



## MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACILITIES PLANNERS COUNCIL

**September 13, 2024  
MEETING MINUTES**

### Attendees:

| Name                       | College / Agency             |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| John Anzinger              | Frederick Community College  |
| Lisa Aughenbaugh           | Carroll Community College    |
| Dawn Baker (remote)        | Hagerstown Community College |
| Brian Benhaim              | Montgomery College           |
| Andrew Clark               | Allegany Community College   |
| Miriam Collins             | Chesapeake Community College |
| Gregory Grey               | Wor-Wic Community College    |
| Conrad Helms (remote)      | DBM                          |
| Travis Hopkins             | Howard Community College     |
| Aly Kedron                 | Montgomery College           |
| Christina Kilduff (remote) | Allegheny College            |
| Dong-Min Kim               | Montgomery College           |
| David Koenigsburg (remote) | DMB                          |

| Name                 | College / Agency                      |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jason Ludd (remote)  | Cecil Community College               |
| Yuling Mei           | Montgomery College                    |
| Kerry Norberg        | Montgomery College                    |
| Chris Painter        | Garrett Community College             |
| John Pruitt (remote) | Prince George Community College       |
| Dan Schuster         | MHEC                                  |
| Iman Shaker          | DGS                                   |
| Jim Taylor           | Anne Arundel Community College        |
| Lisa Thomas          | Montgomery College                    |
| Lex Thompson         | Anne Arundel Community College        |
| Jill Wathen (remote) | Southern Maryland                     |
| Will Waugh (remote)  | Community College of Baltimore County |
|                      |                                       |

### Welcome

- ❖ Kerry Fitzgerald – Montgomery College Planetarium Presentation

### Officer Reports

- ❖ Chair – Chris Painter
  - Nothing to report

- ❖ Vice Chair - Greg Grey
  - Met with the presidents over the summer and gave them a rundown of what we did for the past year and gave them our notes for the upcoming years. Chris would want to honor doing that next year.
- ❖ Secretary – Dong-Min Kin
  - No report
- ❖ Communications Coordinator – Travis Hopkins
  - We have had an influx of new members
  - Project Portfolio: We're currently compiling the 2022 version. I need to distribute a form with some questions and requests for photos to fill in the gaps. One suggestion is to highlight a state-funded project at each meeting. If a project is complete, we can add it to the portfolio. Montgomery College is hosting the site, which makes updates easier.
  - The Directory is updated every time we add or lose a member. An update will be sent.
- ❖ Best Practice Coordinator – John Anzinger
  - We have two presentations today focused on educational best practices. One of them is time-sensitive due to a presenter's availability.
  - We're currently seeking topics for future meetings, as we don't have any scheduled from October to December. If you have any ideas, please email me so we can get them organized.
  - If there's something new that can be introduced, we may want to wait until later in the year. It could be interesting to revisit how the changes to S6 have impacted everyone's space needs. Dan Schuster stated that he can certainly put together some information on that together.
  - Regarding presentation timing, Dan is not sure October will work for me due to a busy schedule in the coming weeks, but I'll do my best. If anyone else has topics in mind that you'd like me to present, please let John know.
  - Suggest a presentation on CM at risk or CMA, along with an overview of current industry cost models. This will help us stay informed about the trends in construction costs and whether they have stabilized in different sectors. John believes that a presentation on CM at risk, CMA, and current construction cost models could be valuable this year.
  - Purchasing – Jim stated that they have open-ended contracts in Arundel, and I assume many others do as well. It would be useful to create a database of these open-ended contracts. If Montgomery has a vendor we need, we could refer to this list to see if someone else already has a contract in that area. This would help colleges access available open-ended contracts more easily.

## Agency Reports

- ❖ DBM – Conrad Helms
  - The capital budget meeting is scheduled for September 27th, which is two weeks from today. The colleges will begin their presentations around 10:00 AM. If you have a preferred time for a meeting on that day after 10:00 AM, please email either David or me, and we will do our best to accommodate you. This year's meeting will be larger than in previous years, with ten colleges presenting 14 projects. During the briefing, we may determine that some colleges don't need to attend, so we will send out the schedule late next week. Again, if you have a preferred time for September 27th, just let us know. Another update: DLS will be attending the meetings this year, which is different from previous years. If you have questions about this, you can reach out to David Koenigsburg, Dan Schuster, or myself.
  - We have already sent out preliminary questions, and I want to thank everyone who has worked on those or submitted responses. These questions are separate from the

meeting questions, which will be distributed late next week. They will outline the agenda for the budget meeting.

