

County Engineers Association of Maryland

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
March 27, 2008
Queen Anne's Chesapeake Exploration Center
Kent Narrows
Grasonville, Maryland

President Jim Wilson called the meeting to order @ 11:00 a.m. with the following attending:

President: Jim Wilson
1st Vice President: John Redden
2nd Vice President: Greg Africa
Secretary: Mike Warring
Treasurer: Doug Myers (not in attendance)
Directors: Mike Mertaugh, Darl Kolar, Ed Plank, Stu Taub, Holger Serrano, Tom Meunier (not present) and Bob Cooper
Past Presidents: John Tustin, Joe Kroboth, Todd Mohn, and Ed Adams
Historian: Jim Wright (not in attendance)
Scholarship Committee: Co-Chairmen Dale Coppage & Mike Errico (not in attendance)
Legislative Committee: Co-Chairmen Bob Martin-(not in attendance) & Stu Taub
Awards Committee: Chairman Jim Montgomery
Visitors: Jeff Rank

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the February 28, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Darl Kolar, seconded by John Redden, for approval of the minutes as presented, and without comment. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Doug Myers was unable to attend the meeting, and his report dated 3/26/08 was distributed to the Board members. The checking account balance as of 2/25/08 was \$ 62,249.60, while the Money Market balance was \$ 8,748.80. The receipts totaled \$ 965.00, while expenses were \$ 1,564.24. The total balance of both the checking and money market accounts as of 3/26/08 was \$ 70,399.16. In addition, the Treasurer also presented the proposed CEAM Budget for 2008/2009 that reflects projected expenses and revenues that balance out at \$139,350.00. Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report and the proposed operating budget was made by Holger Serrano, and was seconded by Bob Cooper. Discussion, motion carried.

Secretary's Announcement/New Members:

(9) New "Members" – Charles R. Hall – Queen Anne's County DPW –Inspector – Roads department; Clifford J. Engle – Carroll County DPW - Chief – Bureau of Solid Waste; John Henry Stevens – Charles County Government – Chief of Capital Services; Daniel T. Vishell – Kent County DPW – Division Chief of Roads Division – Anthony Frances Kailani Crawford - Maryland State Highway Administration – Assistant District Engineer – Maintenance – (La Vale-District #6); Karen Marie Fiasco – State Highway Administration – Team Leader – Special Projects – (Kenilworth Ave. – District #3) ; Rhody R. Holthaus – A.A. County DPW- Chief Road Operations; John Frederick Knopp – Calvert County DPW – Site Engineering Technician; and Gary E. Dobson – Calvert County DPW – Project Engineer.

Secretary's Announcement/New Members: (continued)

(3) New "Associate" Members – Richard Thomas Talbot – Project Engineer – Century Engineering, Inc. – Construction Management & Inspection; Mark Eisner – Advanced Land & Water, Inc. – President; and Tim Connor – Gannett Fleming – Project Engineer – Traffic/Highway Engineering

Motion to accept these applicants for membership in CEAM was made by John Redden, and was seconded by Greg Africa. Discussion, motion carried. [226 Associate Members-50 unpaid; 300 Members – 31 unpaid; 39 retired – 6 (was 9) unpaid; and 12 Life Members – Total Membership = 577]

Committee Reports: Program & Conference Committee: (Co-Chairmen John Redden & Greg Africa)- Spring 2008 Conference in Solomon's Island As of yesterday, the hotel has 85 of the 95 guaranteed rooms reserved by attendees, and DFI, and the Associates have reserved the rooms for the Thursday night mixer. Only 34 members have signed up for the tournament on Wednesday at noon, but we expect to have our normal 90 + players when the tournament begins. The Honorable Mike Miller, has agreed to be our Keynote Speaker on Friday morning, as well as the President of the Calvert County Board of Commissioners. Former CAO of Wicomico County, and now special advisor to the Wicomico County Council, Matt Creamer will be also a featured speaker on our last session on Friday.

Fall 2008 Conference – Greg reported that he has met with the Clarion staff and they have reviewed menus, and the preliminary conference requirements. According to Greg, they have promised to resolve some of the smaller issues like the Past President's and Board luncheon location for this year's conference. Mike Warring noted that we will need to communicate with the Bay Club to see if we can reserve their facilities for the golf tournament beyond this Fall's conference. Based on some preliminary conversations, it would appear that this 36 hole facility may be available to reserve beyond our current contract that ends this Fall. President Wilson also suggested to the Co-Chairmen to contact Michelle Dinkel, who has agreed to provide the necessary "outsourcing" services to our organization that we are seeking to assist the respective Conference Chairs for the semi-annual conferences. The primary role of this consultant will be to handle the printing of the programs, the preparation of the mail out registrations, as well as preparing the registration packages that are picked up at the conference registration tables at the beginning of each conference. The idea is to familiarize her with our "typical" program by inviting her to the next Program and Conference Committee meeting that will take place at 10:00 am on May 22nd before the regular Board Meeting.

