MCCC Science and Technical Work Group
DRAFT Work Plan
2018

The STWG plans to hold 2-3 technical workshops that will assist in summarizing key issues that would help understand the greenhouse gas emissions from landscapes, the impact of climate change on agriculture, and potentially updating the sea level rise estimates for the State.

1. **Approaches to quantifying and reducing net GHG emission from landscapes.** Assemble an expert group to identify critical uncertainties in and methods to improve the estimation of greenhouse emissions from forests, agriculture, wetlands and waterways. In2017, an STWG member prepared a presentation on approaches to improve inventory estimates for net greenhouse gas emissions from forests, fields and wetlands that would help identify potential source reductions and increases in carbon sinks. The STWG found the overview useful for framing a more in-depth assessment under STWG auspices, one that would indicate the level of confidence in estimates and the best opportunities for reducing emissions and enhancing sequestration.

2. **Assessment of emissions from and climate change impacts on agriculture.** Assemble an expert group to provide an assessment of emissions from and climate change impacts on Maryland agriculture as called for in the Maryland Commission on Climate Change Act [Maryland Environment Code Ann. §2-1303(d)]. STWG assessment is important not only for improving the emissions inventory and evaluating the scientifically realistic potential of carbon sequestration through the Healthy Soils initiative, but also for addressing the requirement for "assessing the impacts that climate change may have on agriculture in the state." Initial STWG assessment indicated that there has been a downward trend in emissions from Maryland agriculture from 2003 to 2013 based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

3. **Estimating sea level rise over the next century.** Assemble an expert group to provide an estimate of sea level rise as called for in the Maryland Commission on Climate Change Act [Maryland Environment Code Ann. §2-1303(d)]. These estimates were last completed in 2018. At that time, they estimated for 2050 and 2100. Those seem like reasonable dates for next estimate.

The STWG plans to hold these three workshops in 2018, completing at least 2 of the report prior to year's end.