



Courthouse News

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Maryland Association
of Counties

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July 30, 2010



Message from the President

I know that many of my county colleagues feel the same way that I do this time of year – glad to have wrapped up some of the pivotal issues both in Annapolis during the legislative session, and back home during our own budget deliberations. It certainly is not an easy time for anyone in county government, as we struggle to make ends meet with

our own budgets, and still remain responsive to our constituents. It's encouraging, at least, to see that despite tough decisions, so many Maryland counties are still getting awfully high marks from the bond rating agencies for prudent fiscal management.

While attending the Maryland Municipal League conference in June, I was pleased to join Carroll County Commissioner Julia Gouge on a panel discussing municipal/county relationships. Each of the speakers in that session has held both municipal and county offices, and I thought that discussion was valuable. I know that I stressed the importance of personal relationships – and was able to reflect on some of those that have made a real difference for me, my town, and my county, over the years.

During our stay on the Lower Shore, Executive Director Michael Sanderson and I were able to visit with six counties' elected officials, and to hear their issues and updates. It's no surprise that fiscal issues were a major topic for just about everyone – both the things that have happened in Annapolis and back home, and what we see around the corner. I also get a lot from hearing about some local issues or other topics that come up in these conversations. I agree with the advice of my predecessors as MACo President that these reach-outs are time well spent. I hope to be making more visits in the coming months. Even though this is a tough year to be creating extra calendar appointments, these meetings offer mutual benefits. I appreciate the counties' extending their time and attention.

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Pride of Maryland



MACo Summer Conference
August 18-21, 2010
Roland Powell Convention Center, Ocean City

GENERAL SESSIONS

- * Maryland's Treasure: How the Chesapeake Bay Defines Us and How We Define It
- * Marketing Maryland: Selling Our Strengths
- * Education Accountability and Measuring Success

Full Schedule - Pages 8-14

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In June, the MACo Board held its annual spring retreat, visiting Aberdeen and seeing some of the base realignment development projects that are rapidly transforming Harford County's look and economy. We also held substantive meetings with policymakers to discuss the "long view" on topics that are sometimes missed in the bill-by-bill review approach. I am grateful that Secretary John Griffin from the Department of Natural Resources, and Director C. John Sullivan and his colleagues from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation were able to join us for productive discussions. And I was pleased to have a candid and insightful discussion with several decidedly "county friendly" voices in the Maryland Senate – Senators Barry Glassman, Rich Madaleno, and MACo Past President Jim Robey – who shared insight into the fiscal issues from last session and are still on the table.

In the months ahead, I look forward to seeing many of you both in your county, at the summer conference, or at other MACo events. Even while it is campaign season for many of us, it remains a valuable time to keep in touch about things that are working well for our counties and our citizens.

Best Regards,



David Craig
President

Wayne Cooper Resigns

MACo 1st Vice President, Charles County Commission President Wayne Cooper announced his immediate resignation as County Commissioner to the public on July 16 during a live broadcast. In April, Commissioner Cooper declared he would not be seeking re-election. In his announcement, he stated that he had been working to "complete several priorities before the end of my term that will continue to strengthen Charles County's competitive position."

Commissioner Cooper was in line to be elected and installed as MACo President in January 2011. He served as the 2010 MACo Legislative Committee Chair.

MACo members and staff extend their best wishes to

Commissioner Cooper and sincere gratitude for his devoted service to the organization.

Contact: Michele Dinkel

MOE Waivers Granted to Montgomery and Wicomico

The State Board of Education granted maintenance of effort (MOE) waiver requests to both Montgomery and Wicomico Counties in split votes on May 25. Due to uncertainties regarding the State budget, which was not finalized before the deadline for submitting MOE waiver requests, five counties initially applied for a waiver: Dorchester, Frederick, Montgomery, Talbot and Wicomico Counties. However, all but Montgomery and Wicomico subsequently withdrew their waiver requests.

After three county waiver requests were summarily rejected by the State Board of Education (Board) in 2009, MACo chose MOE waiver reform as a 2010 Legislative Initiative. MACo proposed a host of changes to the process, from requiring the Board to consider certain county budget factors as part of deliberations, to granting a right of appeal to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The Joint Legislative Work Group to Study State, County, and Municipal Fiscal Relationships, which was charged with making recommendations on the MOE waiver process, adopted a few of MACo's recommendations and introduced legislation (HB 304/SB 310). MACo introduced its own legislation and there was also separate legislation to retroactively waive the penalty for 2010 and to shift the MOE penalty onto the counties. Ultimately, the only legislation that passed was SB 476, which retroactively waived the MOE penalty for 2010 and called for a study about how the MOE penalty should be calculated and assessed. That report is due December 31, 2010.

The main MOE bill, HB 304/SB 310, failed at the last moment on Sine Die due to lack of time. However, the co-chairs of the Workgroup asked the State Board to consider the waiver factors proposed, even though the bills had not passed. The Board agreed to do so.

