

## Adaptation & Resiliency Working Group Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 · 2:00 – 4:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/obz-cofe-dpv>

Or dial: (US) +1 650-746-8180 PIN: 677 296 152#

*Chair:* Acting Secretary of Natural Resources, Josh Kurtz

*Coordinator:* Sarah Lane, [sarah.lane@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.lane@maryland.gov)

### ACTION ITEMS AND MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Action: May 2022, November 2022 and February 2023 meeting minutes will be approved at the May 2023 meeting.

Action: Each upcoming ARWG will include 15 minutes for discussions on policy development for increasing resilience and adaptation across MD.

Highlight: Sec Kurtz Announced 15 minute policy discussion to be added to each forthcoming ARWG agenda.

Next Meeting: May 31, 2023 2-4pm

### Agenda

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

**2:00 - 2:15p**

Meeting Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approve Minutes from May 11, 2022 and November 30, 2022 meetings and set expectations - *Acting Secretary, Josh Kurtz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*

1. Action: Members approve meeting minutes via vote
2. Materials: [November 30, 2022 draft meeting minutes](#); [May 11, 2022 draft meeting minutes](#)

State Delegate	Del. Dana Stein	no
Chair	Sec. Kurtz	yes
The Conservation Fund	Erik Meyers	no
UMD Sea Grant Extension	Fredrika Moser	no
UMD Environmental Finance Center	Brandy Espinola	yes
MDE	Matthew Rowe	yes
DNR	Anne Hairston-Strang	yes

MDEM	Sara Bender (Vanessa Calaban)	no
DNR	Tom Parham	yes
MDH	Clifford Mitchell	no
MDP	Jason Dubow	yes
MDA	Alisha Mulkey	yes
MDOT	Sandy Hertz	yes
DNR	Catherine McCall	yes
MEA	Ryan Opsal	no
Commerce	John Papavasiliou	no
MIA	Alex Borkowski	yes

At time of roll call we did not have a quorum to approve meeting minutes: During the November 30th meeting, members could not access the May meeting minutes due to new constraints on file sharing. **ACTION:** May 2022, November 2022 and February 2023 meeting minutes will be approved at the May 2023 meeting.

**HIGHLIGHT:** Sec Kurtz Announced 15 minute policy discussion to be added to each forthcoming ARWG agenda.

**II. ARWG 2023 Work Plan Updates**

**2:15 - 2:40p**

*Christine Conn, Unit Director, Chesapeake and Coastal Service, DNR* will direct members to the [ARWG workplan](#) and call on members leading specific items to update the working group on progress to date:

A. Next Generation Adaptation Plan

1. Focus and Sector Groups - *Amanda Small and Catherine McCall, DNR*  
Sector and focus groups have begun meeting where they are going through the draft Framework to identify strategies that are resource-ready or need investment, then prioritizing three strategies within each of those two categories.
2. ARWG Tasks - *Sarah Lane, DNR*  
NextGen Plan calls on ARWG to elevate legislative priorities to the General Assembly and the governor for consideration. This is an opportunity to develop policy recommendations.

ARWG to set-up an online platform to report progress on the NextGeneration Adaptation Plan, as well as develop a process for reporting progress (timeline).

B. Decision Support Tool - *Brandy Espinola, UMD/EFC*

Had first meeting and started to do a literature review with the local level capacity building group. Meeting later on this spring, then monthly after. Priority is to align the strategies to funding that is available.

Group is open for more participants or input. Contact Brandy

C. Local Level Capacity Building - *Allison Brietenother, MDOT*

Group had first meeting. Working on literature review on entities already working in this space; best practices for local capacity development, outputs of that effort and what can learn from it; are there already surveys available to inform tool box and strategy; working on the definitions of the DEIJ and communities to determine how to use them in the assessment. Assessment complete in August; Assessment will inform the Decision Support Tool

Next meeting is March 9th - all are welcome to attend, contact Allison.

Sandy: Discuss with DoIT an approach to access and navigate different sources of funding.

D. Saltwater Intrusion - *Jason Dubow, MDP*

Update: State agency team met at the end of January to determine 2023 priorities. Coordination among state agencies on current requirements that would impede or enhance wetland migration. Another priority is to build off work in 2022 to develop an outline for what a statewide adaptation plan would look like. Updated plan due in 2024.

