

# County Engineers Association of Maryland

---

---

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

December 8, 2005

MACO Headquarters- Conference Room

Annapolis, Maryland

President Joe Kroboth, III called the meeting to order @ 11:00 a.m. with the following attending:

President : Joe Kroboth III

1st Vice President: John Tustin

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jim Wilson

Secretary: Mike Warring

Treasurer: Doug Myers

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

Past Presidents: None in attendance.

Historian: Jim Wright (not in attendance)

Scholarship Committee: (no committee members present)

Legislative Committee: Bob Martin

Visitors: None

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes for the October 27, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by John Redden. Motion was seconded by Charles Nolan for approval of the minutes. Motion approved. Comments: Include the Board's request for the President to write to the newly appointed Cecil County DPW Director, Scott Flanigan and to welcome him to our organization, and to invite him to participate actively with our organization.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Doug Myers distributed the Treasurer's Report dated December 6, 2005. The checking account balance as of October 26, 2005 was \$ 57,411.77, while the Money Market balance was \$ 7,907.52. The receipts totaled \$ \$6,494.41, while expenses were \$ \$17,080.56. The total balance of both the checking and money market accounts as of 12/06/05 was \$ 54,733.14. Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report was made by Kevin Beachy, and was seconded by John Tustin. Discussion, motion carried.

### **Secretary's Announcement/New Members:**

(1) New "**Associate Member**" Applications @ \$45.00 each: Joseph G. DiCarlo, Vice President, DMJM Harris. Motion by Jim Wilson, and was seconded by Charles Nolan to approve the new member. Motion approved.

### Committee Reports:

**Spring '06 Conference Committee Report: (Chairman: Jim Wilson)** - Committee members John Tustin, Charles Nolan, Mike Warring, and Steve Zahn accompanied Chairman Wilson out to Wisp on Monday afternoon, November 21st. Kevin Beachy also met with the rest of the Committee members on the morning of the 22nd and following an initial meeting of the committee members, they met with the conference planner Stacey Strut, who proceeded to distribute information on the facilities, as well as conducting a tour of the meeting rooms, eating facilities, as well as individual rooms that are located in the two sections of the facility. The Spring Conference will be held on May 11, 12, and 13th, and the room rates are set at \$79.00/.night. The resort also offered to extend the discounted room rates, as well as discounted greens fees for those CEAM members who wish to stay for the weekend. Mike Warring met with the golf staff and reviewed our tournament format, and other details regarding registration arrangements, signage etc. Jim indicated that our keynote speaker will be from the Western Maryland Economic Development organization, and the subject will be the impact of new development on this part of the state, as well as the infrastructure impact issues. Kevin will check with the County to see if there is someone, who would like to make a presentation about a very large planned community that is planned within Allegany County, in close proximity to its border with Washington County. Once again, the highlight of these topics will be to focus on the economic, and infrastructure impacts in this somewhat remote region of the State. There was a brief discussion concerning certain awards being made at either the Spring or Fall Conference that will be explored by the Chairman.

**Fall '06 Conference Report: (Chairman Jim Wilson)** The conference will be held at Clarion Hotel again this year, and the dates are September 21, 22, and 23rd. Golf Chairman Warring is negotiating with both the Bay Club and Beach Club staffs in an effort to obtain the best deal.

**Legislative Committee:** Committee Chairman Bob Martin has been attempting to contact all Directors (voting members) regarding legislative issues that they be facing in their County this session. There was a discussion about the need for ROW on federal/state funded bridge replacement programs, and how the administrative procedures in place were cumbersome, and needed to be revisited by both the Feds, and State. President Kroboth III thinks that this may be an opportunity for CEAM possibly provide a forum to discuss these matters with agency representation, and produce needed reform? Bob reported that Steve Young replied to him, and stated that he thought that the FHWA's requirements regarding ROW purchases and other stipulations are too stringent for small bridge replacement projects, and in some cases that cost of the required appraisal exceeds the value of the land needed. Secondly, Steve suggested that the SHA's administrative fee of 14-15% for SAFETEA projects, and projects requiring utility relocations should be a "fixed" fee and not be dependent on the cost of construction. Steve also reported that his department is having problems with getting Historic Trust restrictions removed from the County's Fairground property in order to permit new school construction. Jim Irvin reported that he had concerns with MDE regarding nutrient trading to meet load limits, as well as how the "Flush Tax" monies were to be distributed?