Subsequently, the Board voted 7-5 to grant Montgomery a waiver and 8-4 for Wicomico. However, the Board made it clear in their opinions that the MOE law is flawed because it places the penalty for failing to meet MOE on the school system rather than the county. It also raises concerns over how the penalty is calculated and the lack of an inflation adjuster in the MOE formula. It remains possible that MOE will remain a legislative issue in the 2011 Session.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

Treasurer Breaks News at MACo:

AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed

State Treasurer Nancy Kopp shared good news with the MACo Legislative Committee on July 14. She had just learned that all three rating houses reaffirmed Maryland's AAA bond rating. She said "This is significant. Not only will it allow the State to borrow money for building projects at lower interest rates, it is recognition of good public fiscal management." She added, "The rating agencies noted that Maryland has many strengths, a diverse economic base, well-educated labor force and the on-going influx of well-paid BRAC jobs, to name a few. But they also noted outstanding issues, in particular the unfunded liabilities of the state employees' and teachers' pension system and OPEB." Acutely aware of these problems, the General Assembly created the Public Employees' and Retirees' Benefit Sustainability Commission this past session.

The creation of the Sustainability Commission was a budget compromise to study and make recommendations on all aspects of State-funded benefits and pensions provided to State and public education employees and retirees – including an evaluation of the appropriate levels of contribution for the employer and employee and an evaluation of the Senate's pension proposal from the session. Treasurer Kopp said that "many people do not realize that this group is also charged with looking at current State employee health benefits, since both active employees and retirees are part of the same health benefit system."

Treasurer Kopp believes that appointments to the Commission will be made soon, and the group will begin

meeting in August. She anticipates that the group will meet regularly and that there will be a process for input from interested parties. An interim report is due December 2010 for consideration during the 2011 General Assembly session, and it is the intent of the General Assembly that recommendations begin to be implemented in fiscal 2013.

The Treasurer noted that, by its very name, the Commission is focused on sustaining a system of benefits for the public workforce, not on terminating them. She stated that, regarding funding of teachers' pensions, she hoped all parties will present to the Commission in an objective manner responding to this question: "How do we assure retirement benefits that will attract and retain a strong teaching workforce, acknowledging the constraints of public budgets?" And she said she hoped that the discussion would be in the context of total compensation – both salary and benefits. In terms of benefits, she said, "If you are going to share in contributing to the benefits, you should have a say in what the benefit structure looks like." She continued by observing that "...all parties have the responsibility of making the public aware of the actual costs of the system and not exaggerate the problem."

"Remember," she closed, "the typical state employee salary is between "\$47,000 and \$48,000 a year, and the typical retirement benefit is \$20,000."

In her comments, she also briefly touched on school construction. Both the Governor and legislature seem to support continuing a set target, and the Governor promised \$1 billion, if reelected. She said, "School construction is a wonderful thing."

She also reflected on recent revenue projections, noting "the last couple months have exceeded our projections," and suggested that despite the still weak economy, that "next year may be a little bit better than we anticipated earlier."

Contact: Andrea Mansfield



Recently on *Conduit Street*

A sampling of news from the MACo Blog

County Elected Officials Assume National Leadership Roles . . . July 27 . . . Baltimore City Council member Helen Holton has been elected to service as the 2nd Vice President of the Northeast Counties Caucus (NECC), a regional arm of the National Association of Counties that promotes coordination among the northeastern states and their county representatives. MACo Past Presidents, Carroll County Commission President Julia Gouge and Calvert County Commission President Wilson Parran have been appointed to serve on the NECC Board of Directors.

Montgomery Grants Additional Compensatory Leave . . . July 28 . . . County Executive Isiah Leggett signed agreements with various public employee unions, granting additional compensatory leave to general government employees, firefighters, and police.

Columnist Criticizes County Highway User Cuts . . . July 23 . . . In a *Gazette* opinion piece, columnist Barry Rascovar criticizes the General Assembly, Governor O'Malley, and former Governor Ehrlich for "raiding" the State's transportation funds in order to balance the budget, including the highway user revenue cuts to the counties. He also discusses those transportation cuts will have on both State and local roads projects.

Queen Anne's Introduces New Retirement Incentive Plan . . . July 23 . . . The County has just announced a retirement incentive plan for County employees with a minimum of 30 years in the Maryland State Retirement System.

Social Media Rules for Maryland Campaigns . . . July 21 . . . Maryland lawmakers have voted to regulate political campaigning on social media sites, such as Twitter and Facebook, *The Baltimore Sun* reports.

Preemption Issue Raises Concerns in Slots Case

MACo and several counties became concerned over the long-standing slot machine litigation in Anne Arundel County when the circuit court, as part of its ruling, held that State election law entirely preempted local election provisions. While MACo continues to take no position on where slots should be located, the circuit court's finding of "field preemption" could create a potentially sweeping precedent that would erode longstanding county authority to manage their elections in a manner they see fit.

After the Maryland Court of Appeals agreed to hear the case, MACo supported the efforts of concerned counties to file an amicus curiae brief with the Court, arguing against the preemption. Anne Arundel County submitted the brief, with Baltimore, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery as co-signers. The brief only discusses the preemption issue.

