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2005 Annual MACo Summer Conference

PUTTING OUR BEST FOOT FORWARD



August 17 - 20, 2005

**Roland Powell
Convention Center
Ocean City, Maryland**

Dates to Remember

MACo's affiliate organizations may utilize the MACo office for meeting space upon request. Groups are discouraged from scheduling meetings at MACo during October boat shows, and the May Navy Commissioning Week due to severe parking shortages. No meetings may be scheduled two weeks prior to the Annual Conferences. Contact Becky Black at (410) 269-0043 to schedule meetings and order catering.

August 17-20, 2005	Annual Summer Conference
	Ocean City Convention Center
December 7-9, 2005	Annual Winter Conference
	Location TBA

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A Message from the President

My wife, Peggy, and I had a wonderful time at the Inaugural Banquet. We were really touched by all the good wishes from our friends and colleagues. It was great to see everyone having such a good time.

My congratulations to Jim Harkins for doing such a fine job as MACo President this past year. Since the 2002 election, serving first as Legislative Committee Chair and then President, he successfully promoted the MACo spirit of collegiality and non-partisan deliberations. His visits to every county as President motivated appreciation for MACo that your Association needs to be an effective county voice.

Having Lieutenant Governor Steele install the Board and Officers was quite an honor. His presence reflects the Ehrlich Administration's commitment to working with MACo. Also, Comptroller Schaefer's presence is always a treat. He certainly has not forgotten his MACo roots.

Your Board was pleased to meet with Speaker Busch and Budget & Tax Committee Vice Chair P.J. Hogan, before they spoke Friday morning. Candid conversation prevailed, reflecting these State leaders' continuing commitment to working with MACo.

It was great having my former MACo Board colleague and Past President, Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, join the Board for its lunch meeting after addressing the membership. Having our senior U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes join us Friday morning was also an honor. These Capital Hill connections are certainly critical.

It was nice for Senator Hogan to publicly compliment the MACo staff, describing our Annapolis team as "tremendous." Staff is our Association's most important asset and they should be commended for the great job they do for us.

Although we receive many compliments about the Winter Conference program, your Board is well aware of the disappointment with the hotel in Hagerstown. Almost a year ago and before we signed the contract for the Hagerstown Clarion we were assured renovations would be complete. Washington County officials intervened, stressing the importance of the MACo conference. Obviously and unfortunately, the renovation commitment was not honored.

I assure you that a review of the Winter Conference, including format, location, and scheduling, will be a Board agenda item when we meet in March. To ensure a

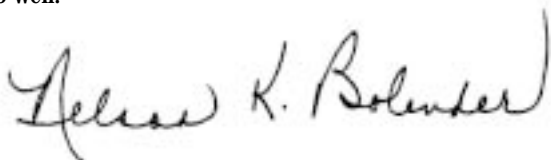
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full perspective, please fill out an evaluation form or just call or e-mail Ellen Clarke. MACo always wants to do better.

No doubt, a tough Session lies ahead. MACo needs your help to carry the county message. We cannot be perceived as the “soft under-belly” for solving our State’s budget problems. Work with your Senators and Delegates, don’t be shy with the Governor and his staff, and be responsive to MACo requests for information and Buddy Alerts.

As I mentioned during my installation comments, serving as your President is a great honor and the highlight of my public service career. With your help and support, MACo will continue to do well.



Nelson K. Bolender
President

2005 Officers and Board of Directors Installed

Cecil County Commission President Nelson Bolender was installed as the 2005 President of MACo at the December 2 Inaugural Banquet held during the MACo Winter Conference in Hagerstown at the Clarion Conference Center Antietam Creek. Lt. Governor Michael Steele installed the officers and Board of Directors at the ceremony.

President Bolender began his second term as Commissioner of the Second District on December 10, 2002, and was elected by his fellow Commissioners to serve as President of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Bolender retired from public education after 39 years, having served 31 years in Cecil County as an Assistant Principal and Principal. He earned a Masters Degree in Secondary Education with an additional 15 hours of graduate work. He has served as President of the Cecil County Public School Administrators and Elkton Rotary Club.

President Bolender was an executive board member of the MD Association of Secondary School Principals and a member of the Maryland Association of Retired Teachers. The North East Lions Club recognized Mr. Bolender as Outstanding Citizen of North East in 1977. He has been married to his wife, Peggy, for 45 years and they have four grown children and 14 grandchildren.

The other new MACo officers are 1st Vice President, Howard County Executive Jim Robey, 2nd Vice President, Washington County Commission President Greg Snook, Secretary, Talbot County Council Member Hilary Spence and Treasurer, Worcester County Commission President John “Sonny” Bloxom.

