

## Adaptation & Resiliency Working Group Meeting

HYBRID MEETING

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 · 2:00 – 4:00pm

Meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/jvx-rojv-ovv>

Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Room C-1

Or dial: (US) +1 224-458-3208 PIN: 870  
026 795#

*Chair:* Secretary of Natural Resources, Josh Kurtz

*Coordinator:* Ryland Taylor, [ryland.taylor@maryland.gov](mailto:ryland.taylor@maryland.gov)

### Agenda

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

2:00 - 2:05p

*Secretary, Josh Kurtz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Meeting Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approve Minutes from Feb 26, 2025 meeting.*

State Delegate	Del. Dana Stein ✗
The Conservation Fund	Erik Meyers ✗
The Nature Conservancy	Bob Allen ✓
UMD Sea Grant Extension	Fredrika Moser ✓
UMD Environmental Finance Center	Brandy Espinola ✗
MDE	Matthew Rowe ✓ (Jim G)
DNR	Anne Hairston-Strang ✓
MDEM	Sara Bender ✓ (Summer M)
DNR	Tom Parham ✓
MDH	Clifford Mitchell ✗
MDP	Debbie Herr Cornwell ✗
MDA	Nadya Chehab ✓ (Alisha M)
MDOT	Allison Gost ✓
DNR	Catherine McCall ✓
MEA	Brandon Bowser ✗
Commerce	John Papavasiliou ✗
MIA	Bill Fawcett ✗

- Motion to approve minutes
- Motion from Anne, seconded by Allison, passes

Action: Members approve meeting minutes via vote

Materials: [DRAFT Meeting Notes ARWG 2.26.25](#)

## II. Next Gen Progress Reports

2:05 - 2:55p

Agency representatives will report on Next Generation Adaptation Plan progress highlighting challenges, successes, and opportunities. This will be followed by a group discussion to strategize how we will continue moving forward from here.

### MDE (Jim George)

- Stormwater Management Regulations, will account for future climate change and rainfall conditions
  - Statute established grants for areas with flood studies, many need to be updated
- Updating the Standards and Specifications Manual
- Pull remaining notes from the presentation

### MDEM (Summer Modelfino)

- Helpful:
  - Creating the template and discussing at ARWG
- Challenges:
  - Assessing progress on multi-agency tasks, need to be mindful on how to set up consistent collaboration on these tasks, especially for supporting agencies
  - Continuous tasks with no discrete end point. Ex: local hazard mitigation plans and improving nature-based strategies
- Successes:
  - Resilient MD Toolkit. Needs to be improved and maintained. [resilientmaryland.com](https://resilientmaryland.com)
  - Interagency Funding Task Force, agency resilience liaisons

### MDOT (Allison Gost)

- Progress/Success
  - Wetland Adaptation Strategy
  - Decision Support Toolbox
  - Hazard Mitigation Plan for critical infrastructure
  - Funding for projects at significant ports
- Paused
  - Inventory critical infrastructure and assets
  - Mapping at the state and local level is not feasible because of different definitions
- Challenges
  - Understanding cascading impacts from hazards on critical assets
  - Need integration to view the work as a whole

### MDA (Alisha Mulkey)

- Recommitment and focusing new staff
- Crosswalk with economic resiliency and profitability for farms
- Successes
  - Governors Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA). Opportunities for better agency collaboration (permits, zoning, etc.). Diversifying small businesses, easier and more efficient.
  - Conservation programs. The Healthy Soils program has high interest from farmers.
  - Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act. LEEF program. Regenerative practices and traditions on state lands.

### MEA (Jenn Aiosa)

- MEA hasn't been assigned as the lead on strategies

- Resilient Maryland grant program for local gov, partners, non profits for distributed energy resources for power outages
- Large scale solar on MDOT properties
- Local government solar development

#### MDP (Debbie Herr Cornwell)

- Successes
  - 8 planning principles for comp plans approved during this session.
  - Community resilience planner on staff
  - Best planning practices in development
  - Will help move the other strategies forward with more capacity
  - Forestry guidance doc (collab w/ DNR) that can be replicated for other sectors like agriculture. Gives info to local jurisdictions and how to implement into zoning ordinances.
- Challenges
  - The way the tasks are written makes it difficult for non-regulatory agencies
  - Ex: saltwater intrusion

#### MDH (Cliff Mitchell)

- Successes
  - Still committed to state partners and are thinking about how they can be involved and support however they can
  - Reaching out to other states to see what will become of state environmental health programs
- Challenges
  - Working with actions at the federal level that have impacted the state
  - CDC funding agency is gone, no longer have a federal partner

#### Common Themes

- Confusion on how supporting agencies need to be checked in with the lead agency
- Raising priorities back to the top and allowing staff to recommit

#### Discussion

- J. Mizrahi - How is the state assessing the current situation?
  - S. Kurtz - Moving target and sliding scale. DNR is tracking federal funding availability. Question of data retention because we rely on those databases. Question of the models and code we use for data analysis. NOAA, USGS, EPA. Ex: NOAA administers boater safety buoys. Get everything we may lose out of the board, then see what us and all of our partners could co-create.
  - J. Mizrahi - How can NGOs help? Is there a team assessing how they can pick up the work?
    - S. Kurtz - NGOs and academia are already starting to figure that out. They know the community-specific impacts. Challenge is still in a budget that hasn't technically been cut, so preparing for the next fiscal year.
    - A. H. S. - Forestry working on 5 mill trees summit. Reductions in urban and community forestry side. Losing contracts with NGOs and universities. Using capacity building funds to set us up for when funding terminates.
    - S. Kurtz - We are losing an immense amount of institutional knowledge at the federal level. Relying on the expertise we have within the state.

Action: ARWG members come prepared to discuss

Materials: Slides to be presented

- The ARWG can think about legislation we can propose to the MCCC
- Discuss in August, due in September
- Examples
  - Building workforce
  - State training programs, hiring formal federal employees

Next Meeting: August 27, 2025 2-4pm

#### **IV. Field Trip**

**3:00 - 4:00p**

Members are invited to attend the second half of the meeting at the Annapolis Maritime museum where we will tour their living shoreline, talk about the public-private partnership that made it happen, and learn about the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County's plans after being awarded under Whole Watershed.

Action: Members drive to the Annapolis Maritime Museum for a site visit and discussion

Materials: None

Annapolis Maritime Museum - Park Campus

7300 Edgewood Rd

Annapolis, MD 21403

Field trip canceled due to inclement weather, to be rescheduled