The Maryland Court of Appeals heard the arguments for Citizens Against Slots at the Mall v. PPE Casino Resorts Maryland, LLC, on July 20, and immediately issued an order overturning a circuit court decision and ordering that a referendum on whether Arundel Mills Mall should be re-zoned for slot machines be placed on Anne Arundel County's November election ballot.

However, the preemption issue is ancillary to the referendum holding and until the Court releases its opinion on the case, it is not clear how that issue will be addressed. The order only deals with whether the zoning for slots could be subject to a referendum. The Court could still decide either way on preemption.

Contact: *Leslie Knapp, Jr.*

County Officials Discuss TMDL Concerns

At its July 22 meeting, the BayStat sub-cabinet heard testimony from county elected officials and MACo on the challenges counties face in implementing the new federally mandated total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements. Created by the Environmental Protection Agency, TMDLs establish a strict "pollution diet" for the

Chesapeake Bay by limiting how much nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment are allowed to enter the Bay. Different counties and watersheds will have different TMDL numbers. All six Bay states (New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia) and Washington DC are subject to TMDLs. States that fail to meet certain pollution reduction milestones could face federal sanctions, including a possible freeze on funding or issuance of federal permits.

Maryland's ultimate target loads will require a 21 percent nitrogen reduction from wastewater plants, a 25 percent nitrogen and 43 percent phosphorous reduction from urban runoff (such as stormwater), a 25 percent nitrogen reduction and 9 percent phosphorous reduction from agriculture, and a 39 percent nitrogen reduction from septic systems. If a county realizes a greater reduction in one of these areas, the extra gain may be applied towards another area. Each state subject to TMDLs is also required to create watershed implementation plans (WIPs) which will serve as a blueprint to realize the TMDL goals.

Harford County Executive and MACo President David Craig testified that 45 percent of Harford County's watershed is in agriculture and the county has invested its own dollars in maintaining important agriculture positions in soil conservation and sediment control that have been subject to State cuts. He noted the county also invested \$172 million into water and sewer processes. County Executive Craig also expressed concern over the impact TMDLs would have on growth related to base realignment and closure (BRAC).

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman noted they had 50,000 acres permanently preserved in non-water or sewer areas. He stressed that education was a key component. Anne Arundel County Council Member Cathy Vitale stated that Anne Arundel County was aggressively preparing for TMDLs because so much of the county is within the sensitive critical area zones. She urged that counties be given flexibility in how they choose to meet their TMDL goals.

MACo Associate Director Les Knapp stressed that TMDLs will affect all key sectors of the State, including State government, counties, municipalities, agriculture,

and business. He also stressed the need for local flexibility in meeting TMDL goals, arguing against a “one size fits all” approach. Mr. Knapp expressed concern about possible unintended consequences of TMDL on growth and land use efforts. He also stated the importance of having a single TMDL contact person at the State level and having a strong public education and communication outreach.

All three elected officials and MACo stated the need for financial and technical resources in order to meet the TMDL goals. All agreed that some revenue generation device, whether in the form of a dedicated local transfer tax or some other Statewide fee was necessary. Representatives from the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies and the Maryland Municipal League also testified.

Subsequent to the BayStat meeting, the State has announced it is forming a WIP Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Participants will include key stakeholder groups such as MACo, MML, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland Farm Bureau, homebuilders, realtors, electric utilities, the poultry industry, and others. The Committee will provide comments on WIP drafts, WIP implementation, public outreach, best practices, necessary resources, and reporting.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

Governor Pledges \$1 Billion in School Construction Funding

Governor Martin O'Malley has pledged to provide \$1 billion in school construction funding if re-elected. The promise would essentially continue the Governor's support of the 2004 recommendations of the Task Force to Study Public School Facilities.

The Task Force, convened in 2002, was chaired by State Treasurer Nancy Kopp. Among the duties of the Task Force was the evaluation and review of the State's school construction program. The Task Force issued an interim report in 2002 and a final report in 2004.

In its final report, the Task Force found that there was a crisis in school construction, noting that the cost of upgrading existing schools to minimum standards was \$3.85 billion in 2003 dollars. The Task Force

recommended making school construction a priority and set a State school construction spending goal of \$250 million annually through FY 2013.

MACo supported the findings of the Task Force. Maintaining a high level of school construction funding has been a MACo Legislative Initiative since 2005. For every dollar the State spends on school construction, counties contribute roughly two dollars of local funding. While funding requests are down from a peak of \$894 million in FY 2008, school construction needs remain high, with \$722 million in requests for FY 2011.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

June Income Tax Distributions Greater Than Expected

The Office of the Comptroller has released details of the June distributions of county income taxes. According to the electronic message, “The June distribution totals \$707.5 million, an increase of 4.5% over last year's distribution.” It has three separate income tax components:

- the tentative final distribution for tax year 2009
- the projected April/May withholding and estimated tax receipts for tax year 2010
- the estimated unallocated distribution for tax year 2009 and the reconciliation for the unallocated distribution for tax year 2006

The final distribution also includes the final installments of the disparity grant for FY 2010, which is up 5.1%.

