

Regional Adaptation Meetings Breakout Discussion
12.11.17 AWRG Meeting

Objective: The objective for this discussion is to gather initial ARWG feedback to develop a framework and/or content for planning the regional adaptation meetings. The ARWG is proposing the use of regional adaptation meetings to:

1. understand and share priorities and assistance opportunities
2. support local partners in their own adaptation efforts
3. ensure data consistency across boundaries
4. identify future opportunities to incentivize local action

Audience: The audience may primarily be local government staff and elected officials. The secondary audience is likely businesses, nonprofits, and the public.

Notes from group led by Kim & Debbie are in **blue**.

Notes from group led by Sasha & Brian are in **red**.

Notes from group led by Catherine & Jason are in **green**.

Objective 1: understand and share priorities and assistance opportunities

What are the key items or issues that should be addressed at these regional meetings that (1) you feel would both benefit your (ARWG member's) work and communication with local partners and (2) also benefit the local partners' communities? What are the outcomes that ARWG should seek to achieve at these meetings?

Are these topics regionally-specific?

In advance of the meetings, how do we become informed of what the local priorities are?

How do we facilitate a discussion about the local priorities at the meetings?

What do we do with that information?

- Provide information on what data is available and where
- Provide an overview of what has already been done by the State
- List of available resources
- MML could reach out to local jurisdictions via a survey – questions could be provided by the ARWG
- Potential series of two meetings – priorities identified at first meeting, 2nd meeting more specific information on how we can help, resources, etc.
- Provide a survey/questionnaire at MML or MACo meeting – with issue based questions
- Identify stressors
- Identify who the most vulnerable groups are – engage the vulnerable – determine what groups are engaged
- Identify the “biggest” risk
- Identify community issues of concern

- What info/data are local govts (LG) using? What are they lacking? Could use Maryland Resiliency Partnership (MRP) as a portal to data sources.
- There is value in sharing effective climate adaptation practices across counties. Ask LGs how best to do this.
- Need to let LGs know what tools and data are available before asking them what needs they have. Are these regional meetings one-off visits or the start of a series of engagements?
- Might pre-survey LGs before meetings so we know what to expect, what to bring to meetings.
- Would need to survey at least 6 months in advance to have time to process responses and prepare materials based on what LGs say they need
- Maryland Department of Health regional meetings (two) this year to communities versus local governments. Focused on teaching residents how to communicate in a particular framework to their local elected officials.
- DNR funding opportunities and tools: what is the capacity of local governments to use these tools? How are they addressing these issues?
- MDE floodplain management approach: model floodplain ordinances. Higher standards (e.g., flood protection setbacks, higher freeboard) as well. Struggle with some locals to include higher standards.
- Could ask locals about their preferred approaches to get policies adopted versus to get policies implemented.
- 2050 sea-level projections.
- Cost of inaction.
- Data/analysis/tools – what’s needed to inform/develop and then support your policy.
- MEMA – need to update 5-year hazard plans.
- Keep the continuity going for the Resiliency Partnership.
- MHT – learn from MDE what they’ve learned from communities. MHT’s experience is that everyone is in a different space. Determine what they are ready to hear and how do we take them there. Determine what they can do in the short-term versus longer-term planning efforts. Identify specific projects and specific ordinances. Use the regional meetings to identify barriers at the local level and to hear from them.
- MCCC ECO Workgroup – list of local meetings and what they’ve heard so far – this is a living document.
- Avoid using certain terms in certain areas.
- How identify local priorities and proper geographies? 3-5 meetings expected.
- Success stories and co-benefits should be identified and shared.
- How define local communities? Right now at least counties and municipalities.
- Vulnerable MTA stations. Now trying to do next steps to address the vulnerabilities.
- What can the state tell the local governments regarding what’s vulnerable and what isn’t?
- Ask what they’re most concerned about regarding hazards and then tell them what the state knows.

Should the meetings be geography-based or issue-based? If geography, what geographies or regional divisions do you work in now? If issue-based, what issues make sense?