Elected to serve on the Board of Directors are Janet S. Owens, County Executive, Anne Arundel County, Rochelle “Rikki” Spector, Baltimore City Council member, David Hale, Calvert County Commission President, Perry Jones, Carroll County Commissioner, Fred Holliday, Garrett County Commissioner, David Harrington, Prince George’s County Council member, Effie Elzey, Dorchester County Commission President, Marilyn Praisner, Montgomery County Council member, Jim Smith, Baltimore County Executive and Immediate Past President Jim Harkins, Harford County Executive.

The officers and Board of Directors serve a one-year term ending during the 2005 Winter Conference.

Contact: *Ellen B. Clarke*

Lt. Governor Steele Addresses Conference

Installs New Board of Directors

Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele was the featured speaker during the Inaugural Banquet at the MACo Winter Conference, installing the incoming President and new Board of Directors. The Lieutenant Governor commented on the outstanding leadership and expert staff of MACo. He praised the organization for its non-partisan efforts in Annapolis.

The Lieutenant Governor entertained the group with his remarks about Comptroller Schaefer, who had spoken to the group just before him. He reminisced about his run against the Comptroller early in his career. He specifically recalled the confidence and tenacity of the Comptroller when he advised candidate Steele, “Son, you’ve already lost.”

Levy turned to more serious business when the Lt. Governor focused on the tough issues facing the State. Trying to resolve the medical malpractice crisis is a “critical issue for the Governor and myself,” stated Steele. “We want to help you with your issues too.”

“We are deeply sympathetic to your financial burdens and understand that you can’t take any more” lost revenue at the local level to resolve the State budget deficit. The “fiscal picture is

looking brighter,” he advised, with new jobs on the rise and revenues coming in at higher than anticipated rates. “We are in a better position this year than last” but we “still have much work do to together.”

Contact: *Michele Dinkel*

Board Meets with Speaker Busch and Senator Hogan

The MACo Board of Directors met with House of Delegates Speaker Michael Busch and the Senate Committee on Budget and Taxation Vice-Chairman Patrick Hogan during MACo’s Winter Conference. The meeting was held just prior to the General Assembly Forecast Session at the Conference that morning.

Speaker Busch opened the meeting by stating, “[i]t is important to have dialog and communication with county governments.” Senator Hogan began his introductory remarks by commenting that the State is still facing tough economic times and has not addressed its \$800 million to \$1 billion structural deficit. He remarked that the use of Budget Reconciliation and Financing Acts (BRFAs) over the last several years has added to the budget problem. He said that there is a high potential for making unintended errors when constructing a BRFA, and pointed to the issue of controlling interests. Senator Hogan pledged that “the General Assembly will take another look at it.”

Outgoing MACo President Jim Harkins broached the subject of school construction, noting that “[the counties] need State school construction rising to \$250 million. I have \$340 million in renovations alone in [Harford County].”

Speaker Busch noted “[i]t is good to have an aggressive school construction program at this time. Interest rates are low and it puts people back to work.” Senator Hogan concurred, adding, in reference to recent county letters urging more school construction funding, “[s]ending letters to the Governor is a good thing. You should also get private citizens to write the Governor... It is almost irresponsible of the State not to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Calvert County Commission President David Hale raised the issue of charging higher impact fees on home construction as a means to support school construction, but noted that even in counties that have increased their impact fees, school construction has not kept pace with home construction. He stated, “[i]t is not a pill that will solve your school construction problems.” Talbot

County Council member Hilary Spence agreed, saying, “You can’t grow your way out of the problem.”

County officials raised several other issues. Commissioner Hale expressed concern about preserving utility grants. Baltimore City Council member Rikki Spector stressed the need for a strategy to prevent more permanent budget cuts, such as those applied to police aid. “These cuts are happening every year and it’s becoming permanent,” she said.

Montgomery County Council member Marilyn Praisner expressed concern about some advocacy for affordable housing being merely a guise for density agendas. She said she views this agenda as a threat to local zoning and land use powers.

Contact: *Leslie Knapp Jr.*

State Leaders Offer 2005 Session Forecast

At MACo’s Winter Conference, the traditional Friday General Assembly Forecast gave county officials some insights into the dominant issues facing the state legislature during its upcoming session. House Speaker Mike Busch, Senator P.J. Hogan, and Governor Ehrlich’s Policy Director, Joe Getty, all offered perspectives on the critical issues of the forthcoming 90-day session.