The electronic message also provided an explanation of the distribution.

This distribution represents the first reconciling distribution for tax year 2009 returns, reflecting returns processed and posted to the tax system by early June. At \$18.3 million, this distribution is 69.9% above that of last June, despite a 2% overall reduction in the number of returns received as of the same date last year. In addition, this distribution reflects a reduction of approximately \$3.6 million for administrative costs related to the implementation of MITS. To date, the MITS project has resulted in approximately \$55.9

million in additional collections for FY 2009 and FY 2010 that may not have otherwise occurred.

Reconciling distributions can be volatile, as they depend on the prior tax year's pattern of collections, the current tax year's distributions, and returns for the current year received by the cutoff date. A modest recovery in 2009 resulted in a significant increase in the distribution compared to 2008.

If you have questions regarding the June 29 distribution, please contact George Freyman of the Revenue Administration Division, at 410-260-7455.

Contact: Andrea Mansfield

Cardin Chesapeake Bay Bill Amended

U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin's Chesapeake Bay legislation, S. 1816, which includes a funding component for local government stormwater renovation projects, was approved in Senate Committee on June 30 after it was amended to remove provisions codifying total maximum daily load targets (TMDLs) and address concerns from the agricultural community. The agricultural amendments prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from imposing further restrictions on farmers if EPA has to take over a State program for failing to meet its TMDL goals.

Even with the amendments, it is unclear if the bill has sufficient support to pass. Maryland Representative Elijah Cummings has introduced companion legislation in the House, HR 3852. Congressman Cummings' bill remains in a House subcommittee.

A session on the EPA's TMDL goals for counties is scheduled for the MACo Summer Conference on Wednesday, August 18.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

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Pride of Maryland MACo Summer Conference August 18-21, 2010

SCHEDULE



Wednesday, August 18

7:00 am - 3:00 pm Registration Open/ Exhibits Move-In

7:30 am - 4:00 pm Golf Tournament

9:00 am - 12:00 pm MD Department of Planning: Training for Planning Board Members *(Pre-registration with MDP required)*

MDP in cooperation with MACo, is offering a free training to assist planning commission and board members and members of boards of appeals comply with 2009 legislation (SB280 and HB297) that requires an education course to be completed. Seating is limited, so you must register to reserve your seat. Visit Planning.Maryland.gov or call MDP at (410) 767-4500 or toll free (877) 767-6272.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - ICC Connector Briefing & Update

In late 2010/early 2011 the first segment of the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 will open to traffic. The ICC will be the first "All Electronic Toll" facility in the state. Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) officials will discuss how the road will be operated, how E-ZPass has developed of the past 10 years, and how E-ZPass will be instrumental in the success of the ICC.

Speakers:

Thomas Gugel, Deputy Director, E-ZPass Operations
Robert Michael, ICC Project Manager, Maryland Transportation Authority

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm The Chesapeake Bay TMDL: Preparing for the Coming Storm

The EPA will issue the Chesapeake Bay's restoration and protection plan, called the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), in December of 2010. The MD Departments of the Environment (MDE), Natural Resources (DNR), Agriculture (MDA), and Planning (MDP) have been working on an EPA required Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to detail what local governments will be required to do to meet clean up and protection requirements. That could mean new or strengthened stormwater regulations, greater coordination with the agricultural community, and more careful planning at the local level. Funding to meet these needs must also be considered. In this

workshop, MDE and county officials will describe the status of the first phase of the WIP to be completed this year and two pilot projects in Anne Arundel and Caroline counties, where the agencies are working closely with local government officials to develop the second phase of the WIP, to be completed in 2011.

Moderator:

The Honorable Mary Ann Lisanti, Harford County Council Member and Chair,
Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Speakers:

Robert M. Summers, PhD, Deputy Secretary, MD Department of the Environment
Ronald Bowen, Director, Department of Public Works, Anne Arundel County
Katheleen Freeman, Director of Planning and Codes, Caroline County

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Cybersecurity & BRAC – Bringing It All Together

BRAC is not only bringing jobs here, but presents opportunities for Maryland to become the nation's cybersecurity epicenter, benefiting all counties, private industry, and the general public. Panelists will discuss how the BRAC move to Maryland is progressing and what's in store for counties, the workforce, and industry.

Speakers:

The Honorable Anthony Brown, Lt. Governor (invited)
The Honorable David R. Craig, President, MACo and Harford County Executive
Major General Nickolas G. Justice, Commanding General, Army Research, Development and Command
Christian Johanssen, Secretary, MD Department of Business and Economic Development
Larry Cox, Senior Vice President and General Manager, SAIC, and member, Governor's Cybersecurity Task Force

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm MACo Conference Planning Meeting

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm MACo Awards Committee Meeting

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Thursday, August 19

6:30 am - 7:30 am **Sunrise Yoga**

Sponsored by MACWellness

7:00 am - 4:00 pm Registration Open

7:30 am - 9:30 am **NEW! Minority-Owned Business Fair**

Enjoy continental breakfast while you visit tabletop exhibits from certified minority owned business vendors. Then, cross the hall to hear Robert Wallace share his published framework for using strategic partnerships to improve performance. As part of the Accenture MBE fair festivities, Author Robert Wallace of BiTHGROUP Technologies will discuss how to navigate difficult economic times through partnerships. He will share his recommended framework and 12 step methodology for properly identifying, developing, expanding, managing, and exiting strategic partnerships and alliances.