- Group suggested MEMA regions
- Might be beneficial to organize regional meetings by “level of advancement” (climate literacy?) rather than geography (i.e. for beginners, intermediate, etc.). [BA: seemed like geographical organization of meetings made more sense to group than this suggestion]
- Group inland counties in one meeting so they don’t have to sit through sea level rise discussions that are irrelevant to them.

- Break Eastern Shore into 2 meetings: mid/upper Shore (ESCAP) counties at one meeting (ESLC happy to host), Lower Shore in second meeting
- Could use MEMA regions.
- Who's the end user at the local level for this?
- Community Rating System effort joins multiple local departments together to help reduce flood insurance rates. These practices can help communities be okay by 2050 despite worsening hazards.
- Talk with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (e.g., Baltimore Metropolitan Council).
- Handle Baltimore City separately.
- Could make these issue-driven. Could resonate more. For example, water supply, or sand mounds of septic systems.
- How do people know certain resources or infrastructure will be in danger?

What plans or processes are most impactful? (e.g. Hazard Mitigation Plan updates, Comp Plan updates, funding cycles ordinance updates, data/map updates)

What is your agency's planning horizon?

Should the local planning horizons be different per issue/impact?

- Give LGs a matrix to fill out that lets them identify where they address specific climate hazards (comp plans, hazard mitigation plans, ordinances, etc.)
- Need to understand LGs other state-mandated reporting and planning requirements that are a draw on their capacity and resources.
- What technical assistance can we (ARWG, agencies, NGOs) provide to LGs that works within their already required reporting and planning processes?
- Could CoastSmart grant program shift to RFPs for very specific pilot projects? (i.e. DNR (ARWG?) designs the project (for example a Climate Resilience Comp Plan element) and LG's apply to do that specific scope of work.)
- Timelines matter (e.g., elected officials' terms versus floodplain planners). 10-year MTA plan. 10-year comprehensive plan cycle. MHT uses mortgage cycles in their discussions.
- Have people submit questions in advance.
- Consider the write-ups from the A Better Maryland (new State Development Plan effort) listening sessions.

Objective 2: support local partners in their own adaptation efforts

What elements or presentations should be consistent across the meetings?

How should available resources be presented to communities (e.g. presentations, small group discussions, website, matrix table, other)

Are there existing exemplary examples of local adaptation?

- MEMA and MDE presentations – data, floodplain management, community rating system
- MDH – Health impact projections
- Consider an “unconference” format – no initial agenda – agenda is created by the attendees at the beginning of the meeting
- It is likely that LGs don't know that ARWG exists, let alone what tools and assistance it might provide

- Ask state agencies to look internally at what pots of money can be tweaked/turned to adaptation
- MDP has a webtool that helps LGs locate funding sources (and tools/guides?)
- Use MRP to package needs and tools in such a way that tools can have multiple benefits and/or serve multiple requirements
- Equity/vulnerable populations (Center for Health Equity) – how include this? Cover all regions.
- Existing adaptation efforts/tools (MHT guidance, MD Floodplains, DNR Coastal Atlas) – put all on one website, develop presentation.

Objective 3: ensure data and information consistency across boundaries

What state-level data and information (e.g. state-level projections, map data) do we want to promote and facilitate the use of (e.g. via trainings) by local communities? (Note: a portion of the regional meetings could be how to use certain data in order to address an impact)

Are there any geographically-relevant forecasts? Who has that information?

What is feasible to achieve between now and the regional meetings? Can we put a framework in place achieve this objective in a step-wise fashion.

- Next step – training on how to use the data
- Concern noted about ensuring long term consistencies of data
- Climate resiliency website has list of funding
- Keep tabs on MARISA Climate Data Portal effort (<https://www.marisa.psu.edu/>)
- Keep tabs on CBP Climate Data Portal effort
- Data shared by state (via these regional meetings and/or other venues) should be consistent with data required by state-mandated checklists or forms (e.g. new CoastSmart Council checklist for BPW)
- Could make a web portal with climate data that can be used for 1) public use, 2) decision makers/making, 3) local and state review of permits and plans. (EPA is working on a platform like this for waterway and wetland permitting – one stop shop for accessing data and submitting permit forms.) Possible to build into iMap?
- Need to communicate which data sources are appropriate based on use, resolution, time horizon, etc.
- Need to identify trusted data for decision making frameworks
- Could an organization or institution (like ESRGC at Salisbury) host the data/portal?
- All the data/toolkits in the world won't solve the LG capacity gaps
- maybe frame regional meetings around specific planning horizons, e.g. 2050
- nobody is thinking beyond 5-10 years (HMP cycle or comp plan cycle)
- Data and information – keep in mind that some people are technology-averse.
- Need to tell folks what resources will be gone or threatened and need to tell them what they don't know (i.e., available resources to help).