- Like to remind everyone that news articles discussing the budget outlook usually refer to the operating budget. Our programs are capital-focused, funded through GEO bonds, which differ from the operating budget. The brief timeline on that is this fall, the capital Debt Affordability Committee (CDAC) will make a recommendation about the bond level and then the Governor will decide whether to take it or not.
  
- ❖ DGS – Iman Shaker
  - Nothing to report
  
- ❖ MHEC – Dan Schuster
  - First, FY25 has officially started. For those of you with capital funds authorized this year using FY25 money, please send me a letter requesting to encumber those funds so we can initiate the process. We've completed only a couple of projects so far, but we aim to get moving on the ongoing projects as soon as possible. I know some of you don't have approved programs yet for new projects, and we can't process those forms until that happens. If you have an ongoing project, please send me those letters so we can get started. We've discussed the hearing for the 26th cycle. One important point to remember is to copy DPS and when you send your responses to the technical and hearing questions, so we're aware of your submissions.
  - Regarding Facilities Renewal Grants (FRG) for the FY26 budget, all colleges need to send me their master list. I'm still waiting for a few from some of you. Additionally, I've sent out questions and requests for revisions, and I need to receive those job details as soon as possible. I'd like to send that list to DBM before the meeting since they will be asking about it. It's essential for justifying the continuation of the program. Also, for the schools set to receive funding in FY26, please ensure you send your project justification forms. Make sure to include all necessary documentation. This is top priority right now, so if you're on that list, please send me your materials as soon as you can. Looking ahead, we're also reviewing the FY 27 projects for which you submitted programs response, and that process is ongoing. You should expect to hear from us as we go through your responses.
  
- ❖ MACC – Monica Randall
  - Not present
  - The FPC has noted that MACC has been absent for many of our FPC meetings. At the very least, a report should be submitted prior to our meetings. The colleges were caught off guard with the vaping sign mandate last June. Updates should be given to the FPC on all legislative mandates.

### **FPC FY25 Goals**

- There are four goals for FY25, and I encourage everyone to review them. One point we discussed back in June was the need for greater participation from other agencies, which is Goal 4. If anyone has input on that, I'd love to hear it. It seems we often bring up many topics, but what's the solution? Getting more people involved in these discussions is crucial. I like the idea of involving more team members, especially for out-of-state meetings, and spreading participation throughout the year. It would be beneficial for representatives from various areas, since some manage planning, maintenance, and security while others focus solely on planning. Recently, we finally had direct input from operations, so it would be good to include our maintenance team as well, given the overlap in topics. I think it's a solid proposal, and we discussed that if one of us can't attend, someone else should represent the college. If we're moving toward virtual options again, that could help ensure our teams stay connected, as not everyone can be out of the office simultaneously.

- Some of the bills recently discussed highlighted many issues we weren't aware of. Typically, MAC would bring these matters to our attention. We often rely on their insights, especially towards the end of the year when things can get chaotic. As for the legislation regarding signage and related requirements, that law is currently in effect. Specifically, the regulations regarding 'No Vaping' and that need to have signs displayed on our buildings were supposed to be implemented by July 1. While it's unclear who is responsible for enforcing this, we have to interpret the bill's language and put up what we believed was appropriate. The signage must meet certain specifications, and some colleges have already posted at exterior doors, not specifically on the buildings themselves. Ultimately, it's up to each institution to decide how to comply, but it is indeed in effect. The main concern driving the MAC discussion was that many were unaware of these changes. MAC should keep us informed about any legislation affecting our roles, particularly regarding new construction and procurement laws. It's crucial for us to track this legislation as it arises, so we can address any issues that might impact the colleges and ensure they remain on our radar until resolved.
- One issue that's still pending this year is the NSA building. There's no clear direction on what steps we should take. The colleges need to focus on tracking usage and benchmarking, as we believe these requirements will come into effect next year. I'm (Jim Taylor) am not certain of any recent changes, but I think the information was distributed, though not everyone may be aware of it. This serves as a prime example of why we need someone to come in and clarify how this new legislation on climate will all work. I reached out to Monica, and she sent me some information that I did forward to the colleges. If MAC is expected to notify us when legislation is in effect, a simple checklist could suffice—indicating if there's no new legislation in the queue, especially if someone can't attend the meeting. Should we consider putting a request forward from the committee? I think it would be effective if it came from you, Chris, as a memo to MAC. We should clearly outline what we want them to report on. While the legislation issue is significant, MAC's primary role, in Jim's view, is to monitor legislation that impacts the colleges and to communicate that information. Whether agencies are present or participating remotely, having a written report is essential. It helps everyone, especially when multitasking makes it hard to catch everything being said. It would be straightforward for them to provide an agenda of what they plan to cover. It's just a summary, but I think we should emphasize that point. We could request updates from all agencies regularly. We need to clarify what we expect from MAC, specifically regarding current legislation they're aware of. While they may not catch everything, their role is to monitor these issues, so I hope they're on top of it. Any legislation affecting construction, design, or procurement should be communicated to us. They should be able to provide a quick status update, like whether everything is fine or if we need to watch out for anything

