

County Engineers Association of Maryland

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING April 27, 2006 Queen Anne's County Exploration Center Grasonville, Maryland

2nd Vice President Jim Wilson called the meeting to order @ 11:00 a.m. with the following attending:

President : Joe Kroboth III (out of State @ conference)

1st Vice President: John Tustin (in court)

2nd Vice President: Jim Wilson

Secretary: Mike Warring

Treasurer: Doug Myers

Directors: Kevin Beachy, John Redden, Ron Bowen (can't attend), Holger Serrano, Bob Tenanty, and Steve Zahn

Past Presidents: Todd Mohn, Steve Walls, and Ed Adams & Edgar Gonzalez (can't attend)

Historian: Jim Wright (can't attend)

Scholarship Committee: John Norris (can't attend)

Legislative Committee: Bob Martin

Visitors: Gregg Africa - representing Ron Bowen and a nominee for Board Member;

Michael Sanderson – Legislative Aide for MACO; and Jeff Rank – Queen Anne's

County DPW – CEAM Web Master & Nominee to become the CEAM Administrator

The Board Secretary announced that he had received a copy of an email from President Joe Kroboth appointing 2nd Vice President Jim Wilson to serve as the President at this Board meeting since he is not able to attend due to County business obligations. Therefore, the Secretary advised the Board that we do have an "quorum" even though both the President and 1st Vice President were not able to attend this meeting of the Board.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the March 23, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Motion by John Redden, seconded by Bob Tenanty for approval of the minutes as read. Motion approved unanimously.

Comments: None

Treasurer's Report:

Doug Myers distributed his monthly reports as of 3/22/06 and 4/25/06, as well as his proposed budget for Fiscal year 2006-2007. The checking account balance as of 3/22/05 was \$ 57,910.19, while the Money Market balance was \$ 7,972.87. The receipts for the reporting period totaled \$ 470.79, while expenses were \$ 1,139.92. The total balance of both the checking and money market accounts as of 4/25/06 was \$ 65,213.93. Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report as well as the Board's approval of, and to present the proposed fiscal budget for adoption by the "voting members" at the Business Meeting at the Spring Conference was made by Kevin Beachy, and was seconded by Bob Tenanty. Discussion, motion was carried unanimously.

Secretary's Announcement/New Members:

(6) **"Member" applications** – **Scott Flanigan** – Director of Cecil County's Department of Public Works; **Julian Mark Willis** – Chief of Road Maintenance – Calvert County's DPW; **Floyd Chris Harley** – Highway Maintenance Supervisor – Calvert County's DPW; **Charles Edward Campbell, Jr.** – Engineering Construction Inspector II – Queen Anne's County's DPW; **Edwin L. Plank** – Director of Highway Department – Washington County's DPW; **Armen Abrahamian** – Chief of Traffic Design and Planning Section – Prince George's County DPW & T.

(1) **"Associate" Member Application** – **Jeremy Kevin Shaffer** – V.P. INSPECTECH Systems, Inc. – Pittsburgh, Pa.

Motion to approve the 7 applications by Bob Tenanty, and was seconded by Steve Zahn. Discussion, motion approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Spring '06 Conference Report: (Chairman Jim Wilson) Jim reported that all of the conference planning arrangements have been addressed, and that we are expecting a large number of attendees to participate in our Spring Conference at the WISP Resort and Conference Center at Deep Creek Lake starting on May 11, 2006. Jim also noted that through the efforts of Todd Mohn, and our Web Master Jeff Rank, there will be a Spring 2006 "Roadscraper" included in all registration packages, as well as being posted on the CEAM website for those members who may not be able to attend the Conference. All of the local government officials, the speakers, and the "keynote speaker" are confirmed, and Jim is looking forward to an exciting technical program and conference at WISP, which was the site of a Spring Conference back in the early 80's.

Fall '06 Conference Report: (Chairman Jim Wilson) - Jim reported that through the excellent electronic record keeping and planning files by the Fall '05 Conference Chairman, and 1st Vice President John Tustin, that he is tying down speakers, and along with his planning committee working on the many arrangements to insure that this conference will be as successful as our 2005 Fall meeting. Jim also pointed out just how close of an interval there will be between the Spring and Fall Conference since our Spring Conference will be in May versus our normal meeting in mid to late April due to the altitude and location of the WISP Resort. He indicated that he will begin the detailed conference planning the Monday following the Spring Conference, and that he will need to have conference packages out in early July, which only allows one Conference Planning Committee meeting before the mailing.