**III. Targeted Resilience Area**

**2:40 - 3:15p**

The Targeted Resilience Area initiative will serve as a pilot project to build capacity to compete for natural infrastructure resilience funds. Launched last year, the initiative has identified two communities for the creation of Comprehensive Water Quality and Climate Resilience Project Portfolios that function at a landscape-scale, are developed in partnership with local governments and vulnerable, underserved communities, and create a pipeline of nature-based resilience projects ready for funding through traditional funding and new federal opportunities. Over the course of the next year, this initiative will create models for

- Promoting state agency collaboration across funding and technical service programs
- Building local capacity (governments and community based organizations) to compete for funding
- Creating ready to fund project portfolios
- Addressing the needs of vulnerable, underserved communities
- Exploring the use of jurisdiction asset management systems that include trees and green stormwater infrastructure.

*Dylan Taillie and Ari Engelberg, DNR presented on progress to date and allow for Q&A.*

Action: informative presentation

Materials: slides

Working off a presentation that Christine provided last summer, the Targeted Resilience Area work continues. Ari provided an update on the Antietam/Hagerstown (Hamilton Run) site and Dylan presented on the Pocomoke City.

Meetings with local and municipal officials and employees to tee-up potential projects.

Hagerstown: Options for projects include forest conservation from development, culvert retrofits, stream restoration.

Pocomoke: Options for projects include living shoreline, tree planting, flood control

Next steps for both TRAs:

Finalize Quality Assurance Project Plan

Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement - community values are matched with the elected official vision

H&H modeling

Project selection process - ranking for co-benefits

Final portfolio of potential projects based on ranking - one project fully funded/shovel ready

Continued engagement and support with partners in both TRAs - maintain relationships to build a more resilient community

Pocomoke: parallel effort to develop coastal resilience easements

Q: Sandy: How is soil health accounted for in the site selection? What other parameters were considered when selecting the pilot sites (urban heat island)? When we look to find more projects within other watersheds, what are we considering beyond flooding?

Ari: The next step to rank/score potential projects will evaluate how much the projects would decompact soils, reduce urban heat island impacts.

Christine: Upfront work to identify these two areas did deliberately confine to flooding issues to pilot and test as we go. Adaptive Management is a principle so we will pull in other climate stressor and their adaptation solutions.

Q: Sandy: Hard infrastructure looks at hazards, can the natural infrastructure conduct the same type of evaluation?

Anne: There may be models available to help prioritize small scale watersheds. Walkable Watersheds in VA is an example. Could be part of the model MES is building.

Brandy Alexis Espinola 2:59 PM

The EFC will be working with the Port Towns on developing a walkable watershed in the coming years. Happy to discuss. Funded by NFWF.

Christine: the MES subaward is considering impacts to the community.

Christine Conn -DNR-3:01 PM

there is a walkable watershed project in Howard County - Freetown Farm area

<https://www.howardwsa.org/freetown-farm-project/>

Q: Matt Rowe: MDE recently worked with planning to update Water Resource Element (WRE) guidance - how climate impacts water resources at local level. Is there an opportunity to use the guidance in project selection to work together holistically.

Dylan: Cypress Park could be a good site to consider the WRE.

### Opportunities for ARWG

Any ongoing projects/opportunities in TRA geographies?

Any IJA/IRA funding opportunities for leveraging?

Any potential policy implications?

Q: Jason Dubow: Will TRA geographies change annually?

Dylan: No, that is not the plan.

Christine: We want to repeat the process once we finish this portfolio and reflect with ARWG to determine how we apply this to other communities. Could dive into relationships developed within our community engagement efforts (CBO-CBI, for example) to help communities that want and need assistance.

Q: Kate Charbonneau: How do we pair this effort with planning efforts? What are these communities doing on the planning side? An opportunity would be to encourage more planning in conjunction with identifying project siting and design.

Christine: Regional planners in each pilot area have been involved in the outreach. Goal is to keep that relationship going. Looking to hold a community engagement meeting and can highlight other opportunities for participation.

Anne Hairston-Strang -DNR- : Watershed Restoration Action Strategies may have lessons to learn from

Q: Jason Dubow: Timeline for project?

