

## ARWG WorkPlan Updates

### **Decision Support Tool - Brandy Espinola, UMD/EFC**

The decision support tool group has met once since January. During this initial kick-off meeting group members discussed what a resilience decision support toolkit should look like, what would make this resource useful to local governments and communities, and who would have the capacity to host and maintain a toolkit. The group decided that it would coordinate closely with the local capacity assessment group which was already assessing local needs and existing tools and resources. The decision support tool group agreed to conduct desktop research for examples from other states that have already developed a resilience toolkit. The decision support tool group is currently in the data collection phase of case studies and examples of toolkit approaches. Once the local capacity assessment group has completed their analysis and recommendations of community gaps and needs, the decision support tool group will assess which toolkit strategies and approaches might best fill these resource needs and which approaches are most closely aligned with Maryland's goals and capacity. If you are interested in getting more involved in the development of a climate resilient toolkit or have information you feel is relevant, please email Brandy Espinola, [bespinol@umd.edu](mailto:bespinol@umd.edu).

### **Local Level Capacity Building - Allison Brietenother, MDOT**

The local capacity assessment group has been meeting monthly since January, we have established a timeline, and outline for the assessment. The group recently completed the data collection phase of the effort at the end of April. We will now move into reviewing the data, and beginning to map out what we know about the state of efforts and programs underway to support local capacity. By mid-summer, the group hopes to be done initial phases of the assessment and begin moving into the analysis portion, which will look at where the state is, where it should go, and how to get there. Late summer / early fall will include the drafting of recommendations, and continued revision of the assessment. We anticipate having a draft to share with the ARWG membership at the next meeting. We continue to check in with our colleagues working on the decision support toolbox development, and the local government Next Gen effort. If you are interested in getting more involved in this assessment effort or have information you feel is relevant, please email Allison Breitenother, [abreitenother@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:abreitenother@mdot.state.md.us).

### **Saltwater Intrusion - Jason Dubow, MDP**

Since the 2/22 ARWG meeting, the state agency saltwater intrusion team established two subteams, one to focus on the mandated 2024 update of *Maryland's Plan to Adapt to Saltwater Intrusion and Salinization*, and another subteam to focus on developing an outline for a Maryland wetland adaptation strategy, considering the: DNR mapping products resulting from the EESLR grant, the team's 2022 policy and program analysis completed in response to the MCCC's 2021 annual report request, and the many other ongoing efforts related to this issue. The two subteams met at separate meetings on 4/25. The wetland adaptation strategy subteam received a presentation on the EESLR grant results and DNR mapping products from Elliott Campbell (DNR) and began to discuss the need for a quantitative goal against which we can gauge our success in accommodating wetland migration over time. Additionally, the groundwater committee of the MWMC met on 5/10 and agreed to assist in updating the aquifers section of the *Plan to Adapt to Saltwater Intrusion and Salinization*.