7:45 am - 9:45 am **Academy Core Session: County Financial Management**

Understanding and using the governmental budget process is a necessity for county elected officials. Veteran public administrators will discuss the budget process and financial reports, offering practical tips for the new and seasoned county official.

Moderator:

The Honorable Fred Holliday, Garrett County Commissioner

Speakers:

Ray Wacks, Director of Budget and Management, Howard County

Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer, St. Mary's County

8:30 am - 9:30 am **Urban Counties Breakfast**

8:30 am - 9:30 am **Rural Counties Forum**

8:30 am - 8:45 am Coffee Break

9:45 am - 10:30 am **Strategic Partnerships Workshop**

As part of the Minority Business Owners Fair, the author of "Strategic Partnerships: An Entrepreneur's Guide to Joint Ventures and Alliances," will discuss harnessing the power of effective business alliances and partnerships as the easiest way to navigate through turbulent economic and social currents.

Moderator:

Luwanda Jenkins, Special Secretary of Minority Affairs, Office of Minority Affairs, State of Maryland

Speaker:

Dr. Robert L Wallace, BITHGROUP Technologies Inc.

10:00 am - 4:00 pm **Exhibit Halls Open**

Visit our vendors in Halls A/B and in Hall C who support MACo through their participation at the conference. Stop by to say thank you and talk some business.

10:00 am – 11:30 am **CENTER STAGE - Hall C**

10:00 am - 11:00 am **Oyster Shuckers** – demonstration and free samples (limited quantities)

11:00 am – 11:30 am **Live Radio "Shout-Outs"** to armed forces personnel - Purple Heart/L-3 STRATIS

10:30 am - 11:30 am Human Resources Session:

The New Reality: The Face of County Government Employment in the Future

A speaker and panel of Human Resources Directors will discuss what has happened in our governments regarding cutbacks, impact of fewer employees, and reductions in benefits. What lies ahead for county government employment?

Speakers:

Scott Gibson, Director, Department of Human Resources, Harford County

Carole Hammen, Director, Department of Human Resources, Carroll County

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm **PlanMaryland: A Forum on the State's Growth Plan**

Since the early 1970s, the Annotated Code of Maryland has authorized the Secretary of Planning to prepare a state development plan containing recommendations for land use, major public works, circulation, and areas of critical state concern. Since that time a broader recognition of the costs of unsustainable types of land use has grown to the point where such a plan is now urgently needed. PlanMaryland is now being built to create a better and more sustainable future for the state. MDP invites you to participate in this special forum designed for county leaders to provide input.

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm **Buffet Lunch - Exhibit Halls**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm **CENTER STAGE - Hall C**

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **Caiso Steel Drum band**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch Session:

How Will the New Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Affect Counties?

With the passage of the comprehensive Health Care Reform bill, Counties are experiencing significant changes in regulation compliance and the necessity for extensive usage of outside consultants to fully understand and implement the new law. Changes that may seem minor could move a plan from grandfather to non-grandfather status, which adversely affects your plan.

Moderator:

Carole V. Hammen, Director, Department of Human Resources, Carroll County *(continued on page 11)*

Speaker:

Kay Moran, CEBS, Senior Benefits Consultant, Bolton Partners

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2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Affiliate Sessions:

Aging:

Workforce Development: Issues & Resources for Older Workers

Older workers who lost their jobs during the economic downturn have had a more difficult time finding new jobs and have sustained longer periods of unemployment. This session will identify trends in older adult labor force participation and highlight resources that provide training and job-search assistance for workers aged 50+ who want to reenter the workforce after losing a job or to return to their former career.

Speakers:

Ilene Rosenthal, Deputy Secretary, MD Department of Aging
Tony Sarmiento, Executive Director, Senior Service America, Inc.

Joanne Williams, Director, Baltimore County Department of Aging

Public Safety and Corrections:

Keeping Our Kids Safe at School

As highlighted by a recent tragedy in Anne Arundel County, gang activity and violence can occur in any school. While bullying has always been a concern, cell phones, the Internet, and social networking websites now allow for more invasive harassment. Speakers will discuss the issues of gangs and bullying in schools, the 2010 Safe Schools Act, and steps that can be taken to minimize gang and bullying incidents.

Speakers:

Charles J. (Chuck) Buckler, Chief, Student Services and Alternative Programs Branch, MD State Department of Education

John Frederickson, Ph.D., Superintendent, Wicomico County Public Schools

Patricia C. Jessamy, State's Attorney, Baltimore City

Parks and Recreation:

Utilizing our Blue Infrastructure for Economic, Recreational and Environmental Benefits

Increasing demands on Maryland's blue infrastructure (aquatic resources), open spaces and their surrounding landscapes are becoming a reality as our state experiences continued growth. In order to ensure that the state's blue infrastructure continues to provide environmental, economic, cultural, and recreational benefits, it is important to collectively work to protect, restore, and manage these areas and resources. Panelists will discuss how partnerships with regional, state and private entities can make great strides in

conserving and managing our blue infrastructure.