Speaker Busch opened by addressing one of MACo’s upcoming legislative initiative issues – legislation to close the “controlling interests” loophole in recordation and transfer taxes, saying the bill will be “again, a priority” in the House. Last year, the Speaker and House Leadership introduced the legislation as House Bill 1, and “passed with broad, bipartisan support,” the Speaker noted. “With the funds going to school construction, we’ll hope to provide... some relief on school construction.”

He also commented on the medical malpractice crisis, noting the problem has hit hard “particularly in rural areas.” He observed that the “crisis of retaining specialists” was a great concern, and expressed hope for a fair resolution to this major issue.

Speaker Busch spoke generally about tax policy, indicating his belief that “an equitable tax structure starts at the state level.” He spoke about the 2004 tax package supported by the House – noting that “some people hit hardest by the property tax” would have received property tax relief from that proposal.

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The Speaker concluded by expressing his appreciation for county government, saying, “I understand the hard work... the tough decisions that you make.” He advised, “my door’s always open” to county officials as policy issues develop in Annapolis.

Senator P.J. Hogan, Vice-Chairman of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, followed the Speaker with his perspectives. He expressed Senate President Miller’s regrets for being unable to attend, but President Miller’s pleasure with receiving MACo’s legislative recognition award.

Senator Hogan commented about MACo’s presence in Annapolis, complementing their representation of county issues. He praised MACo’s “great staff” and their input in budget committee hearings on fiscal deliberations.

Senator Hogan spoke about the State’s budget situation, observing it’s “basically the same” – that the structural imbalances causing difficulties in recent years “are still around.” He noted that increased school funding and the Medicaid program are “the driving factors.” He did observe “Thornton is the right thing to do – and that means all the pieces of it, including the Geographic Cost of Education. You can’t pick and choose.” Geographic Cost of Education Index funding, a component of the Thornton plan, was not included in the Administration’s budget last year, after an Attorney General’s Office legal opinion concluded that the legislative mandate was not sufficiently specific to require particular funding levels.

“School construction,” he observed, “is an issue everywhere. One hundred million dollars [the amount anticipated in the forthcoming budget] won’t even scratch the surface.” “We need, I believe, \$250 million a year – and that maybe is not enough. The Governor needs to step up.” Returning to school construction, Senator Hogan offered a specific observation. He suggested, “[i]f we end up increasing the school construction... [funding] putting more into the budget... then we don’t want to be criticized for not using the Rainy Day Fund.” He observed “...[w]e believe that the Rainy Day Fund is one of the bedrocks for our triple-A bond rating.

Senator Hogan also commented about the budget reconciliation process, expressing concern with the use of sweeping “Budget Reconciliation and Financing Acts” (better known as BRFA) to often make major changes” and “upend[ing] long standing policy.” He cited one permanent reduction from last year’s BRFA legislation, a shift of funding responsibilities for the State to counties for State-run Regional Institutes for Children and Adolescents (RICAs). “The RICA cuts were a mistake, and I’ll be working to fix that mistake,” he concluded. He affirmed a pledge

to make budgetary adjustments to local government issues temporary, rather than permanent.

Joe Getty, the Administration’s Director of Policy, complemented the legislative leaders’ “comprehensive view,” and offered some “highlights” from his own perspective. He indicated that “it feels like mid-session already – medical malpractice is already in high gear.” He observed that December is a “witching month” for insurers and physicians, helping drive the effort for a resolution to the medical malpractice crisis. “Our fear is many doctors will shift areas, or just retire,” he observed, “we need a short term solution, plus a real fix – legal reform... we’ll all be working in earnest.”

Shifting to general budget issues, Mr. Getty observed, “[w]e could be positioned very well right now, if we had video lottery terminals.” Referencing MACo’s position on budget resolution, he said “we appreciate your support for our plan to resolve the deficit.”

He also complemented MACo for help with several initiatives – including local support for the 2004 transportation-funding package, an administration proposal. He referenced the “flush fee,” noting MACo’s role in “forging this important Bay initiative.”

“This is the year of no fees,” he pledged, referencing several efforts to impose fees and charges on local governments and others in recent years. He claimed “the Administration will resist fee increases as a budget balancing effort.”

Mr. Getty reiterated the Governor’s several pledges about local government “participation” in the budget-balancing process. He reaffirmed the administration’s position to keep local governments “last in line” for reductions, and to make those reductions temporary rather than structural.

On school construction, he observed, “(Treasurer) Nancy Kopp thinks we can do it... the Governor and Comptroller are hesitant.” But, he added, “[the Governor] will be open as things develop.”

Mr. Getty closed with a general comment to county officials – “we appreciate the hard decisions you have made. We look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.”