Scholarship Committee: (Dale Coppage – Co-Chairman) – Dale reported on the profile of the forty two (42) recipients of the CEAM scholarships to date. He presented his report to the Board, that included statistics for the Board to review, to include: 14 of the 42 recipients were female (33.3%), while 83.3% of the graduates reside in the Greater Baltimore Washington Metropolitan areas. Eight of the 42 have obtained advanced degrees. Dale also reported that the SHA and the Maryland Transportation Authority both offer "internship" programs to the students at the Clark School. There were other additional facts provided, as well as a report that the committee, with the financial support of the CEAM organization, were able to realize their stated goal of providing at least 50% funding of a full scholarship (\$4,800 each) for our four scholarships. The Committee was able to attain the three stated goals for this year that were established by

Scholarship Committee: (Dale Coppage – Co-Chairman) – (continued) President Wilson, with support of the Board of Directors. Dale also reported that he and the committee were also investigating the Civil Engineering curriculums at other Maryland Schools with the thought being that CEAM may wish to sponsor other partial civil engineering scholarships at other Maryland Institutions besides the University of Maryland College Park Campus.

Legislative Committee: (Chairman Bob Martin) – In Bob absence, Stu Taub reported on the status of several proposed House Bills to include: HB #921 – Dealing with the collection of Illegal signage in the SHA right of way; HB #977 – Dealing with the responsibility to report any illegal dumping of any hazardous materials; HB #1056 – deals with water management and wetland – to establish funds for waterways and wetland restorations; HB #1529- dealing with Sewage Sludge – utilization; and HB #1127 – dealing with HUR Funds – he is concerned that a portion of these funds may be used to help balance the operating State budget this session.

Membership Committee: (Chairman Todd Mohn) – Todd reported that there were a total of 577 members in CEAM at this time, and that he and Jeff Rank had sent out reminder billing statements to the unpaid members in the various categories in their effort to bring everyone current.

Budget Committee: Chairman Doug Myers – No report.

By Laws Committee: (Chairman Mike Warring) – No report.

Associate Member Advisory Committee: (Stu Taub & Darl Kolar – Co-Chairmen) – Stu reported that he and Darl were working on an agenda for the Associate Members' meeting for the Spring conference. Further, Stu reported that there were four (4) "Event", nine (9) "general", and four (4) Golf Hole Sponsors at this time. Darl indicated that the Associate Members will initiate calls to Members to inquire about attendance, and possible sponsorships for the Spring Conference.

Awards Committee: (Chairman Jim Montgomery) – Jim distributed the Committee's recommendations for annual awards, and the submission requirements to nominate a member for an award. Though the recommendations suggested that only members in a "like" membership category could nominate a person for an award, Pats President Joe Kroboth offered that this restriction should not be applicable, and that any member in good standing should be able to nominate a person for any award. There was discussion, and then a motion was made by Mike Warring and was seconded by Ed Plank to support this modification to the Committee's recommendation. There was discussion, and approval of the motion. Then Jim discussed the fact that we have missed opportunities to bestow "Honorary Memberships" to some of our higher profile speakers like Mayor Schaffer, and Neil Pedersen for example. Then Jim recommended that recently retired Chuck Emerson, should be nominated to be a "Life Member" due to his untiring support for CEAM throughout his career with the Caroline County Roads department and DPW. A motion was made by Stu Taub, and was seconded by Ed Plank to approve this nomination. There was little discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

SHA Liaison Committee: (Chairman Ed Adams) – No report

Old Business:

- **NACE Updates – Kevin Beachy, State Representative** – Kevin could not attend – No report – except to note that Kevin had written an article for the NACE magazine that he had distributed to the Board via an email.
- **Conference RFP for Outsourcing Registration Services – John Redden & Mike Warring** – Michelle Dinkel will be invited to attend the May meeting of the P & C Committee in order to familiarize herself with the scope of services that we require, and so that she can develop a proposal for her time and services. Michelle has extensive experience with conference planning and is currently a staff member of MACO, however, she would be providing these outsourcing services on her own time. **MACO Conference Technical Program Summer 2008 – John Redden** – president Wilson reminded John that he will be serving as the President for the MACO Summer Conference in August, and that he needs to get with the MACO staff to ascertain the theme, and potential subject matter that CEAM will be addressing as part of the Affiliates Technical Program.