Speakers:

Catherine McCall, Chesapeake and Coastal Program, MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Christine Conn, Ph.D., Office for a Sustainable Future, DNR

Andrew Becker, Resource Assessment Services, DNR

Human Services:

The Ever Changing Role of Local Management Boards

Local Management Boards (LMBs) serve as a coordinator of youth and family services by bringing together government and service providers to comprehensively meet the needs of families and children in the community. Fiscal constraints have challenged LMBs to streamline operations. This session will discuss how two communities restructured to provide services to children and families in light of recent budget reductions.

Speakers:

Pamela Brown, LMB Director, Anne Arundel County

Candy Edwards, LMB Director, Kent County

Linda Wilson, Deputy Health Officer, Kent County

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Health Break – Lowfat Fruit Smoothies**

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm **CENTER STAGE - Hall C - Featuring simple group stretches led by trainers at MACWellness**

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Affiliate Sessions:

Parks and Recreation:

The Future of Land Preservation & Open Space Funding

State and local funding resources are drying up, creating a challenge to conserve land and create public recreational opportunities. Planning for the future, and preserving our outdoor heritage will require innovative funding and new approaches, such as non-profit partnerships. Experts from the state, private organizations, and non-profits will discuss successful models and new opportunities for conservation, preservation and recreation.

Speakers:

Meredith Lathbury, Director, Land Acquisition and Planning Unit, MD Department of Natural Resources

John Kortecamp, Ph.D., CEO, MD Home Builders, Founder, 100 Year Horizon

Aging:

National and State Trends Shifting the Focus of Long Term Care to Home and Community-Based Settings

A disproportionate amount of Maryland's long-term care dollars is spent on institutional care and pressure is increasing to shift the focus to home and community-based settings. Panelists will review State and Federal initiatives designed to transform the long term care landscape, and how local offices on aging are involved in this process.

Speakers:

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Stephanie Hull, Chief, Long Term Care, MD Department of Aging
Lorraine Nawara, Project Director, *Money Follows the Person*, MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Cathy Willis, Director, Queen Anne's County Department of Aging

Hosted by Energy Systems Group

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm Exhibits Closed

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm **President's Reception**

*Groovy Sixties" theme, costume and booth decoration prizes.
Music by the Charlie Parker Band*

Friday, August 20

6:30 am - 7:30 am **Sunrise Yoga** - Sponsored by MACWellness

7:00 am - 2:30 pm Registration

7:30 am - 8:30 am **County Administrators Affiliate Breakfast**

8:30 am - 9:30 am Continental Breakfast

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Exhibits Open

9:15 am - 10:30 am General Session:

Maryland's Treasure: How the Chesapeake Bay Defines Us and How We Define It

The Chesapeake Bay is an integral part of Maryland's heritage and plays an important role in defining us as a state. This estuary is not only a precious natural resource, but also a vital economic engine that sustains the seafood, shipping, and tourist industries. But the Bay's health has been in trouble for years, and Maryland risks losing the benefits and beauty of this unique treasure. Speakers will discuss its ecological and economic importance, its current state of health, and actions needed to restore it to its former glory.

Speakers:

William Baker, President and CEO, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

The Honorable Francis Jack Russell, President, St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairman, House Environmental Matters Committee

10:30 am - 10:45 am Coffee Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm General Session:

Marketing Maryland: Selling Our Strengths

With a rich agricultural heritage and close proximity to research institutions, Maryland is in a position to grow into a biotechnology powerhouse. With such important economic strengths, solid marketing strategies are the key to successfully promoting these and other industries. Speakers will discuss general marketing strategies, and specific strategies designed for agriculture and the biotech industry.

Speakers:

Tracy Gosson, President, Sagesse Inc.

Dr. Nick Place, Associate Dean and Associate Director, University of MD Extension

Dr. Judy Britz, Executive Director, MD Biotechnology Center

Public Safety and Corrections:

The Importance of Prison Intel and Inmate Surveillance

Inside prison walls, disaffected prisoners are being sought for recruitment by terrorists among gangs that are far more structured and sophisticated than ever before. Adding to that danger, "Smart" phones enable inmates to conduct criminal activities in our society. These dangerous components speak loudly of the challenges of prisoner surveillance. Panelists will discuss best practices for gathering intel and the new threat of Smart phones.

Speakers:

Gary D. Maynard, Secretary, MD Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Phil Apanovitch, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, IC Solutions

Jack Kavanagh, Director, Department of Corrections, Howard County

Human Services:

Effectively Dealing with Sexual Predators

The 2010 Session yielded legislation designed to strengthen child sex offender laws, focusing on sharing of information between law enforcement, the school system, and child protective services; supervision and parole of sex offenders; and sex offender registries. Panelists will discuss the roles and responsibilities of government and related entities as detailed in these new laws for protecting our children.