Contact: Michael Sanderson

Congressional Members Address Conference

U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman C.A. "Dutch" Ruppensberger were guest speakers at MACo's 2004 Winter Conference. MACo was pleased to have these two congressional members share their insights on the federal budget and homeland security.

Former MACo President Ruppensberger complimented MACo on being a bi-partisan group and noted, "[a]fter an election [the local governments] come together" and "that is what MACo does every year." He contrasted that sense of teamwork with the partisanship that occurs in federal government. He also spoke about homeland security concerns, stating that the United States needs to remain committed in Afghanistan and Iraq and that pulling out American troops early would destroy the United States' world credibility. Representative Ruppensberger complimented Maryland's Office of Homeland Security and noted that Director Dennis Schrader "was doing an excellent job."

Senator Sarbanes began his remarks by expressing his concern about the "incredible fiscal deterioration of our country." He noted that last year's federal budget ended with a deficit of \$400 billion and that out-year projections showed no relief. He cited federal tax cuts as the largest factor in creating the deficit situation, with the war in Iraq and homeland security costs also contributing. Despite the budget situation, Senator Sarbanes was upbeat about the federal government's continued support for Maryland, noting that the State has a number of important defense and civilian facilities. He commented, "[w]e've had considerable success in supporting some local projects, like I-270." He expressed his support for county and municipal officials, saying, "[l]ocal elected people are right on the front line in dealing with the people."

Contact: *Leslie Knapp Jr.*

Comptroller, Senate President, & Delegate Frush Honored

At its Fall Retreat MACo's Board of Directors voted to recognize Comptroller William Donald Schaefer, Senate President Mike Miller, and Delegate Barbara Frush, for their support of issues important to county government. Both the Comptroller and Delegate Frush, whose district includes portions of Prince Georges and Anne

Arundel Counties, were presented their awards at the Inaugural and Awards Banquet during the MACo Winter Conference. President Harkins presented the awards, highlighting their justifications. President Miller, who traditionally participates in the Winter Conference, had a Senate business-related conflict, which precluded his attendance. He was presented with his award during the MACo Board's Fall Retreat, when he met with the Board.

For Comptroller Schaefer, President Harkins noted the Comptroller's willingness to adjust the administrative management of county income tax distributions to facilitate prompter distributions, to facilitate counties accessing income tax refunds to satisfy debts, and to sponsor a bill last Session to rectify a court decision reducing the admissions and amusement tax base. That bill, which unfortunately failed, was a MACo legislative initiative.

"Wherever he has gone after those 30 years in local government he has not forgotten his roots or us," said President Harkins, highlighting the Comptroller's extensive experience as a Baltimore City elected official before assuming State office. In accepting his award, Comptroller Schaefer highlighted the importance of local government, emphasizing how much Governor Ehrlich respects counties and how committed the Governor is to honoring his commitments to MACo. The Comptroller also suggested counties cannot handle more cuts and that although the State budget picture is better this year, the basic structural problem remains unresolved.

For Delegate Frush, President Harkins noted how, in her leadership position as the Chair of the Subcommittee of the House Environmental Matters responsible for the environment, she has "developed a great and very much appreciated sensitivity to county issues." He highlighted her willingness to successfully advocate against provisions of various bills, which would impose State fees on counties, specifically citing the flush fee, which if applied to counties would have cost "millions of dollars."

"I am deeply honored to receive this award from the counties," began Delegate Frush in accepting her award. She advised she began her political career in county government and promised to always be "a friend," specifically citing her appreciation of county fiscal challenges.

The award to President Miller recognized his successful efforts last Session to preserve the \$30 million utility grant upon which many counties depend. That grant was implemented in 1999 to offset some of the revenue losses to counties resulting from property tax relief given to electricity generators as part of the State's deregulation of the electricity industry. The award also

acknowledged the President's efforts to highlight the impact of State cuts on the operations of county governments.

Contact: David S. Bliden

Spending Affordability Committee Addresses School Construction

At its last meeting on December 9, the Spending Affordability Committee issued its final recommendations. The Committee recommended an overall limit of 5.7% growth in operating spending, commensurate with the projected growth in State personal income. In addition, the Committee adopted language regarding possible additional school construction funding.

The Spending Affordability Committee annually reviews the State's overall economic trends and circumstances, and makes recommendations regarding the State's budget and fiscal plan. Each year, the Committee recommends an overall spending limit, applied to ongoing operating costs in the general fund budget, as well as other guidelines for spending and budgetary management. The Committee Co-Chairs are Senator Ed Kasemeyer and Delegate Mike Gordon with members including designated Senators, Delegates and citizen advisors.

