

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
August 28, 2012 Meeting Report

Date: Tuesday August 28, 2012 from 4-6 pm

Location: Department of Planning Boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor

Subject: Commission on Sustainability August 2012 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) –Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Ray Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Sharon Middleton, Ruth Ann Norton, Jake Ruppert, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Ed Whalen

(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy, Abby Cocke, Holly Frieshtat

Meeting called to order: 4:06 pm

Topics addressed:

- Minutes approved April 24, 2012 meeting with amendment by Lynn Heller. Peter Doo moves and Ed Whalen seconds.
- Chair Report
 - Welcome & Introductions
 - Highlight new meeting schedule: next meeting October 2nd, then October 23rd and December 4th. Will cancel the November meeting
 - Thanks to Constellation Exelon for a grant of \$450,000 over 3 years to support Energy Challenge and Sustainability Challenge
 - Cheryl, Alice and team including Mayor testified at PSC in support of the City's \$55 million proposal to the PSC. Mayor is highly supportive and committed to proposal, staffing, citistat support.
 - Did submit the polystyrene letter
 - Wanted to protect integrity of conversation
 - Memo reflects our discussion
 - Will need to take a vote at times in future
 - Davis Bookhart – for future suggest consensus process with votes. Looking for things that people can't live with = what do they really want to do
 - Sharon Middleton – most voted at beginning to move it to Committee to get it moving and in Committee, working groups can form more conversations.
 - Cheryl = for or against, knew it was related to keeping trash out of water. This is not enough detail to do it in isolation.
 - Tonight's agenda: Stormwater – Dana will be doing presentation. Circulated the Baltimore Waterkeeper comments on MS4
 - Priorities: couple of areas with sub groups
- Staff Report
 - Beth invited to be part of Plenary session on urban farming at Urban Sustainability Directors network annual meeting
 - Environmental Excellence in Health Care presentation
 - Sat in on cross agency health task force, should invite them to speak to Commission.
 - Working on new partnership with HABC and Energy Challenge. Should invite HABC to brief Commission on the sustainability work they are doing. It is a lot

- Carbon Challenge – site location picked in Oliver. Working with Forest Service and American plywood Association.
- Interview with Daily record on sustainability office, and small businesses
- Food policy
 - Good strides with schools 7 school food strategic plan to improve school food strategic way
 - Diligently working on food retail strategy – identified barriers to grocery stores coming into urban areas and how to work through those. Hiring, job training etc.
 - Farmers market SBNAP month 3 at Baltimore farmer’s market
 - Virtual supermarket: model has changed Santoni’s
 - Peter Doo – BNOTES – can they be accepted?
 - Scot Spencer – yield issues with grocery store hiring?
 - Always want to hire from community
 - Transportation
 - Teller jobs not high paying
 - Don’t have money to provide soft skills & job training in order to be hired
 - It is the only companies where there still is vertical growth
 - Davis Bookhart – big barriers are transportation & boredom with job, then what does training do?
 - Training is soft skills able to get range that is livable wage
 - Sharon Middleton – federal grant money available for pilot ideas
- Stormwater MS4 update – Dana Cooper, DPW;
 - Rain falls on ground, and the pipes and drains carry the rain away
 - MS4 permit is only related to stormwater
 - MEP – maximum extent practical
 - **CWA**: The Federal Clean Water Act
 - Primary water pollution prevention law in the US
 - Turns 40 this year!
 - **NPDES**: National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
 - Clean Water Act’s permitting system
 - **MS4**: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
 - Infrastructure used for conveying stormwater and other surface water only; no wastewater!
 - Discharges directly to streams without going through treatment
 - **TMDL**: Total Maximum Daily Load
 - When a water body is impaired by a pollutant, it is given a “pollution diet”
 - **BMP**: Best Management Practice
 - The measures we take to clean surface water and comply with all of the above
 - We conduct an extensive surface water sampling program, the results of which are reported to the state.
 - We get a pollution diet – says how much of that pollutant a water body can take.
 - MS4 Permit What does it cover?
 - Permit Administration
 - Legal Authority
 - Source Identification