Speakers:

Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Government, Corporate and Community Affairs, MD Department of Human Resources

David Wolinski, Assistant Director, Criminal Justice Information Systems, MD Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)

Patrick McGee, Executive Director, Division of Parole and Probation, MD DPSCS

Stephen Berry, LCSW-C, Manager, Child Protective Services, MD Department of Human Resources

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Public Safety Reception - *Sunset Room*
Sponsored by the Maryland Sheriff's Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the Maryland State Firemen's Association, Motorola, Sprint, and MACo.

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm **Reception**

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12:00 pm - 1:00 pm **Buffet Lunch - Exhibit Halls A/B and C**

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - **CENTER STAGE** - Hall C

12:00 am – 12:30 am – Live Radio “ Shout-Outs” to armed service personnel in Iraq & Afghanistan - Purple Heart/L-3 STRATIS

12:30 am – 1:00 pm – Media Event/Book Release

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Kids Event - *Lollipop the Clown*, DNR Program “*Scales and Tails*”, snacks, goody bags, and balloons. Suited for children 7 years old and younger.

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Affiliate Sessions:

Engineers and Planners:

Stormwater Management: Where Do We Flow From Here?

An increasing source of nutrient and sediment pollution into the Chesapeake Bay comes from stormwater runoff associated with development. The State recently adopted regulations requiring treatment of runoff through environmental site design techniques, which include letting water infiltrate into the ground naturally, rather than being channeled through pipes or into storage ponds. The regulations will require changes in how development is planned and designed. Speakers will discuss the impact the regulations will have on the Bay, engineering and implementation challenges, and the need for revenues to cover the costs of maintaining new and existing stormwater infrastructure.

Speakers:

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, MD State Senate
Jay G. Sakai, Director, Water Management Administration, MD Department of the Environment
Fred Tutman, Riverkeeper and CEO, Patuxent Riverkeeper
Thomas R. Schueler, Coordinator, Chesapeake Stormwater Network

Administrators and Attorneys:

Our Public Information Act in the Digital Age

Maryland’s Public Information Act (PIA) mostly predates current State and county government technology. Legislation to address the handling of digital files and databases under the PIA has been introduced twice. While some updates to the PIA may be desirable, it must be carefully drafted to avoid significant costs and impact on state and local government personnel. Speakers will discuss perceived weaknesses of the PIA, potential reforms, and metadata and database access concerns.

Speakers:

Hilary Ruley, Assistant Solicitor, Baltimore City
Jack Murphy, Executive Director, Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association
Greg Smith, Director, Community Research

Environmental Health:

Warm, Fuzzy, and Deadly: Preventing the Spread of Rabies through Casual Contact

Visits to local farms and petting zoos are common field trips for school children. Even with precautions in place, exposure to infectious disease from animals to humans can occur and if it is rabies, it becomes a serious public health incident. The rapid notification and follow up process among medical, environmental health, and school officials is critical. Experts will discuss the successful management of a recent incident in Prince George’s County and measures put into place for future prevention.

Speakers:

Katherine Feldman, DVM, MPH, State Public Health Veterinarian, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases, Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Adm., DHMH
Angela Crankfield-Edmond, Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control, Prince George’s County Health Department
Katie O’Malley Simpson, Public Information Office, Charles County Board of Education

Health Officers:

The Role of Preventive Health Care in Health Care Reform

Federal Health Care Reform presents many opportunities to extend health care to uninsured populations, preventing illness and furthering wellness. Panelists in this session will explore what opportunities are available and how local health departments and different populations of Marylanders will be affected.

Speakers:

Vincent DeMarco, President, MD Citizens’ Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.
Peter Beilenson, MD, MPH, Health Officer, Howard County
Michelle A. Gourdine, MD, CEO and Principal Consultant, Michelle Gourdine and Associates, LLC.

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm Affiliate Sessions:

Administrators:

Creating a Leaner, Greener Local Government

Many programs are available to local governments who wish to reduce energy costs. Some offer grants for the purchase of solar panels or upgraded HVAC systems, while others provide a more comprehensive approach through the use of an energy audit. Panelists will discuss how to take advantage of these green programs and reduce your carbon footprint.

Speakers:

Malcolm Woolf, Executive Director, MD Energy Administration
Hatim Jabaji, Director, Office of Energy Performance and Conservation, MD Department of General Services
Karen Galindo-White, Account Manager, Energy Systems Group
Betty M. Morgan, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Washington County

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Dru Schimdt-Perkins, Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Maryland

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm **Governor's Cabinet Reception**
(by invitation only)

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm **Crab Feast**
Music by Klassix (rain or shine)

Saturday, August 21

7:00 am - 8:00 am **Sunrise Yoga**
Sponsored by MAC Wellness

7:30 am - 10:30 am Registration Open

8:30 am - 9:30 am Continental Breakfast

9:00 am - 9:30 am **MACo Business Meeting**

9:30 am - 11:00 am Education General Session:

Accountability and Measuring Success

Accountability and performance measures must be weighed against concerns of teacher flexibility, differing jurisdictional needs, and the implementation of "one size fits all" approaches. Maryland's public school system, ranked first in the nation for the last two years, is struggling to balance these concerns as it implements reform of its measure system. Speakers will discuss the need for such measures, benefits and pitfalls, and legislation passed as part of the State's federal "Race to the Top" funding application.