In its discussion on capital debt, the Committee focused on the need for school construction, citing the recently adopted goals from the Public School Facilities Task Force, and its resulting legislation (now signed into law as Chapter 307, Acts of 2004). The Spending Affordability Committee's finally adopted discussion on the matter, including its formal recommendation (bolded at the bottom of the selection), is shown in the excerpt below:

B. Public School Construction

Chapter 307, Acts of 2004, also referred to as the Public School Facilities Act of 2004, established a State goal to fully fund school construction projects by fiscal 2013 to meet all minimum required standards as of July 2003. The Act was a response to the November 2003 survey results of the Task Force to Study Public School Facilities. The task force concluded that many Maryland public schools were deficient in some capacity and that the cost to bring schools up to standard would be \$3.85 billion. Through the Public School Facilities Act, the State would provide \$2 billion of the \$3.85 billion over the next eight fiscal years, with the

remaining balance funded by local governments. The State has currently committed to \$800 million (\$100 million annually) in the Department of Budget and Management's *Capital Improvement Program*, leaving a \$1.2 billion shortfall. Authorizing \$150 million annually for eight years would fund the shortfall.

The Act required that CDAC review public school construction needs and make a funding recommendation annually. CDAC recommended to the General Assembly that the State continue to authorize \$100 million in public school construction and also analyzed the effect of authorizing an additional \$1.2 billion for public school construction. The committee concluded that authorizing this additional debt would not exceed debt capacity as currently defined, yet the committee warned that such a task would limit the State's ability to issue debt for other programs and that changes in personal income could breach affordability measures. CDAC concluded that:

"[g]iven the magnitude of the proposed additional funding for school construction, however, the committee recommends fully exploring alternative funding mechanisms, new revenue streams, or shifting other capital projects before considering an additional \$1.2 billion in general obligation bond authorizations."

The committee is concerned about the adequacy of public school construction funding and notes that additional spending for public school construction is affordable, based on CDAC criteria. The committee notes, however, that current general obligation bond debt service expenditure projections will put additional pressure on the general fund in the future. The committee recommends that the General Assembly evaluate the proposed fiscal 2006 capital budget and the progress made toward meeting the funding goal established by the Governor and General Assembly in the Public School Facilities Act of 2004 and consider appropriate action to meet the funding goal.

MACo has adopted public school construction and renovation as one of its legislative initiatives for the coming session, and will be following the efforts of the General Assembly closely. Since the General Assembly may add to the capital budget (unlike the

operating budget) these actions may be open to more debate as the session commences.

Contact: *Michael Sanderson or Michele Dinkel*

Open Meetings Law Executive Function Proposal Discussed

In October, Assistant Attorney General William Varga shared with MACo the State Open Meetings Law Compliance Board's proposal to adjust applications of executive function exclusion to the Open Meetings Act. A group of county and municipal attorneys and MACo staff are reviewing the proposal and will work to ensure that any modification to the executive function does not hamper county and municipal officials' ability to administer local government.

The Open Meetings Act requires that a meeting held by a public body must be open to the general public, subject to certain exceptions. One of those exceptions is when the public body is engaged in an executive function. State law defines "executive function" as the "administration of the law of the State; a law of a political subdivision of the State; or a rule, regulation, or bylaw of a public body." Executive function does not include advisory, judicial, legislative, quasi-judicial, or quasi-legislative functions.

In the 2004 session, a bill was introduced that would have eliminated the executive function (HB 1243). Given the burden that this would have placed on county governments, particularly commissioner counties, MACo opposed the bill. The bill was amended in the House so that it required the Compliance Board to study the use of the executive function exclusion under the Open Meetings Act rather than outright repeal it. The amended version of HB 1243 was rejected in the Senate.

In October, the Compliance Board considered an alternative proposal that would require a public body to document in the minutes of its next session whenever it met in closed session under the executive function exclusion. This would include a statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session and a listing of the topics of discussion, persons present, and each action taken during the session.

Contact: *Leslie Knapp Jr.*

Development Capacity Task Force Continues to Meet

Associate Director Leslie Knapp represented MACo at the December 14 meeting of the Development Capacity Task Force held at the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) headquarters. The Task Force provided an update on its activities since July, distributed a rough draft of its Guidebook: *Development Capacity Analysis Implementation* for comment, and heard a presentation on the Maryland Land Use Indicators Project.

The Development Capacity Task Force was created to undertake a study of land supply available for development. The Task Force completed that study in July and is available at http://www.mdp.state.md.us/develop_cap.htm in the Final Report. The Task Force was to have terminated after completion of the Final Report but it has been extended by Executive Order. It will continue to meet quarterly.