Legislative Committee: (Chairman Bob Martin) – Bob thanks the various Board members, as well as other members, who had participated in the legislative process by testimony, or telephone contacts and letters to legislators on bills affecting members throughout the State. In addition, he also thanked the members of his committee for their participation on the committee during this year's legislative session.

Legislative Committee: (Chairman Bob Martin) – (continued)

Bob then introduced Michael Sanderson, who is the Chief Legislative Aide for MACO, who gave the following overview of bills in this year's session that affected MACO, and CEAM:

- **“Highway User Revenues”** – Michael offered a “big thank you” to all of the members of CEAM who worked so hard on maintaining the \$26 million of HUR funds in this legislative budget, which at one point were in jeopardy of losing these funds due to budgetary restraints, as well as the need to balance the fiscal State budget. Michael pointed out that CEAM had really come on strong as an organization back in the '05 legislative session when the HUR funds became a focal point of the budget balancing act, and using our success along with MACO, he congratulated the Board of CEAM, as well as several Members for their success in preserving the \$26 M of HUR funds that at one point, was proposed to be used in other areas of the State budget.
- **“Eminent Domain Bills”** – There were 30-40 bills introduced by various legislators from throughout the State during the past session, but for the most part, however, none of these bills passed.
- **Annexation Bill – HB #1141** – lots of ill feelings about this bill, which pitted MACO against MML throughout the session until a compromise was worked out.
- **2006/2007 Session** – Michael reported that there will be a “work safety areas” bill put forward early in the session, and he will look forward to our input, and testimony when the session begins in January.

Jim Wilson thanked Michael for his report, and his untiring efforts at MACO, and the Board, and our Members will look forward to an ever increasing role as an organization working along side MACO on future legislation affecting our members.

Membership Committee: (Chairman Todd Mohn) – Todd reported that he and Jeff Rank had been working on updating our member base information, since receiving it electronically from Kathy Green, who will be officially leaving her role of serving CEAM as the “Administrative Assistant” on July 1st. Based on their collective work along with the CEAM Secretary, Todd reported that there are now 576 known members on our Master list, of which 477 are currently up to date with their annual dues. Of the 100 members, who are currently delinquent on their dues, 60 are “Associate Members”, which probably is an indication that these members have either retired, or more probably relocated with another firm outside of the area? They will be sending out bills to those members, who are delinquent, as well as making phone calls to verify that the person is still with the firm.

Budget Committee: Doug Myers presented his proposed fiscal year 2006-2007 budget for consideration by the Board earlier in the meeting.

Committee Reports: (continued)

By Laws Committee: (Chairman Mike Warring) – Mike pointed out that he would recommend that the current language regarding a “quorum” of the Board of Directors contained in Article V of the Constitution, as well as in Article II of the By Laws need to be reviewed by the Committee members. The current definitions state that a “quorum” of the Board will be “the President, or 1st Vice President and five members of the Board”. The general consensus is that not mentioning the 2nd Vice President was an oversight by the founding “fathers”, and during the most recent “update”, however, the committee will address this potential revision to the By laws and Constitution and report to the Board in the near future.

Associate Member Advisory Committee: Steve Zahn reported that he and Charles Nolan were working on an agenda for the “Associate Member” meeting, which will take place concurrently with the CEAM “Member” Business meeting at 11:30 on May 12th during the Spring Conference. Steve indicated that he and Charles would solicit ideas, and suggestions from the Associate Members, and would report any comments brought forward to the Board at their June meeting.

Scholarship Committee: (Chairman John Norris) – Jim Wilson stated that he had spoken with Chairman John Norris, and that the offer from an anonymous donor of a \$50,000 contribution to the CEAM Scholarship funds at the University of Maryland’s College Park Campus was still being offered with the proviso that the Board must direct a \$25,000 contribution (50% matching donation) to the Scholarship Funds. Jim noted that President Kroboth had indicated his support, and vote in abstention for the Board to approve this \$25,000 donation providing that the \$50,000 donation was still in effect. Based on the previous Board discussions along with the concurrence of the Treasurer, a motion as made by John Redden to: ”Notify Mr. Norris of the Board’s decision to make this “matching” donation of \$25,000, and to confirm with Chairman Norris that the \$50,000 donation was still in effect, and if all of these conditions were met, then the Board approves, and directs Treasurer Myers to present a \$25,000 contribution to the CEAM Scholarship funds at the University of Maryland”. This motion was seconded by Steve Zahn, and following some discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Awards Committee: (Chairman Jim Montgomery) – Since Jim Montgomery was not present, Secretary Warring will contact Jim to relay the need for certain awards that will be given to several “outstanding” long-time members, who have recently retired. Mike also suggested that he would insure that existing “blank” CEAM awards will be given to Jim now that he is the Chairman of the Awards Committee.