### **“New MEA Program for Higher Education Institutions” – Ryan Kmetz – MD Energy Administration Presentation**

The past fiscal year, we rolled out a brand-new higher education clean energy grant pilot program.

#### **➤ Program Eligibility**

Which is open for all public and private higher education institutions in the state. That includes the four-year schools, but also all the community colleges and technical or vocation schools. The one thing that that's probably going to mean more to this group of folks than some of the four years are every campus is eligible to receive a grant. It's only you may only receive one grant. So, while you could do the project at multiple locations in Baltimore County, you could only get one grant. You can do a project at two different location but you can not get \$2,000,000 for two projects.

## ➤ **Program Overview**

This program was on Governor Moore's wish list. It was suppose to roll out earlier this year but with the key bridge incident, this took the back burner, understandable. So instead of the initial program only having 4.1 million, we just rolled it into this fiscal year. So, we essentially have two years of funding under this fiscal year and we have a total of \$9.2 million.

- **Promote Solar Energy Adoption**

We are promoting solar energy on our campuses throughout Maryland, we don't care how it is configured. It would be ground mounted, roof mounted, it could be canopy. We are really just trying to get more solar on Maryland's campuses as part of that too. We want folks thinking about where they are currently.

- **Campus Clean Energy Master Plan**

We are introducing the concept through this grant program of thinking about clean energy master plan. So how can we take your existing facilities or campus or sustainability or climate action plans and also look at where your campus is going in the next 5-10 years and what it's going to look like from an energy perspective.

- **Clean Energy Sector Educational Opportunities**

Finally, which is another very important aspect through Governor Moore's eyes. Clean energy sector training. So how can we create opportunities? For Maryland students to understand that this is what it looks like on campus, but also how can we learn how to do this. How can we get involved from everything from the playing design, engineering to the actual physical up on a roof or however it's configured. Installing the panels connecting the panels.

## ➤ **Eligible Project**

1. Solar Panel Installation \_ **AND** – Campus Clean Energy Mast Plan
2. Solar Panel Installation -**AND**- Camus Clean Energy Master Plan -**AND**-Category 1 Clean Energy Sector Training Programming.

Each project allotment up to \$25,000 for student internship. So, we figured about \$5000 per student will fund up to five students. We don't have any restrictions of what that would look like. We would work with each grantee individually to help craft language that makes sense for them.

### **Solar Panel Installation**

- Anticipated award: \$750,000 to \$1,000.00 per applicant
- Solar Project Types: Roof mounted, Ground mounted, or Canopy mounted
- Solar Project Locations: Areas owned or controlled by a Campus
- System Ownership: Campus owned or Third-Party Ownership
- Leveraged Funds is Federal incentives required, State and Local incentives are optional.

### **Campus Clean Energy Master Plan (CCEMP)**

- Requirement Components –
  - anticipated funding: \$145,000
- Project Focus
  - Synergize with campus sustainability plans
  - Expand clean energy beyond Solar Canopy awards
  - Support state clean energy goals with equitable distribution
- Key Areas
  - Renewable energy deployment
  - Energy efficiency enhancement

- Energy education & job training
- Strategic Alignment
  - Integrate with campus planning and analysis
  - Encourage collaboration with industry for practical training
  - Ensure feasibility through energy and economic analyses

#### **Category 1: Clean Energy Sector Training Program**

- OPTIONAL Component
- Comprehensive Sustainability & Workforce Development
- Key Initiatives
  - Clean Energy Workforce Education
  - Course Creation
  - Curriculum Integration
  -

#### **Student Internship Bonus**

- OPERATION, STRONGLY Encouraged
  - Funding: \$5,000 per intern with maximum of 5 intern
  - Undergraduate and Graduate Students are eligible
- Roles
  - Assist in the Completion of the CCEMP -OR- Category 1
  - Final Report

#### **Funding Exclusions**

- Activities **ineligible** for funding include:
- Commissioning reports
- Energy Audits
- Activities lacking a clear link to Greenhouse Gas emissions reductions
- Academic Research
- Travel to conferences
- Professional Staffing Activities related to the Program already completed.