MDP Secretary Audrey Scott and Technical Planning Support Manager Richard Hall updated the Task Force on its activities since the publication of the Final Report. The Task Force has been working to increase data collection partnerships with both the counties and municipalities. Currently, the Task Force has formal or informal data sharing agreements with all of the counties and a number of municipalities.

The Task Force distributed a completed rough draft of its Guidebook: *Development Capacity Analysis Implementation* and will accept comments until mid-January. The Guidebook will provide guidance to local government planners for conducting a development capacity analysis and includes sections on data, methodology, and analysis reporting. In addition to the guidebook, MDP is working on a Query and Analysis Summary Tool, a software program that can show the long-term impacts of a county or municipality's development decisions.

The Task Force also heard a presentation from Executive Director Gerrit Knaap of the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education and Laurel Davis, a graduate student at the Center. The Center is working on the Maryland Land Use Indicators Project, a program that provides information about key land, housing, environment, and public service indicators. The program can establish a benchmark to measure land use patterns in the future and graphically display current land use patterns in the State. The Center hopes to create a public website.

The Task Force's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2005. At that meeting, the Task Force will consider a schedule for counties and municipalities to incorporate a development capacity analysis into their comprehensive master plan updates and whether to require maintenance of effort from counties and municipalities with respect to data updates. Both MACo and the Maryland Municipal League feel that a development capacity analysis should not be mandatory, but something that should be done by local jurisdictions as a matter of course.

Contact: *Leslie Knapp Jr.*

Winter Conference Held in Hagerstown

Washington County was host to MACo's Annual Winter Conference held December 1-3, 2004 at the Clarion Hotel in Hagerstown. The conference theme was "Best Practices." More than 200 state and local elected and appointed officials attended the three-day conference, which featured a new condensed format.

Lt. Governor Michael Steele was the featured speaker at the inaugural dinner and installed the 2005 MACo Board of Directors. Other speakers at the conference included Speaker Mike Busch, Senator P.J. Hogan, Joe Getty, Policy Director, Governor's Office, Alan Fabian, CEO, The Centre for Management and Technology, Jo Anne Ellison, Ed. D., JAE Facilitation and Training, Inc., Jacqueline Byers, Director of Research, National Association of Counties, Robert McDonald, Chief Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Terry Headlee, Managing Editor, The Herald Mail, Kathleen McHugh, Legislative Affairs Director, MD State Builders Association, Robert Jacobs, President, MD State Fireman's Association, Pat Foerster, President, MD State Teachers Association, and Esther Parker, President, MD Parent Teacher Association.

Session topics included structure of government, county financial management, affordable housing, public information act, strategic planning, risk management, innovation in government, education testing, public safety recruitment, underground tank leakage, and emergency management for human services and aging.

The Annual Summer Conference is set for August 17-20, 2005 in Ocean City. The 2005 Winter Conference is tentatively scheduled for December 7-9. The location will be announced shortly.

Contact: *Ellen Clarke*

Briefly

Grants for Wetland, Coastal Habitat Restoration Projects

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program project partners are currently accepting applications for the 2005 Five Star Restoration Challenge Grants. The Five Star Program provides modest financial assistance on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities. Project sites can be public land, such as parks, streams, and school campuses, or private land, such as corporate facilities. Examples of entities that received funding and assistance through the Five Star Program are: county and city governments, non-profits, schools and school districts, and local environmental groups. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2005. For more information visit www.naco.org and click under technical assistance, or contact Jason Shedlock at 202/942-4252 or jshedloc@naco.org.

Job Openings

CABLE ADMINISTRATOR - TECHNICAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR - HOWARD COUNTY - Searching for an individual to provide administration to both cable communications within the County as governed by laws and applicable franchise contracts & agreements and the access channels which are set aside for government use; have principal staff responsibilities to the Cable Advisory Committee; provide expertise on matters relating to cable communications operations; manage the evaluations of franchisees as conducted by the County; evaluating compliance with laws and agreements; review proof of performance tests, audited financial statements, comprehensive annual reports and other documents filed by cable franchisees; prepare and publicize text of proposed franchise agreements; attend public meetings; investigate and resolve citizen and subscriber complaints; and develop programs to encourage cable access to handicapped, elderly and rural residents. To qualify, applicants must have a thorough knowledge of current methods and practices in cable system development; considerable knowledge of FCC rules and guidelines and Howard County laws governing cable television systems; ability to express ideas clearly and effectively in writing and orally; ability to maintain tactful and effective working relationships with the public, cable subscribers, cable franchisees and County officials. Qualified applicants must have any combination of education and

