet again on October 4th for full discussion.

Funding Workgroup

Mr. Stanley reported his group has been working with the Blue Ribbon Commission. On the policy side, the group has looked to see if the policy guidelines are in place. On the funding side, we need to look at how do we get the money? There have been a lot of issues regarding TIFs. He said we have looked at funding that the Blue Ribbon Commission has done. This includes

local sales tax; TIF bonds and local sales tax. The workgroup needs to break into two groups: Policy and Funding. Don Halligan indicated that the Blue Ribbon Commission is meeting tomorrow in Frederick, Maryland. He said the report on the recommendations is due to the Governor on November 1st. This Commission sunsets the end of the State fiscal year.

Mr. Laria advised that MDOT has a very good website, which includes the Blue Ribbon Commission. He said there are a lot of good items on this website, and if you are interested, there are also a lot of good resources that can be found as well. Mr. Laria asked Mr. Halligan to please send the link to share with everyone.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins felt the list should be shortened. We need to look at what should stay on the list. We are moving things on the list that shouldn't be funded.

Mr. Ball felt the need to look at the TIF legislation and re-evaluatable the list.

Mr. Lever said there are different types of infrastructure.

Mr. Laria indicated that the P3 Commission has a website. He said Jenny King will send the link to everyone.

WIP Workgroup

Mr. Girard said the workgroup has been working very hard, but has not been able to meet every week. He then thanked all of the members for coming to the meetings and participating. He said this has been a good experience and noted that the products have been good. He indicated that the group has put together a subset of a full report. Copies of the WIP Workgroup report is included in today's meeting packet.

Mr. Girard said that of the four recommendations that were presented from the last time, three of the four need more work. Recommendation of the WIP to serve in an advisory capacity to the Interagency Growth Offset Workgroup was accepted. In regards to the Commission endorsing the importance of the WIP, he indicated that the Commission still needs to do that. Recommendation concerning publishing a "toolbox" had some presentation for this one, but needs refining as a pollution prevention toolbox.

Mr. Girard referred to a publication entitled "Our Waters, Our Towns" – Local Government's Role in the WIP. This publication was prepared by the Local Government Advisory Committee and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. He advised that this publication is available on-line. He noted that a second publication is in the works. This is an opportunity to help and clarify what this policy looks like.

Mr. Girard then referred to the 3rd recommendation in his report.

Growth Offset Strategy Presentation

Mr. Tassone presented a power point entitled: *Accommodating Growth Under the TMDL: Offset Strategy.*” Mr. Tassone talked about the importance of how each State is going to achieve TMDL. Work is in progress and implementation of the program is in 2013. A draft will be ready for the stakeholders by the end of the year. Mr. Tassone said he has been working closely with some of the counties. The issue of offsetting was discussed. Mr. Halligan asked the question – do we know we are going to have offsets? We need to achieve base line reductions. Mr. Girard asked – what is the capacity to have baseline and what comes next related to growth? He said we need to make sure we are determining the offset capacity.

Mr. Laria said we need to move on these recommendations – 1) the Commission should formally recommend the State determine the “offset generation capacity: for each county and 2) the Commission should formally recommend the State in collaboration with EPA clarify how policy and regulatory frameworks under current and proposed trading programs, etc.

Mr. Laria then asked members to please move on these recommendations today. Delegate Rudolph Cane made a motion to approve; seconded by Dave Carey. Decision was unanimous – motion carries.

Public Comments

None

Mr. Laria reminded everyone that there will be a joint meeting with the Septics Task Force. Notice of this meeting will be sent out. The regular meeting of the Septics Task Force is scheduled for tomorrow in Environmental Matters, Annapolis, Maryland. Workgroups of the Septics Task Force will be talking about specific solutions. Information will be sent out in advance of the meeting.

The next Growth Commission is scheduled for November 14th in Hagerstown, Maryland

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