Dylan: July/June timeframe for ranking co-benefits

Christine: main deliverable have pipeline of projects that is shovel ready with cost and benefit outlined, implementation focused. This positions us to take advantage of the federal dollars b/c we are nimble.

Q: Jim George -MDE-3:11 PM

Ari - It sounds like the Antietam project involves flood modeling. As you might be aware, MDE is investigating watershed scale flood management studies (Dave Guignet is coordinating this). It sounds like an opportunity for collaboration.

we had a great meeting with the A-Storm team - Jennifer Smith and Dave G - and got some good tips on watershed modeling

Sandy Hertz -MDOT-3:13 PM

Will you be using Ecosystem Valuation for the BCA?

yes

Matt Rowe: Zoning overlays and H&H modeling together

Q: Sandy Hertz: One partner to garner community support is to have the portfolio of projects available to other entities (i.e. developers) working on gray infrastructure, they can also work on the green/blue infrastructure projects at the same time. If the equipment is already on site, use it wisely.

Anne Hairston-Strang -DNR-3:17 PM

Baltimore Urban Waters developed a green pattern book to stimulate community ideas.

#### **IV. Coastal Resilience Easement**

**3:15-3:50p**

With sea level rise transforming landscapes, land protection must address the intersection of landscape transition and landowner resilience. Building on the foundation established by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has designed a project to lead marsh protection, coastal management, and environmental finance experts in the development of resilient protection frameworks. The resilient protection frameworks aim to ensure the healthy landward migration of Maryland's tidal marshes while simultaneously preserving landowner's cultural and financial interests. One integral piece of the resilient protection frameworks is the development of coastal resilience easement language. This language is being developed to be compatible with a number of different easements and land protection programs to call out coastal resilience as a feature of land parcels that is essential to protect in order to facilitate climate adaptation for coastal habitats and communities.

*Joseph Galarraga and Jackie Specht from The Nature Conservancy* discussed the coastal resilience easement project and provide time for Q&A.

Action: informative presentation

Materials: slides

Notes from presentation:

Resilient Protection Frameworks Goals:

1. Support the healthy landward migration of coastal habitats
2. Support landowner adaptation by preserving their cultural and financial interests

Landowner resilience needs are a focus of the work.

Coastal Resilience Easement: draft language that can be integrated into existing easement templates that accounts for coastal climate impacts

Coastal Resilience Management Plan: land management recommendations for preserving socio-ecological resources given coastal climate impacts

Innovative Financing Strategies will be developed by Thrown Environmental.

Landowner Input: direct feedback from landowners to shape all project deliverables

Next Steps Pilot: TNC set aside funding for one to two coastal resilience easements

Sandy Hertz -MDOT-3:51 PM

How do the Coastal Resilience Easements relate to the RCAs under Critical Areas? if they don't already overlap - will they be incorporated?

Ran out of time to continue Q&A.

## V. **Public Comment, Wrap Up and Next Steps** - *Josh Kurtz (DNR)*

**3:50-4:00p**

The 23rd American Ecological Engineering Society annual meeting in Tampa, FL from June 6-9, 2023 on the subject of, "Nature-Based Solutions for Resilient Communities." Registration is open and there is a call for abstracts.

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Secretary Kurtz opened the meeting for public comment and Sarah Lane captured the chat and verbal comments.

Jeff Silva 3:29 PM

ROCKVILLE, Md. — 1 Sept 2021, Torrential rains flooded 12 basement apartments, killing 19-year-old Melkin Daniel Cedillo and displacing around 150 people early Wednesday. Also, more than six inches of rain

fell within hours, causing flooding in Ellicott City. Extensive flooding that left two people dead and damaged dozens of buildings and more than 170 cars, Aug 1, 2016. Climate science denying Republicans get your attention and climate active Democratic Marylanders are ignored.

Jeff Silva - how will you fund adaptation and resilience when the State can't make money on it. Not worth the endeavor.

Dylan Laconich (Sustainability Officer for Salisbury) - Offer support to our efforts especially as we consider the socio-economic effects of climate along with the environmental impacts. Dylan is available to assist efforts that would benefit from input from Salisbury. [dlaconich@salisbury.md](mailto:dlaconich@salisbury.md)