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experience equivalent to an Associates Degree and five years applicable experience. The Cable Administrator is an Executive Exempt position appointed by the County Executive, with the concurrence of the County Council. Salary range is \$53,664-\$79,186/yr. Interested candidates must submit a résumé, with salary history, by January 14, 2005 to: Raquel Sanudo, Chief Administrative Officer, Howard County Government, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043. 410-313-2020 or FAX: 410-313-3051. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR - HOWARD COUNTY -
Seeking an experienced Human Resources professional to manage the overall functions and operations of the Office of Human Resources. Responsibilities include directing and coordinating the human resource functions of County government including recruitment and selection, examinations, classification and pay, employee benefits, affirmative action, employee performance evaluation, training, and employee relations. Will also advise management regarding HR issues and concerns. Salary range is \$72,966 to \$107,744/yr., commensurate with experience. This position requires possession of a bachelor's degree with 8 years of human resources management experience. A background investigation is required. This is an Executive Exempt position. Please submit résumé by January 14, 2005 to: Raquel Sanudo, Chief Administrative Officer, Howard County Government, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043. 410-313-2020 FAX: 410-313-3051 AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MARYLAND CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION, INC. - The Executive Director serves as an independent contractor and is responsible to the President and the Executive Board of Directors of the Association. The contract period is for one year, renewable and begins February 1, 2005. Minimum Qualifications: College or post-college education preferred; high school graduate required; Experience in finance and accounting required; Organizational and office management experience and skills, including computer competence (knowledge and experience with HTML preferred), accounting familiarity, budget preparation, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, event planning and record keeping; Experience in public administration and/or law enforcement management a plus. Examples of Position Duties: Serves as the Chief Administrator for the Association; Maintains records and files of the Association, handles general correspondence, telephone and e-mail communications; Maintains Association website; Prepares annual budget; Along with Association committees, plans

events including the Annual Conference, monthly meetings, training seminars and other activities; Assists in the preparation and distribution of Association publications, promotional materials and reports; Records and prepares minutes of Association meetings; Collects and processes accounts payable, including membership dues; Other related duties as assigned by the President or the Executive Board. Other Requirements: Some travel within the State of Maryland required; Option to travel out of state at the Association's expense for national activities; Must provide own transportation and office space; office expenses to be paid by the Association. Must successfully pass basic background check. This is a contractual position and does not provide employment benefits. The annual compensation is \$15,000, paid on a monthly basis. Interested applicants should submit a resume and statement of interest to: Karen J. Kruger, Chair, Hiring Committee, MD Chiefs of Police Association, C/o Maryland Transportation Authority, 2310 Broening Highway, Suite 150, Baltimore, MD 21224. Fax: 410 537 1009. Applications must be received by the close of business on Monday, December 6, 2004. Qualified candidates will be asked to participate in an interview and make a presentation to the Executive Board before selection. You may find more information about the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, Inc. on its website: http://members.aol.com/MD_Chiefs.

All MACo Summer Conference events are held at the *Roland Powell Convention Center, 4001 (40th St.) Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842-3235 (410) 289-8311. There is no headquarters hotel. These hotels are listed only as a guide.*

2004/2005 HOTEL/MOTEL ROOM RATES:

Best Western Sea Bay Inn (410) 542-6100 or (800) 888-2229 - 6007 Coastal Highway
2005 Rates: Weekday \$139.95; Weekend \$149.95
Rooms Released July 1, 2005

Best Western Ocean City (800) 888-2229
55th Street - Coastal Highway
2005 Rates: Weekday - \$159.95; Weekend \$169.95
Rooms released July 1, 2005

Ramada Limited Hotel (410) 289-6488
4201 Coastal Hwy
2005 Rates: \$152 weekday; \$189 weekend
72-hour cancellation policy. Rooms released July 16

The Grand Hotel (800) 447-6779
2100 Baltimore Avenue
2005 Rates: Oceanfront - \$249 weekday/weekend
2-night Minimum stay; Rooms released July 18
Group Code: MACo05

Carousel Beachfront Hotel & Suites (800) 641-0011
11700 Coastal Hwy. - Call hotel for rates.

