

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Baltimore Commission on Sustainability</b> <b>June 2014 Meeting Report</b></p>
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**Date:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014, from 4-6 pm

**Location:** Department of Planning Boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St.

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability June 2014 General Meeting

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) – Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Dana Cooper, Fran Flanigan, Lynn Heller, Geraldine Okwesa, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Scot Spencer (*Staff*) – Alice Kennedy, Jenny Guaille, Abby Cocke

**Opening Remarks:**

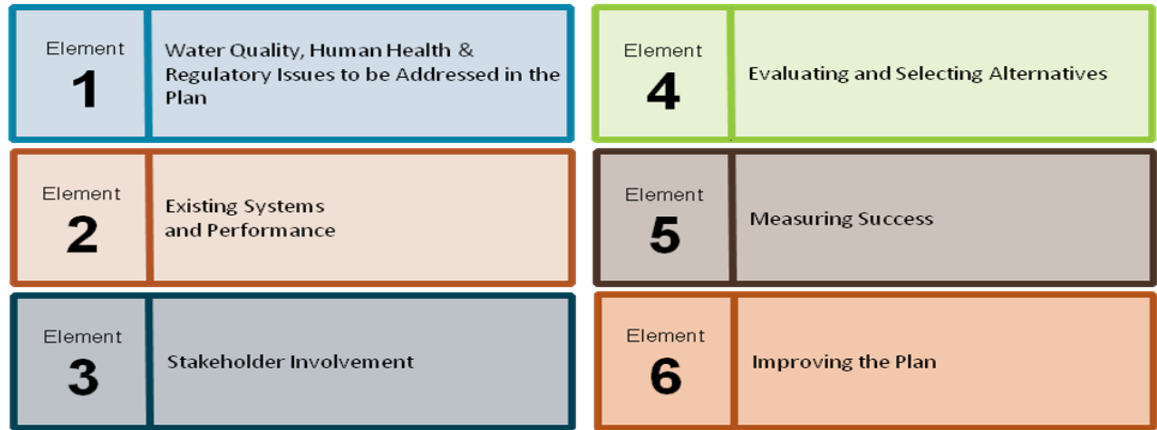
- Minutes from May 2014 are approved without amendment
- Chair Report
  - August will be climate/heat meeting
  - September will be waste focus
  - July 15th - meeting will be at another location in the community. Planning meeting will be on June 23rd
  - Working with Hatcher on communications for commission for rest of year

**Meeting Agenda:**

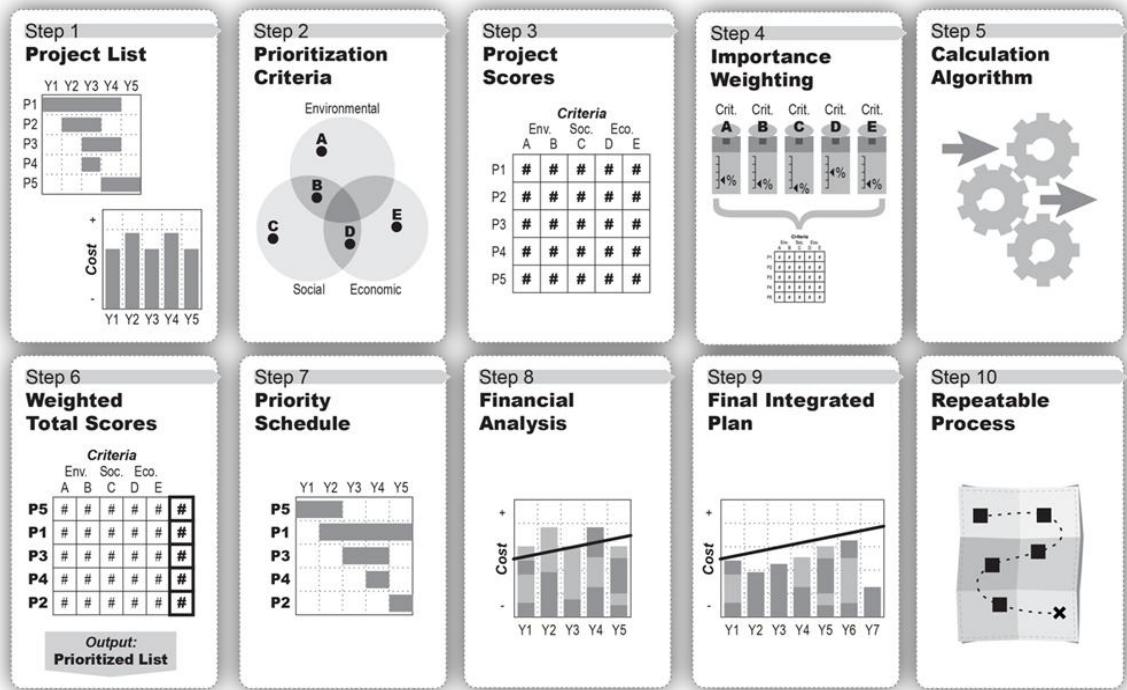
- 1) Staff Report
- 2) Briefings:
  - a. Status of Stormwater Fee Implementation
  - b. Planning framework for DPW utilities
  - c. Baltimore Food Policy Initiative
- 3) Priority Update: Waste
- 4) Priority Update: Climate
- 5) Legislation