Utility Relocation Committee: (Chairman Ed Adams) - (not in attendance - budget hearing)

Old Business:

- **Transition from K. Green to Jeff Rank** – Jeff will be interacting with Kathy Green throughout the transitional period leading up to Jeff’s formal appointment as the new CEAM Administrator on July 1, 2006. Kathy will be given an award and a gift certificate at the Thursday evening dinner at the Spring Conference at WISP.

New Business:

- Open Discussion:

1. Kevin Beachy suggested that the Fall Conference's technical session include a discussion, and a presentation by Bruce Grey of SHA regarding the ROW acquisition process for bridge replacement projects that utilize Federal Funds. The process is too long as witnessed by the fact that it took 18 months to go through the approval process in 1980, and now it takes the better part of 50 months to obtain the same approvals. Kevin feels that this process should be, and can be foreshortened by the SHA through a panel discussion at the Fall Conference. Jim Wilson noted Kevin's suggestion, and stated that the committee was definitely going to include Mr. Grey as a panelist, or speaker on the matter.
2. MACO Summer Conference – Technical Program – Participation by CEAM –
 - (a) “Utility Relocation” Panel - Michael Sanderson certainly agreed that a program dealing with the various facets of “Utility Relocation” would be a wonderful technical program for the elected officials, and that he felt that in addition to other utilities, that we ought to definitely include VERIZON on the panel since they are the most troublesome with regards to costs of relocation, their position on “prior rights”. Chuck Beall's name was definitely mentioned as an important facet of this panel, and these discussions because of the very large highway construction program that he is in charge of in Charles County.
 - (b) Second Topic for the Technical Program ? – Michael pointed out that we need to develop another technical program as the CEAM affiliate of MACO, which drew some ideas from various members of the Board to include some discussion about the possibility of presenting a bill during the next session that could earmark “excess rainy day funds” for restitution of HUR funds to those counties who have petitioned the State for their share of “lost” HUR funds over the past two years? He also suggested that we might want to ask a legislator to chair this discussion, to possibly gain a sponsor of such a bill? Bob Tenanty pointed out that between the natural degradation of the pavement surfaces of the County-maintained roads, and the increase costs of petroleum products, that the County's ability to catch up with maintenance that should have been completed two years ago is nearly impossible. Mike Warring added that maybe the real approach to this subject matter at the MACO conference, would be the “safety” issues of having safe roads to operate a vehicle on to include busses and emergency vehicles?
3. Location of the Fall Golf Tournaments for 2006 & 2007 – Tournament Chairman Mike Warring relayed to the Board that the Beach Club's current contract calls for guest fees of \$50 and \$55 for the '06 and '07 events respectively. When Mike called about the increased prices in these contracts, which reflects a much larger amount when compared to the Bay Club's fees of \$45.00 for the '06 and '07 events example (where we went in '04 and '05), the

New Business:

- Open Discussion: (continued)

newly appointed head pro at the Beach Club (note: the Beach Club was recently sold to a residential developer, and a golf course owner) offered to reduce the stated fees for both years down to \$35.00 each. However, as of the date of this meeting, he had still not sent a confirmation from the Beach Club verifying this contract revision. In addition, Mike noted that the overall conditioning of the Beach Club courses were much below the previous standards that everyone had witnessed at previous events. Following a telephone conversation with the Director of Golf at the Bay Club, he sent a revised proposal to reduce their guest fees to \$40.00 for the years '06 and '07! Based on the excellent condition of the two courses at the Bay Club, as well as the very supportive staff at the facility, Mike recommended that we abandon the Beach Club contracts, and accept the revised offer from the Bay Club. He also noted that we had the right to cancel our contracts with the Beach Club up to a point 90 days in advance of the planned event. Based on Mike's suggestion, it was considered a "motion", which was seconded by Holger Serrano, and following some discussion, the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. Motion by Kevin Beachy, and was seconded by John Redden to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, **May 25, 2006** @ 11:00 at the MACO office in Annapolis, Maryland

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Michael Warring, P.E..
CEAM Secretary