#### ❖ Lunch Break

#### **New Business**

- ❖ A lot of colleges are collecting data around the Climate Solution Act Now and Energy Star portfolio. Legislation hasn't moved forward. Some colleges have started but are on a holding pattern to see where this is going to go. As we know for certain is that buildings greater than 35,000 sf must be benchmarked. To date, there is no directive on how to measure Green House Gases.
- ❖ Is there any software/app for tracking inventory of furniture? Most people use a spreadsheet but they don't get it updated. Is there anyway to donation furniture to third world country? One college uses Gov deals to sell furniture, if it doesn't get sold, then the furniture goes to the dump, but it does take a long time to get rid of the furniture. One college donates to the public schools and another donates to the Orphan Grain Train. Perhaps a furniture inventory/tagging assets program vendor could present to FPC.
- ❖ There is a public hearing that the Maryland Department of Environment is having on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. This would be a great forum to identify some of the questions that colleges have raised about how you are going to deal with the best standards.

#### ❖ **"Health Campus, Sustainable for NORESO" - Cherise Seals – Dr. Account Executive**

#### ➤ Top Priorities

- Operational and Capital Funding
- Streamlining the Transfer Process

- Incentivizing Enrollment
- Deepening Dual-enrollment Program

➤ Current Issues

- Limited capital funding
- Deferred maintenance is growing significantly
- Increasing operating costs
- Limited staff
- “Green” campuses are becoming necessary to attract students

➤ ME Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS)

- 20% reduction in net direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by January 1, 2030 as compared with 2025 levels for average buildings of similar construction and
- Net-zero direct GHG emissions by January 1, 2024

Applies to covered buildings in Maryland that are 35,000 square feet or larger

➤ Facility Improvements Paid from Energy Savings

- ESCOs design and develop projects to provide infrastructure modernization reduce utility and operational budgets, and achieve sustainability goals

➤ ESPC Customer Benefits

- NORESKO provides turnkey projects including development, design, financing, construction, and ongoing measurement and verification.
- NORESKO also guarantees energy and operational savings will exceed debt service payments + O&M + M&V costs.
  - Enhances mission Readiness
  - Leverages Rebates and Appropriated Funds
  - Streamlined Procurement
  - Single Contract and Best Value Selection
  - Savings Guarantee
  - Upgrades Aging Infrastructure
  - Reduces Maintenance Burden

➤ About NORESKO

NORESKO a part of Carrier Global Corporation, helps clients adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change by decarbonizing, modernizing, and electrifying aging infrastructure to be more sustainable and resilient. By deploying innovative distributed energy, storage, and renewable energy solutions, NORESKO improves the health and efficiency of existing campuses, buildings, and communities.

➤ Decarbonization Opportunities

- Load Control
- Renewable and Energy Efficient
- Distribution Automation Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
- Integrated Smart Poles lighting
- Smart Meters
- EV Charging
- Data Analytics and MDMS
- Physical and Cybersecurity
- Asset Tracking
- Inventory Management
- IoT Devices

➤ Ongoing, Collaborative Process

- Preliminary Assessment & Analysis
- Detailed Analysis & IGA
- Contract Development & Financing
- Construction, Training & Commissioning
- M&B and O&M
- Green Operations

#### ❖ **Upcoming Meetings**

- All meetings will have Zoom/Teams access. Contact meeting host for the remote invite.
  - October 11, 2024 – Allegheny College
  - November 8, 2024 – Frederick Community College
  - December 13, 2024 – Anne Arundel
  - January 10, 2025 – Chesapeake College
  - February 14, 2025 – Howard Community College
  - April 11, 2025 – Hagerstown Community College
  - May 9, 2025 – Harford Community College
  - June 5-6, 2025 – Wor-Wic Community College