2014 Western Maryland Local Government Exchange
Affording a Quality Community: Balancing the Quality of Life versus the Cost of Living
Friday, May 9, 2014

AGENDA

9:00 a.m.  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Jim Wieprecht, Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer, City of Taneytown
on behalf of the steering committee

9:10 a.m.  KEYNOTE: How do we become affordably sustainable under the largely urban definition
used in MD? How will rural areas achieve it and how will it affect the cost of living (housing,
environment, and energy)? What are the employment and regulatory issues?
Facilitator: Dave Umling

9:40 a.m.  SESSION 1: BREAKOUT – TOPIC: STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND ENCOURAGING
INVESTMENT.
An overview of the real estate markets in the western Maryland counties will be provided,
followed by a discussion on state policies that have affected efforts to recover from the
foreclosures and disinvestment that have plagued local communities, and suggested
strategies for local governments to work with the business community to attract real estate
investments.
Presenter: Tamar Osterman, Government Affairs Director, Carroll County and Frederick
County Association of Realtors®
Facilitator: Ted Shankle, Director, Hagerstown Housing Authority – Washington County

10:40 a.m.  BREAK

10:55 a.m.  SESSION 2: ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY MANDATES: REASONABLENESS OF
IMPLEMENTATION.
Counts and municipalities in western Maryland are dealing with the implementation of the
TMDL regulations and how to implement best practices in a cost effective fashion to get the
most impact. This session will provide the county and municipal perspective.
Presenters: Shannon Moore, Director, Sustainability & Environment Resources,
Frederick County
Jim Bender, Assistant City Engineer, City of Hagerstown
Facilitator: Alex Rohrbaugh, Planner, City of Hagerstown

11:40 p.m.  SESSION 3: RECAP OF THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Presenters: Les Knapp, Legal and Policy Counsel, Maryland Association of Counties
Tom Curtin, Associate, Governmental Relations & Research, Maryland Municipal
League
Colby Ferguson, government Relations Director, MD Farm Bureau
Facilitator: Nancy Nunn, Outreach, Education & Advancement Coordinator for the
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
12:30 p.m.  NETWORKING LUNCH

1:30 p.m.  SESSION 4: THE CHANGING FACE OF ENERGY IN WESTERN MARYLAND
Changes are occurring in the mix of energy sources due to new regulation and new technologies. This session will investigate some of the potential economic implications for the five western Maryland counties.

COMMERCIAL WOOD ENERGY A REALITY
Presenter: Jonathan Kays, Extension Special Natural Resources, University of Maryland Extension

CHANGING MARKET DEMAND WITH ELECTRICITY: CHANGES IN HOW POWER IS GENERATED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE REGION
Presenter: John Emerick, Potomac Edison

NEW HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL IN WESTERN MARYLAND
Presenter: Shawn Seaman, Power Plant Site Assessor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

UPDATE ON MARCELLUS SHALE AND THE GOVERNOR’S SAFE DRILLING Initiative
Presenter: Brigid Kenney, Senior Policy Advisor, Maryland Department of Environment
Facilitator: Dave Umling, City Planner, City of Cumberland

2:45 p.m.  RECAP OF DAY’S SESSIONS: NEXT STEPS
Presenters: Alan Imhoff, Alex Rohrbaugh, Dave Umling

3:00 p.m.  ADJOURN