New Business:

- **Discussion w/MACO, MDOT, on local needs (Recent needs studies by Counties)**- MACO is gathering information, and data from the 23 Counties regarding the needs of local governments for road needs. Joe Kroboth asked if anyone was aware of the progress of this study, as well as the status of the replies being offered by the individual Counties.
- **Election of CEAM Board of Directors** –Secretary Warring and Administrator Rank stated that as of 4/15 that they had received 18 ballots back, and that they fully expected to receive all 23 ballots back. The ballots will be checked by the Secretary, and the results will be read at the Business Meeting The new slate of Board Members will be sworn in at the Thursday evening affair of the Spring Conference, and the terms of the new members will start on July 1, 2008
- **Verizon Representatives** – At the bequest of the Board, nine (9) representatives from VERIZON attended the Board meeting in an effort to create better communications with them, especially with regards to utility relocations for roadway, and bridge construction projects. Those in attendance were as follows:
 - (1) **Sheila I. Ketterer** – MD/DC Construction – tel: 301-282-5544 – email: Sheila.i.Ketterer@verizon.com
 - (2) **Vincent C.Healy** – BMET/Western MD Construction – tel: 304-267-9210 – email: vincent.c.healy@verizon.com
 - (3) **Dave Robinson** – BMET/Western MD/WVA Engineering – tel: 410-393-6688 – email: William.D.Robinson@verizon.com
 - (4) **Laura Knickman** – MD/DC External Affairs (Eastern Shore) – tel: 410-393-7447 – email: laura.c.knickman@verizon.com
 - (5) **Briana Gowing** – MD/DC External Affairs (W. MD/Mont. + Howard County) – tel: 410-393-4389 – email: briana.gowing@verizon.com

- **Verizon Representatives** – (continued)
 - (6) **Michael Jacobs** – WSAM (PG + Mont Counties) DC – Area Engineering Manager – tel: 301-595-6146 – email: Mike.J.Jacobs@verizon.com
 - (7) **Tara Potter** – MD/DC External Affairs (PG/AA Counties) – tel: 410-393-4863 – email: tpotter@verizon.com
 - (8) **Bob Butcher** – Engineering Support – MD/DC – tel: 410-393-4535 – email: Robert.d.butcher@verizon.com
 - (9) **Scott Fraser** – Chesapeake MD Engineering – tel: 410-224-9185 – email: scott.l.fraser@verizon.com

After introductions by the Verizon representatives, Tara Potter described how there are four “External Affairs Representatives” to serve Maryland and that three of the reps were present today being Briana Gowing, Laura Knickman, and herself, Tara Potter. The remaining rep, Joseph Daniels could not attend, but that his contact information was as follows:

- (10) **Joseph J. Daniels** – External Affairs (Calvert/Carroll/Cecil/Harford/St. Mary's/ & Baltimore Counties) – tel: 410-393-7074 – email: joseph.j.daniels@verizon.com

Several Board members posed questions to the reps dealing with relocation timeliness, responsiveness, the issue of “prior rights”, and the overall delay of construction projects due to Verizon’s lack of response. There were several answers offered, especially that the preliminary drawings need to be sent to them as soon as possible so that they have proper time to react, or possibly have some input in the preliminary design at that stage. The issue of “prior rights” was not discussed, nor did they feel that it was proper for them to comment on what is a legal issue. Bob Copper said that there were ongoing discussions with Verizon as the Board met in his county that day, and that hopefully, there will be a more effective relationship between Verizon and Harford County because of it. Jim Wilson offered that his County was in the midst of ongoing negotiations with Verizon, and that the concept of equal cost sharing for utility relocations was being discussed. Mike Warring offered to meet with Ms. Knickman to see if further effective communications and policies could be developed to produce a uniform policy for all of the Counties in the near future.

- **MDE Enforcement** – Ed Adams asked if other Counties were experiencing an administrative crackdown by MDE on their respective landfills. Several members of the Shore confirmed the recent stringent enforcement communications.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Motion by John Redden, and was seconded by Stu Taub to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board will be held at 11:00 on May 22, 2008 at the Chesapeake Exploration Center in the Kent Narrows area of Queen Anne’s County.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Michael Warring, P.E.
CEAM Secretary