**Discussion:**

- Staff Report
  - International Green Construction Code (IgCC) - Councilman Kraft introduce bill. will have working sessions - some forward thinking items included. Need IgCC to solve issue with current green construction standards. Staff has been leading team with HCD on the content of the bill
  - GreenScape - 27 out of 53 schools represented. Majority of attendees students.
- Briefings: Integrated Planning Framework DPW, Dana Cooper
  - DPW and Dana have been working on integrated planning for well over 2 years.
  - EPA negotiations, couldn't really talk about it for a while. Specific dates are still under negotiation, but can finally start going into specifics
  - 2011 - Mayors lobbying for more integrated approach to environmental compliance for cities.
  - 2012 – EPA issues Integrated Planning Framework with these 6 elements



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- An integrated plan is a way of looking comprehensively at City’s environmental obligations, the benefits of the associated projects, and determining how to get the biggest environmental, social, public health, and efficiency bang for the buck
- Appealing to DPW because of infrastructure challenges
- Baltimore is not a wealthy city; it is typically characterized as having a working-class population
- the **Median HI** (how affordability is typically defined) is less than \$40K and is not a normal bell-shaped distribution. water and sewer rates are already approaching the affordable limit for many Baltimore residents.
- In fact, 26% live below the poverty line and can't afford current bills. 12% of population lives at less than half of the federal poverty line. Therefore the City is challenged to optimize its investments to best serve its customers while protecting the environment at the same time.
- The EPA set forth a handful of objectives and Baltimore has additional objectives to sustain utility operations and contribute to economic revitalization.
- Baltimore fully aligned with EPA, plus some.
- We jumped on IPF before EPA was even done developing it
- In embarking on the IPF, Baltimore has developed a very comprehensive 10 step process



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- The breakdown of projects within the Bureau sections total \$7.9 Billion. To make it more manageable, these projects were bundled in groups that made sense and went from 1,414 to 205 bundled projects.
- Projects were evaluated with 21 criteria. We based the criteria on a Triple Bottom Line approach—or in our case, the Quadruple Bottom Line.
- Not only did we want to make sure to capture the financial, social, and environmental data, but also the project implementability. These criteria addressed the conditions of the existing assets.
- So then we took the weights, we took the scores, and we did math. This resulted in a list of total weighted scores, that we can use to tell which projects are higher priority than which other projects.
- Remember, we have 3 utilities, so even though a stormwater project might have much greater benefit than a drinking water project, we can't use drinking water money for stormwater, so we're looking at the best projects within each category.
- To know what's affordable and what's not, as part of creating our integrated plan, we did a detailed affordability analysis that analyzed household income by census tracts and compared that to what people were spending on their water bills.
- IPF is not a perfect plan, we still have a lot of people paying more than 4% of income on their water bills, but it's better.
- Briefing: MS4 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP)
  - What is the MS4 Permit? Management Programs: Stormwater Management, Erosion and Sediment Control, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Property Management, Maintenance, Public Education  
Total Maximum Daily Loads: Watershed Assessments, Restoration Plans (WIPs), ○ Public Participation, TMDL Compliance
  - MS4 WIP: 5 Years = 20% Restoration
    - Projects
      - Large Stormwater BMPS
      - Stream Restoration Projects
      - Urban ESD Projects
      - Impervious Area Reduction / Greening Projects