**Committee Reports:** (continued)

**Legislative Report from MACO** - MACO staffer Michael Sanderson gave the Board an overview of issues that MACO will be focusing on this year, to include recovery of HUR funds to local governments, and as a follow-up, Michael distributed a letter from the MDOT

**Legislative Report from MACO (continued)**

Secretary's office relative to a proposed cut of \$48.5 M in HUR funds to the Counties, and there was also a table of how these cuts will; be made by County. It could be a major battle between MACO and the Governor. He also said that funding requirements for retirement pensions for both State and Local Government employees will be a real; hot legislative issues this year, with the total cost being projected around the \$20 billion mark. This year the Governor will have a surplus to work with, and it will be interesting to see how the Governor's budget will shape out.

**Membership Committee:** No Report

**Budget Committee:** No Report

**By Laws Committee:** No Report

**Associate Member Advisory Committee:** It was suggested that Charles Nolan should stay on this committee, and that other suggested members should be submitted to immediate Past President Ed Adams at their earliest convenience, and prior to the next BOD meeting in January?

**Scholarship Committee:** No Report

**Awards Committee:** No report

**Utility Relocation Committee:** After a brief discussion by various BOD members, the conclusion was to attempt to open up communications with VERIZON through an invitation to appear before the BOD to discuss the issues for both sides. Past President, and Chairman Ed Adams will be asked to set up this meeting..

**Old Business:**

- President Kroboth III distributed copies of his letter to Cecil County's DPW Director Flanigan.
- President Kroboth III also passed out copies of his congratulatory retirement letter to Bob Taylor, who recently retired from his position as Director of Public Works for Calvert County.
- Mike Warring reported on a communication that he had received from Long Range Conference Planning Chairman Chuck Beall, who indicated that the Clarion was going to limit the room rate increases to 5% per year. Several members of the BOD felt that we should check with the Princess Royale Hotel to see if we can negotiate a more competitive deal?

**New Business:**

- **MACO Summer Conference** - As part of the BOD's efforts to become a vital facet of the semi-annual MACO Conferences, the President will write a letter to MACO offering our organizations expertise, and interest in being very involved with the technical presentations at these conferences, and for the President to serve on the Conference Planning Committee. We will suggest which technical subjects are of interest to our membership, and the relative importance to each of the elected representatives from the 23 Counties and the City of Baltimore. Many of the voting members of CEAM attend these meetings at the request of their Board, and it is one of our goals to be become more involved, and visible as an organization to MACO, and the MML.
- **Newsletter Update on CEAM Website** - President Kroboth III mentioned that the last "Roadscraper" newsletter that was published by the Queen Anne's County contingent, and published on the CEAM website, was dated 2003, and was developed as part of our organizations' 50th anniversary celebration. Since the webmaster, Jeff Rank was the editor for this edition, Mike Warring suggested that Jeff Rank has displayed his writing skills, and that we should ask him if he would prepare this newsletter before our Spring, or Fall, Conferences? Mike agreed to speak with him, and Todd and Steve to see if he can dedicate the needed time to perform this task.
- **Maryland Floodplain & Stormwater Manager's Organization** - President Kroboth III said that he had received an inquiry from this organization stating that they would entertain some sort of an amalgamation with CEAM. However, after some discussion, the BOD felt that if various members of this organization are interested in joining CEAM, that the BOD would consider their membership applications favorably. The BOD asked the President to invite a representative of the organization to a future BOD meeting to discuss their interest in greater detail.

**Open Discussion:** There were no items brought forward by any of the Board members.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Beachy, and seconded by Steve Zahn. The next meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2006 @ 11:00 a.m. at the Queen Anne's County Visitor's Center in the Kent Narrows..

Respectfully Submitted,

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