- Management Programs
 - Stormwater Management
 - Erosion and Sediment Control
 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 - Property Management and Maintenance
 - Public Education
- Total Maximum Daily Loads
 - Watershed Assessments
 - Restoration Plans
 - Public Participation
 - TMDL Compliance
- Assessment of Controls - Chemical, Biological and Physical Monitoring
- Annual Report
- Specific TMDLS listed as appendix
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL broke ground in a lot of areas. First one that had date generally doesn't have dates listed.
- City on track to meet deadlines under Bay TMDL
- Infrastructure repair not on radar yet
- Still need money on stormwater infrastructure
- No comments about flooding or flood controls
- **Baseline Impervious Area Calculation**
 - Goal: 20% Restoration
 - Over **4,000** acres of impervious area must be restored within the next MS4 permit cycle, but what does “restored” mean?
 - We end up with about 4,000 acres to be restored in the next 5 years
 - All low hanging fruit has been done
- Our colleagues in the environmental community have said that the draft permit does not contain enough specifics. Stormwater control is a new science
- If we restrict ourselves to take specific measures, that does not allow us the flexibility to improve as the technology improves
- Lots of issues with what works or doesn't work. Lots of clay soils
- What does restoration mean?
 - Green Infrastructure will be important to meet MS4
 - Ponds/wetlands = structural BMPs
 - Retro-fit micro-BMPs = Environmental Site Design
 - Stream restoration = alternative BMPs
 - Because Baltimore is an ultra-urban area, there generally just is not enough space to do structural BMPs. We deal mostly with ESD and alternative BMPs
 - ESDs also only work well when maintained properly. This requires investment from the owner and from the City to do sufficient inspections.
- **Baltimore City's Bay TMDL WIP**
 - 20% by structural, traditional BMPs like bioretention areas, surface filtration systems, wet ponds and wetland areas.
 - 15% by impervious area removal, reforestation, urban tree planting and the use of alternative surfaces (such as green roofs and permeable pavement).
 - 10% ESD treatment practices such as micro-practices.

- 55% by non-traditional BMPs such as stream restoration, inlet cleaning, street sweeping, and other practices (quantified benefits to be determined).
- Trash TMDL is coming. Draft released in Fall. Will do a whole presentation on trash TMDL. Doesn't account for litter prevention
 - It is modeled on the Anacostia trash TMDL which attempted to quantify an average of how much trash was present in the water, then required that the relevant jurisdictions remove 100% of that amount of trash.
 - One of our issues with this methodology is that it does not account for litter prevention.
 - Cheryl – struck by what you said – doesn't account for litter but DPW can't meet requirements without a comprehensive plan
 - Way Anacostia works – done by weight. Weigh trash and have to capture 100%
 - Jake Ruppert – so if we do really well with trash reduction upstream we fail the trash TMDL? How to link education
 - Mary Washington – not counting all types of trash we produce. Opportunity where we should and could before session? Opportunities to look at
 - Lynn Heller – if logic is so not there – what if anything can be done about that?
 - Draft not out yet, These issues raised during Anacostia development, have to wait and see what draft says
- Over the next 10 years we will need to install approximately 350 BMPs
- The last time we ran this search for Watershed 263, that lead to about 141 sites. We then narrow it down to the priority sites, verify the conditions in the field, determine which sites are actually recommended, and then construct. Of those 141 sites, we ended up with 6 that were constructed.
- Tom Stosur – does money and funding factor in?
 - Point of enacting fee
- Ultimate goal is water quality, but we also look for opportunities to help with traffic, recreation, safety and energy.
- Jake ruppert – is there a way to maximize effort?
 - State law mandates specifically says offsite is allowed.
- Miss Robb – need signage. Realize and then take ownership.
- TIMELINE
 - Public comment period is now open. Closes 9/21
 - MDE will consider all comments received and use them to create a final permit
 - MDE hopes to have its final determination done by Christmas
- Stormwater fee & utility required in place by July 1 2013. On November ballot for utility. Need everyone to vote yes
- The fee business plan is being finalized
- Cheryl – understand how DPW, MDE and waterkeeper take comments under consideration/ room to do more?
 - DPW involved in process but ultimately MDE & EPA decisions
 - DPW can make comments like anyone else
 - DPW feel that this is a challenging permit

- **Priority Goals**

- Ask question “is this an appropriate priority for the Commission for 2013? What does this mean?”
- Propose for 2013 work in Baltimore
 - CAP – Lynn, John, Davis, Earl, Alice
 - Schools – Cheryl, Mary, Ali, Abby, Alice
 - Water – Dana, Fran, Ray, Beth
 - Health – Cindy, Ruth Ann, Peter,
- Break into small groups for discussion between now and next meeting
- Will create a template that can be used and report back
- Mary – come a long way in 4 years – good work and way to move forward

- **Climate Action Plan - Lynn Heller**
 - CAP: October 23rd meeting entirely dedicated to CAP
 - Sustainability Commission will vote on Plan
 - It then moves to Planning Commission

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 6 PM at 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor