

**Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Adaptation & Response Working Group**

Date/ Time: Friday, November 4, 2016; 10–12 AM
Location: Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue, C-1, Annapolis, MD

Draft Meeting Notes

- I. **Developing Broader Partnerships Forum:** For 2016, the ARWG identified four enhancement opportunities to explore during their quarterly forums. The forums are designed to allow the ARWG partners to share capabilities, identify collaboration opportunities around a common purpose and identify gaps that may limit increased adaptation and resilience work.

The 4th quarter focus area for the ARWG was to discuss broadening public/private and federal/state/local partnerships. The ARWG heard about The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) work engaging small businesses on climate change; the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's work on local capacity and regional coordination; and Antioch University's efforts to expand facilitated communities of practice.

- A. **Engaging Small Businesses in Maryland on Climate Change**
Katy Maher, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)

The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) shared their work and report findings about results from a local and small business network survey in Maryland on climate change resilience. The workgroup heard about the types of events that businesses recall impacting them (e.g. snow storms, flooding, heat); the various sectors that responded that included the service industry, agriculture, construction and others; the challenges and risks small businesses face; and the resources and sources of information that are needed.

The work group discussed that heat was identified as a significant impact identified by the small businesses and that 45% of people surveyed said that they knew who to go to for resources after an event. There was discussion about appropriate means to reach the business community as most cannot leave their places of work for workshops and that they identified e-mail as the preferred forum to learn of climate resilience information. There was some discussion about utilizing chambers of commerce, business networks, banks, etc. and reaching the businesses through existing business practices such as permitting, tourism, flood management, and economic development. Future discussion may discuss these and other existing networks (e.g. MEMA has a BISA for post-event communication) and approaches further and discuss the need for targeted materials and tailored messages.

- B. **Local Capacity, Regional Coordination**
Brian Ambrette, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

With funding from the Town Creek Foundation, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) and Antioch University's Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience piloted a regional capacity building project for climate resilience on the Eastern Shore. The work group heard about efforts in the mid- and upper-shore counties up the C&D canal to launch the Eastern Shore Coastal Resilience Facilitated Community of Practice that includes participants from five county governments (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot), three municipalities (Cambridge, Chestertown, and Oxford), four state agencies (DNR, MDE, MEMA, and the Critical Area Commission), four academic institutions (UMD Sea Grant Extension, UMCES, Washington College, and Chesapeake College), and one nonprofit organization (ESLC).

The group has worked to conduct workshops to build maps of how climate will impact Kent County in different ways such as high heat and drought, flooding, winter storms and some information about health. The ARWG discussed how some of the local challenges such as roadway maintenance vary at the local level as county roads are constructed of tar and chip as opposed to blacktop and in high heat, these roadways don't hold up as well, causing future maintenance issues as these conditions become more frequent.

The group is working toward sustainment of regional climate discussions to assist in risk reduction, information sharing. The ARWG discussed opportunities to extend some of this work with local partners by connections with MML, MACo and connections of collaborations (e.g. Community Rating System information sharing).

C. Expanding Facilitated Communities of Practice

Abigail Abrash Walton, Antioch University (call in)

The Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience has conducted a range of climate preparedness capacity-building programs, including the April 2016 Local Solutions: Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference, convened in partnership with U.S. EPA in Baltimore, MD. The work group heard about how the ESLC efforts were connected to Antioch's work on communities of practice. The group heard more detail about the Center's just-released "*Local Solutions Report: Identifying and meeting the needs of local communities adapting to a changing climate*" and some possible opportunities that may exist to replicate this FCoP model at the local scale. A copy of the report was made available to the group.

II. Adaptation Opportunities, the ARWG annual report, cross work group coordination

The Georgetown Climate Center presented at the 3rd quarterly forum about its work for the Town Creek Foundation and the ARWG received a copy of their draft report on October 11th. At this meeting, the ARWG discussed some of the recommendation options from this report as they relate to their 2015-2016 annual report recommendations about partnerships, adaptation scope and supporting local partners. In addition, the ARWG discussed the need to deliver a 2017 work plan to the MCCC by April 2017. Some of the major "Up Next" components that ARWG members provided in the annual report, paired with options presented in the Georgetown report may form the basis for this work plan. The ARWG is well-positioned to start this work plan well before the April 2017 deadline and will focus on 1-2 implementable options. The ARWG will continue to seek feedback.

A motion was sought, received and seconded to move the ARWG 2015-2016 annual report on to the MCCC for inclusion in the MCCC annual report to Governor Hogan and the General Assembly. This action and report will be discussed at the 11/9 Commission meeting. The Commission previously supported the work group recommendations at their October meeting.

An issue that will take on greater focus in 2017 will also include how to work across work groups to advance issues (e.g. healthy soils and mitigation), sharing adaptation options with others (e.g. through communications materials with ECO), and discussing climate projections with the STWG.

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