

County Engineers Association of Maryland

CEAM Spring Business Meeting Minutes May 12, 2006 WISP Resort and Conference Center, McHenry, Maryland

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Kroboth at 11:30 a.m.

A roll call of the Counties by the Secretary indicated the following County "Voting Members" to be present:

Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert(no), Caroline, Carroll(no), Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard(no), Kent, Montgomery, Prince Georges, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's(no), Somerset(no), Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, Worcester, and City of Baltimore(no). Secretary announced that there was a quorum.

Minutes:

Secretary Mike Warring read the minutes of the September 9, 2006 Fall Business meeting at the Clarion Inn in Ocean City, Maryland. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Kevin Beachy of Allegany County, and was then seconded by Chuck Beall of Charles County. Motion approved.

Board of Directors Report: President Joe Kroboth reported that the Board of Directors had approved a formal memorandum of understanding with the newly appointed CEAM "Administrator", Jeff Rank, who currently serves as the web site "master", and who serves as an Analyst II with the Queen Anne's County DPW. In an effort to consolidate all of the CEAM records, and master list of members, the Board has authorized the creation of a post office box address for all future CEAM business correspondence, which will be in Centreville, Maryland. Ms. Kathy Green, who is an administrator to John O'Hara, who served so many years as the CEAM Treasurer, in his Department of Environmental Services for Howard County has dutifully served the organization well for over seven years as our administrative assistant. Kathy received a Certificate of Appreciation, as well as a small gift from the Board at the Thursday evening banquet. President Kroboth then announced that there were three initiatives that he would like to fulfill during his term in office and they are as follows: (1) Membership Committee Reactivation – Past President Todd Mohn (Queen Anne's County Deputy Director of DPW) has agreed to serve as the Chair for this committee, and Todd will work closely with the newly appointed CEAM Administrator to consolidate, and update our master list of almost 600 members. In addition, in an effort to have more attendance at our semi-annual conferences from junior engineers from the Counties, he will ask the Committee to establish some form of a free registration program to a worthy applicant for each conference. This candidate will be nominated by their senior department head to the Board for their approval and award; (2) Strengthen our Position as an Affiliate of MACO through active participation on their technical programs at their semi-annual conferences. We will be making tow presentations at this Summer's MACO conference, and there will be several CEAM officers, and past Presidents in attendance, as well as serving as presenters; and (3) Fully support the untiring efforts of the Utility Relocation

Board of Directors Report: (continued)

Committee (Chair: Past President Ed Adams) to press forward with helping to inform MACO, SHA, and other public agencies of the ongoing issues in working with Verizon regarding utility pole relocations. Verizon has argued that they have “prior rights” to have their poles within the public right of way, and for the most part, they have been unresponsive to the proposed construction schedules of many of the Counties, and then their costs for these relocations seem unreasonable at best, and in some cases, their final billing for the required relocations are not fully determined until well after the construction has been completed. To this end, CEAM will be making two technical presentations at the MACO Conference this summer which will fully address the issues of utility relocation with all utility companies, but especially Verizon, and then we will also make a presentation on the five (5) year fiscal impact on highway maintenance and safety due to the severe cutbacks with the redistribution of the Highway User funds back to the Counties over the past two years.

The Board received a presentation from the President of a recently formed statewide organization named the “Maryland Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association” regarding their goals as an association. They indicated that they are looking forward to participating with the technical programs of future CEAM conferences, to possibly include our technical program at the upcoming CEAM Fall Conference.

Finally, the Board will be looking into the feasibility of holding one-day technical programs in a central location, and to possibly request the University of Maryland’s T2 Center to help us with producing exciting technical programs that are suitable to both the Urban and Rural County DPW departments. The Board also believes that these one-day programs would be very attractive to an even larger base of members, to especially include junior grade technical staff. The Board is also looking into the Federally funded bridge replacement programs with regards to right of way procedures, which are time consuming, as well as very costly to complete in accordance with the Federal and SHA guidelines.

Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer Doug Myers was not in attendance at the Business meeting, and though his monthly report and proposed budget was delivered to the conference site, however, it was not available for to be read during the business meeting. Conference Chairman Jim Wilson indicated that the reports and budget had been delivered to him but that at the time of the meeting it regrettably was temporarily misplaced and not available for distribution.

By Laws & Constitution Committee Report:

Chairman Mike Warring reported that due to some unavoidable emergency scheduling conflicts, the Board realized that without the President, or the First Vice President in attendance, in addition to five additional Board members there isn’t technically a quorum. Therefore, paragraph #2, of Article V of the Constitution may need to be addressed by the Committee to determine whether the term “Second Vice President” and Five additional Board members should be inserted and considered a “quorum”?

Scholarship Committee Report:

Co-Chairman Mike Errico announced that there were four scholarships valued at \$2,500 each that are being funded by CEAM, and that given the increasing cost of tuition and books, we need to develop an even greater means to raise the level of funding for these scholarships at the University of Maryland Engineering School in College Park. Radka Nebesky was in attendance, and gave a brief profile of the four students that are current recipients of the CEAM scholarships. She also indicated that the current endowment that was created by the CEAM contribution of \$200,000 is currently valued at approximately \$270,000. Mike suggested that the Scholarship Committee would be exploring establishing higher levels of contributions to the scholarship funds, in order to raise the face value of each of the four scholarships. Once the Committee has established these levels of contributions, it will advise the Board, and probably utilize the web site to disseminate the information for the membership at large

Legislative Committee Report:

Chairman Bob Martin reported that there are about 46 pending issues, in addition to their constant "watch" over the HUR Fund, that have drawn his Committee's attention. When the legislative session gets closer to hand, he and his Committee will make the Board aware of the pending bills, so that the Board may offer directions on what position, if any, that CEAM would like for Bob and his Committee to pursue during the legislative session that begins in January of 2007

Spring 2006 Conference Committee:

2nd Vice President Jim Wilson reported that everything seemed to be moving smoothly so far with the technical programs, and then reminded everyone of the lunch break for the members, as well as the Past President's luncheon in the DC Restaurant.

Fall 2006 Conference Committee:

2nd Vice President Jim Wilson reported that the Fall Conference will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center from 9/21/06 through 9/23/06. He asked if there were any particular subjects that the voting members might want to have discussed for the technical sessions. He went on to say that there would be a session dealing with Stormwater Management, Right of Way issues with the smaller jurisdictions, and that Neal Peterson would be the keynote speaker.

NACE Report :

President Kroboth introduced Tony Giancola, who is the Executive Director of NACE. Tony reported that Highway and Safety Programs especially in the vicinity of schools was a very high priority with most State Department of Transportation offices. Tony distributed several NACE handouts dealing with roadway safety near schools. The NACE Conference will be in Milwaukee next year in April. He then announced that the next week after the CEAM Conference was "National Transportation Week". NACE has new manuals on "reflectivity", and CD's on rubberized sidewalks that are available to its members. He also reminded everyone that he would continue to send out his "NACE Updates" to the BOD and Voting Members, and trusted that this information was helpful to all recipients.

Old Business:

- There were no “old Business” items brought to the floor.

New Business:

- Chuck Beall brought up the subject of TMDL regulations, point source pollution issues, WWTP upgrades, and water re-use programs and regulations by MDE. Chuck suggested that maybe CEAM should organize a small committee of interested members to approach MDE about these new issues. Gary Rohrer suggested that CEAM contact Maryland Municipal Wastewater Association to see what position in these matters that this group has taken regarding these MDE regulations?
- Gary Rohrer suggested that we should be very concerned about the State reducing gasoline tax with regards to highway safety issues. Mike Warring suggested that we should emphasize this during the technical program before MACO this summer, and that perhaps the President should contact Michael Sanderson of MACO about these pending matters
- President Kroboth reminded everyone that our next Fall Conference will be at the Clarion Hotel in Ocean City, and is scheduled from September 21 through September 23, 2006.

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was offered by Gary Rohrer, and was seconded by Chuck Beall. The motion passed, and the Business Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
J. Michael Warring, P.E., Secretary
Board of Directors
JMW Consultants, LLC