- Debris Collection within Public System
- Programs
  - Increased street sweeping
  - Preventative inlet cleaning
  - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program
  - MD Stormwater Remediation Fee Credit Program
- Partnerships
  - Grants
  - Urban Waters Interactive Mapping Tool
  - STORM Center (potential)
  - Education / outreach
- Watershed Implementation Planning
  - Plan for more projects than you need.
  - Plan for resources that will affect funding needs.
  - Plan to maintain.
  - Plan to be a part of a bigger picture.
  - Plan for effective public participation.
  - Plan to adapt.
- Project Prioritization
- Cost Benefit Analysis (Estimate)
- WIP Development Schedule
- Public Engagement Process
  - Public Meetings July - September
- Briefing: Baltimore Food Policy
  - **Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local**
    - Homegrown Baltimore is an urban agriculture and food retail strategy to create a healthy vibrant food economy that;
    - Transforms vacant land into farms and gardens,
    - Increases local food supply,
    - Stimulates the local food economy, and improves the food environment thus attracting new residents to the city.
  - Employee Wellness CSA 120 employees participating
  - Support & Expand Farmers' Markets
    - Up to 70 vendors will have smartphone that accepts SNAP, Credit and Debit
    - Launch Maryland Market Money pilot to double SNAP through smartphone
  - Food Access Mapping
  - Food Access Definitions
  - Food Environment Map
  - **Get Fresh Lexington**
    - One of the goals is to target the children and families are currently coming to the market
    - Evolution of our work- understanding vendors interest in childrens health
    - Yet there was a concern that there are no children at the market
    - Therefore surveyed # kids at market
    - Learned approx. 900 on a Saturday and 200 on weekday
    - This data has driven our get fresh kids strategy

- Get Fresh Kids Menus
- Food Art Workshops
  - 1,000 kids on a given Saturday
  - Monthly workshops
  - June workshop had 75 kids
  - Encourage 1 healthy kids meals and snacks
  - Parents are involved in activity
- Healthy Carryouts & Delis
  - Total: 36 vendors
  - Lexington: 18 Healthy Carryout
  - Northeast: 12 Healthy Carryouts (10 with menu boards, 2 without but wanting to be considered due to menu items – promoted on website)
  - Hollins: 3 Healthy Carryouts
  - Broadway: 3 Healthy Carryouts
- **School Food**
  - School Food Assessment completed Sept. 2013 since then a few highlights:
    - Great Kids Farm growing produce for cafeteria
    - Salad served in EVERY school everyday
    - Fresh fruit served daily
    - 90 schools have alternative breakfast
    - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kitchen/Cafeteria Designs
    - Eliminated chocolate milk for breakfast
    - 97 schools participating in fruit and vegetable program
    - Conducted Plate Waste Study
- **Retain and Expand Quality Grocery Stores**
  - Independent Grocery Store working group, retailer needs assessment
  - Intergovernmental food retail group
  - Hired 2 new positions (DOP & BDC)
  - TRF HUFF analysis and drilldown maps
  - 3 grocery stores have changed ownership
  - State Food Desert legislation Passed (Neighborhood Business Development Program HB 451)

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 6PM.