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 recent Maryland legislative initiatives? How will rural communities balance sustainability and the cost of living (housing, environment, and energy)? What are the employment and regulatory issues? What are some strategies to deal with unfunded mandates?
Facilitator: Dave Umling, City Planner, City of Cumberland

9:40 a.m.  Session 1: Breakout – Topic: Strengthening Local Housing Stock.
Economic changes have impacted the quality and quantity of housing stocks in communities. This session will discuss trends in different types of housing stocks and strategies to improve them.
Presenter: Tamar Osterman, Frederick County Realtor Association & Carroll County Realtor Association
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.
Counties 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 and Environment Resources, Frederick County, Jim Bender, Assistant City Engineer, City of Hagerstown
Facilitator: Alex Rohrbaugh, Planner, City of Hagerstown

11:40 a.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 and Research, Maryland Municipal League, Colby Ferguson, Government Relations Director, Maryland Farm Bureau

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:** Dave Kline, Alleghany Power

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:** Nancy Nunn

2:45 p.m.  Recap of Day’s Sessions: Next Steps  
**Presenters:** Alan Imhoff, Alex Rohrbaugh, Dave Umling.

3:00 p.m.  Adjourn