Speakers:
Nancy Grasmick, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Schools
Betty M. Morgan, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Washington County
Betty Weller, Vice President, Maryland State Teachers Association

11:00 am - 11:15 am Coffee Break

11:15 am - 12:15 pm General Session: **Governor's Address**

Moderator:
The Honorable David Craig, MACo President and Harford County Executive

Speaker:
The Honorable Martin J. O'Malley, Governor of Maryland

12:00 pm Adjourn

Attorneys and Engineers:

Lessons Learned from the 2010 Snow Storms

The record snowfall of 2010 nearly brought Maryland communities to a complete stop, challenging local government resources. Not only was it difficult to clear snow off streets, it was difficult managing operation centers and funding snow removal and clean up costs. During this session, speakers will provide advice on preparing for events of this magnitude and securing federal reimbursement.

Speakers:

Russ Yurek, Director, Office of Maintenance, MD State Highway Administration
Al Foxx, Director, Bureau of Transportation, Baltimore
Rob McCord, County Attorney, Harford County

Health Officers and Environmental Health:

Hoarding: A Public Health Threat

All of us have some inability to part with belongings, especially if they have sentimental meaning. But it is an entirely different matter if people allow belongings, paper, or animals to accumulate to the extent that it creates a health risk. This session will explore the aspects of hoarding and explain which agencies should be contacted and who is responsible for "cleaning house".

Speakers:

John Nickerson, Director, Environmental Health, Queen Anne's County
Anne Morse, Director, Office of Environmental Health, Talbot County
Brian Hepburn, Director, Mental Hygiene Administration, MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Planners:

PlanMaryland: The Trials and Tribulations of a State Land Use Plan

The first statewide land use plan, dubbed PlanMaryland, is in the works. PlanMaryland could be beneficial if it serves as a macro-level view for identifying growth trends and highlights land use challenges, and improves communication between State agencies and governments. But PlanMaryland risks losing local support if it seeks to impose centralized State-controlled land use, overriding local comprehensive plans. Speakers will discuss the process underway, whether such a plan is needed, and what PlanMaryland should and should not do.

Speakers:

Richard E. Hall, AICP, Secretary, MD Department of Planning
Kathleen Maloney, Principal, Maloney and Associates

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2010 Summer Conference Registration Form

MACo 2010 Summer Conference August 18 – 21, 2010 Ocean City Convention Center

Name: _____ Nickname: _____
First MI Last

Representing: _____

Job Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tele: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

*Spouse Name: _____ Nickname: _____
First MI Last

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE REGISTRATION FEE:

COUNTY MEMBERS (ELECTED, APPOINTED OR HIRED)

- Full Registration (includes all conference meetings and meal functions) \$375
- *Spouse Registration (Includes Exhibit Hall, 1 Reception & 1 Crab Feast) \$185
- Thursday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$185
- Friday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$185
- Saturday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$130

OTHER GOVERNMENT (MUNICIPAL, STATE, FEDERAL EMPLOYEES)

- Full Registration (includes all conference meetings and meal functions) \$500
- *Spouse Registration (Includes Exhibit Hall, 1 Reception & 1 Crab Feast) \$215
- Thursday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$225
- Friday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$225
- Saturday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$150

COMMERCIAL (PROFIT & NON-PROFIT)

- Full Registration (includes all conference meetings and meal functions) \$640
- *Spouse Registration (Includes Exhibit Hall, 1 Reception & 1 Crab Feast) \$245
- Thursday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$235
- Friday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$235
- Saturday Meeting & Breaks only (order meal tickets separately) \$160

MEAL TICKETS

- Thursday Lunch \$25
- Thursday President's Reception - Adult \$55
- Thursday President's Reception - Under 21 years old \$20
- Friday Lunch \$25
- Friday Crab Feast - Adult \$65
- Friday Crab Feast - 11 - 17 years old (10 and younger are FREE) \$20

Total Paid: \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD: Check or Money Order payable to MACo. Your confirmation/receipt will be emailed to the email address on this form.

Check Box: Check VISA MasterCard Expiration Date: _____

Credit Card Number _____ PRINT Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

MACo USE ONLY: Date Paid: _____ Check or PO Number: _____ Amt. _____

Date Paid: _____ Check or PO Number: _____ Amt. _____

AFTER 7/30

CANCELLATIONS, CHANGES, OR REFUNDS:

After July 16, all fees are non-refundable.

All refunds will be processed after the conference. You may, however, make a substitution at no charge.

MAIL or FAX this completed form with payment to insure delivery by August 12 to:

Maryland Assn. of Counties
Attn: Emily Hollis
169 Conduit Street,
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
FAX: (410) 268-1775

Questions? Call Emily at (410) 269-0043 or email ehollis@mdcounties.org

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Pride of Maryland
MACo Summer Conference
August 18-21, 2010



Schedule and Registration
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