Objective 4: identify future opportunities to incentivize local action

What are the greatest barriers to local action to address climate impacts such as heat, flooding, precipitation?

What resources already exist to help overcome barriers?

What are the other local-state drivers that are effective in advancing adaptation?

- Politics and Dollars
- What are credit rating agencies using as criteria for scoring local adaptation response when evaluating LG bond ratings?
- Opportunities here for educational outreach by MACo/MML?
- Any case studies from other communities responding to credit ratings?
- What is Md. Insurance Administration thinking about climate adaptation?
- People are overwhelmed and overworked. If it's something they're not required to do then it's tough to get done.
- Identify a mechanism to follow-up with folks afterwards in case they have challenges or questions.
- Graduate students are another resource.
- Identify how the tax base is impacted.
- Elected officials can be champions on this.
- Show direct vulnerability/problem areas. Sea-level rise maps.
- Incentives – they can take it or leave it.
- Barriers/obstacles – do people believe the science.
- Show impacts that are happening now (e.g., health).
- Focus on lower-cost, higher-impact projects, along with co-benefits (e.g., rain gardens). To build trust you need to get some movement on projects.
- Small changes empower people because they understand they can make a difference.
- Re-examine our state incentive programs. We might raise concerns/panic, but if we don't have enough money to then help (aside from the AHMP process) then that would be bad.
- Show how existing local programs (of all types) can be adjusted to help with adaptation.
- Some state regulations/guidelines are outdated (e.g., bioretention for 100-year floodplains). We should highlight discrepancies.
- How measure to keep track of health co-benefits.

Meeting Logistics:

Should there be a Steering Committee to guide regional adaptation meeting planning? If so, what role would you recommend we reach out to the other work groups (ECO, MWG, STWG) for?

Can your agency/organization offer staff to help with these meetings?

- Elizabeth Habic (MDOT SHA), Jill Lemke (MDOT MPA), Cliff Mitchell + Allison Gost (MDH)
- Nell Ziehl

Are there other meetings/events planned that the regional meetings can be added onto or associated with in September-Nov 2018?

- MML Fall Conference - October in Annapolis
- Silver Jacket meetings/workshops – need to check schedule
- Local government presentations at each ARWG meeting in 2018 could be helpful.

Are there issues we would want to discuss or hear about at our ARWG 2018 meetings to plan for regional meetings?

- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Climate Data and Mapping Repository: The CRWG's proposed project to create a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Climate Data and Mapping Repository was selected for funding. Project proposals are due to the Chesapeake Bay Trust by January 19, 2018.
- Definition of a “resilient community”: NOAA Fisheries’ new Community Resilience Website defines resilience, from a fisheries perspective, as *“The ability of a fishing community to withstand, recover from, and successfully adapt to change. In this context, change may occur over a broad spectrum of environmental, social, and economic conditions, caused by sudden disasters, regulation, or more gradual events such as climate change.”*
- “Don’t Even Think About It” climate change book.
- If adaptation isn’t discussed in the new Calvert County comprehensive plan, will they move forward with adaptation actions or not?

Planning Committee: Catherine McCall, Kim Hernandez, Sasha Land (DNR); Jason Dubow, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Nell Ziehl (MDP); Brian Ambrette (ESLC); Elizabeth Habic (MDOT SHA); Jill Lemke (MDOT MPA); Cliff Mitchell, Allison Gost (MDH), David Costello (IEER)

Identified Research Gaps:

- Model Comp Plan language
- Model Hazard Mitigation Plan language