Castle in the Sand (800) 552-7263
37th & Coastal Highway
2004 Rates: Waverly Castle Oceanfront Efficiencies:
Double occupancy: \$265 weekday; \$275 weekend
Rooms Released 7/1

Comfort Inn GoldCoast
2005 Rate: \$170 double

Comfort Suites - Ocean City (410) 213-7171
12718 Ocean Gateway
2005 Rates from \$189 to \$236. Rooms Released 7/1

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel (800) 638-2100
10100 Coastal Hwy.
2005 Rates: D/D - S/D \$254; Executive King S/D \$274;
Studio King S/D \$284; and Cabana S/D \$304.
Rooms released 7/17

Princess Bayside Beach Hotel (800) 854-9785
4801 Coastal Highway
2005 Rates: Standard Double \$199; Deluxe Bayview \$259.
2 night min. w/ Sat. stay - 72 hr. cancellation policy.
Rooms released 7/17

Princess Royale Hotel (410) 524-7777
9100 Coastal Hwy.
2005 Rates: Oceanview Suite \$239; Oceanfront Suite \$299.
72 hour cancellation policy. No refunds for early check-outs
- 8% tax Rooms Released 7/20

Days Inn Oceanfront (800) 926-1122
Boardwalk at 23rd St.

Hotels/Motels

2005 Rates: Poolside - \$159; oceanview \$189; oceanfront \$249; 72-hr.cancellation policy – 3-night min.
Rooms released 7/15

Howard Johnson Inn (800) 926-1122
24th St. & Boardwalk
2005 Rates: Poolside \$154; O-view- \$189; O-front - \$229.
72-hour cancellation policy - 3-night minimum

Howard Johnson Plaza (800) 926 - 1122
12th & Boardwalk
2005 Rates: Oceanview Rooms - \$239; Standard Rooms - \$199; 72-hr. cancell. policy. 3-night min. Rms.released 7/1

Paradise Plaza Inn (888) 678-4111
Ninth Street & Boardwalk - Call hotel.

Fenwick Inn (800) 492-1873
138th St. & Coastal Highway - Call hotel. 2- night min.

HARRISON GROUP HOTELS: Reservations for all: (800) 638-2106 - 9 % tax per room, per night - all hotels

Holiday Inn Oceanfront
67th St. & Ocean
2004 Rates: Gardenview Efficiencies - \$249
South Oceanview Efficiency - \$259
Eastern Oceanfront Efficiency - \$279
Direct Oceanfront Efficiency Unit - \$299

Holiday Inn Suites
17th Street & Boardwalk
2004 Rates: Non-oceanfront suite - \$339
Oceanfront Jacuzzi Suite - \$349

Quality Inn Oceanfront
54th St. & Ocean
2004 Rates: Oceanfront weekday - \$259/weekend \$269;
Atrium view weekday - \$214/weekend \$224

Quality Inn Boardwalk
17th St. & Boardwalk
2004 Rates: North View Efficiency – weekday \$224;
weekend - \$234; Deluxe Oceanfront Efficiency – weekday
\$259/ weekend \$269; Premium Oceanfront Efficiency Unit –
weekday \$279/weekend \$289

Ramada Limited Oceanfront
32nd St. & Ocean
2004 Rates: Standard Ltd. View Unit – \$229; Luxury
Limited View - \$234; Deluxe Efficiency Unit - \$249
Standard Oceanfront Unit - \$249; Luxury Oceanfront - \$264;

SALISBURY MOTELS:

Salisbury Hampton Inn - (410) 334-3080
121 East Naylor Mill Road -
\$92 Weekday; \$139 Weekend.

Salisbury Comfort Inn - (410) 543-4666
U.S. 13 North, 2701 N. Salisbury Blvd.
\$89 rate weekday/weekend.

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, August 17

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Registration
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Exhibitors Move In Day
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Golf Tournament

Thursday, August 18

7:30 a.m.– 9:00 a.m. - Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Registration
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. - Academy Core: *"Ethics"*
8:30 - 8:45 a.m. - Break
8:45 – 9:45 a.m. - A. Core: *"School Board Relations"*
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Exhibit Halls Open
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Buffet Lunch
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Affiliate Sessions TBA
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. - Ice Cream Break
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Affiliate Sessions TBA
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Presidents Reception

Friday, August 19

7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. - Cont'l. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Registration
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Exhibit Halls Open
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. - General Session TBA
10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. - Coffee Break
10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - General Session TBA
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. - Buffet Lunch
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. - Affiliate Sessions TBA
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Kids Activities
2:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. - Coffee Break
2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. - Affiliate Sessions TBA
3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m. - Cabinet Reception
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - Crab Feast

Saturday, August 20

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. - Registration
9:15 a.m.- 9:45 a.m. - MACo Business Mtg.
9:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. - Education Session - TBA
11:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. - Coffee Break
11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.- Governor's Address
12:00 noon - Adjournment

2005 Annual MACo Summer Conference

PUTTING OUR BEST FOOT FORWARD



August 17-20, 2005

**Roland Powell
Convention Center
Ocean City, Maryland**

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