

## Adaptation & Resiliency Working Group Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 28, 2024 · 2:00 – 4:00pm

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

 Meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/way-icdi-zgg>  
 Or dial: (US) +1 505-636-0091 PIN: 221 789 406#

*Chair:* Secretary of Natural Resources, Josh Kurtz  
*Facilitator:* Ryland Taylor, [ryland.taylor@maryland.gov](mailto:ryland.taylor@maryland.gov)

### Agenda

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

**2:00 - 2:05p**

 Meeting Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approve Minutes from Nov 29, 2023 meeting - *Secretary, Josh Kurtz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*
Action: Members approve meeting minutes via vote

Materials: [DRAFT Meeting Notes ARWG 11.29.23](#)

State Delegate	Del. Dana Stein
The Conservation Fund	Erik Meyers
The Nature Conservancy	Bob Allen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UMD Sea Grant Extension	Fredrika Moser <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UMD Environmental Finance Center	Brandy Espinola <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MDE	Matthew Rowe (Rachel representing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )
DNR	Anne Hairston-Strang <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MDEM	Sara Bender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DNR	Tom Parham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MDH	Clifford Mitchell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MDP	Jason Dubow <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MDA	Alisha Mulkey
MDOT	Allison Breitenother <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DNR	Catherine McCall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MEA	Brandon Bowser
Commerce	John Papavasiliou
MIA	Bill Fawcett <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*(previous meeting minutes approval)*  
*Fredrika Moser (UMD Sea Grant Extension) move to approve*  
*Seconded by Bill Fawcett (MIA)*  
*Approved*

## II. Office of Resilience Update

2:05 - 2:20p

*Mike Hinson, Chief Resilience Officer will address the group on the Office of Resilience objectives for the year.*

Action: Informative talk

Materials: None

*Continuation of discussion about what Office of Resilience is doing*

- *defining resilience for state of MD (not for a single department, for state as whole)*
  - *created survey asking 1 qualitative and 1 quantitative question*
    - *survey included other definitions as examples*
    - *robust response - 37 respondees from many different groups represented (see Mikes document)*
  - *Word Cloud - ADAPT, COMMUNITY, RESILIENCE, ABILITY, RECOVER*
  - *definition presented*
  - *used broad terms to allow flexibility in the future, to allow for inclusivity in the future*
- *Some priorities for Office of Resilience [workplan]:*
- *number one priority is coming up with Resilient Maryland Strategy*
- *number two is creating a data repository and resilience toolkit*
- *focusing on providing assistance to locals (data repo included) but also assisting them in integrating resilience benefits into their planning - could be a comp plan perspective*
- *Comment from Jennifer Lazlo Mizrahi:*
  - *Adapt in the first sentence, maybe include the words thrive or change to "be resilient"*
- *Comment from Jason Dubow (MDP):*
  - *maybe include information about the speed of bouncing back from a disaster (crossover with recovery here...)*
- *Comment from Fredrika Moser:*
  - *Shoutout on the strategy of doing a survey*
  - *Follow up on Rachels comment: Community as a driver or participant? as opposed to being told how to adapt*
  - *Would like to hear more about the Office of Resilience workplan*
- *Comment from Cliff Mitchell (MDH):*
  - *Speaking to health equity, does it need to be addressed directly in this definition? direct connection to the office of resilience legislation. If this statement is going to be taken out of context it would be important to add the piece about health equity specifically*

## III. NASA Downscaling Data Talk

2:20 - 2:50p

*Stephanie Schollaert Uz, NASA will deliver a presentation on federal partnerships with local communities. As demand for actionable high-quality information from NASA grows in the face of increasing societal impact from climate change, we have begun partnering locally to learn about environmental challenges and data gaps where NASA data products might help inform decisions.*

Action: Informative Talk

Materials: None

- *Introduction of Stephanie Schollaert Uz*
- *Presentation notes*
  - *PACE satellite launched Feb 8 2024*

- \$948 million total cost
- Monitoring ocean color
- Detecting cyanobacteria blooms
- Support to aquaculture for identifying HABS
- NASA - lots of monitoring - currents, cryosphere, rain, soil moisture, storms
  - Land temps record high last year
  - SST record highs
  - Sea levels rising (7 inches since 1993 - thermal expansion, melt, rebound from last glacial age)
  - Showing Mean Temperature Change for Goddard - 4 degrees by 2100
  - Precipitation also increasing for Goddard
- Working with PG County to advance local Climate Resilience
  - NASA data to fill gaps in Climate Action Plan
    - Temp trends
    - tree canopy prevalence
    - Extreme precip and associated flooding
  - What are PG counties needs? how can resources be brought to bear without overburdening them?
  - Serving relevant NASA data for temp, tree canopy, and precip
  - Considering health impacts as well
  - Impervious surface change [Aug 2022 - August 2018]
  - earth.gov - example - days above 90 degrees predicted <https://earth.gov/> 9 themes
  - Validating climate models with historical precip data
    - choose three best models for PG county specifically
- Other project: Climate projections on flood risk
- Questions
  - Jennifer Mizrahi
    - Brilliant work
    - Possibility of using data to identify polluters?
      - earth.gov has a greenhouse gas emitter/centers for CO2 and Methane
      - EPA does the regulation - all NASA data is research grade
    - follow up: How quickly?
      - if there is a spill, how soon will we know about it
      - earthview shows recent images
      - no current early warning system for spills, have it with Forest Service for fires
  - Fredrika Moser
    - Working with the County Gov't, municipal, boundary orgs?
    - Perpetuating the use of the data, how do communities continue to find capacity within their organization or boundary organizations to continue to sue the data
      - Working with PG county Dept of Environment, have some GIS staff
      - Talked with dept of emergency management, ended up with the Dept of the Environment
  - Anne Hairson-Strang (DNR)
    - Resolution of urban heat island?
      - 60m vins
      - commercial data that are finer scale

- Jason Dubow
  - Broad thoughts on sustaining a framework for these types of partnerships in the future, even if this is a one off?*
    - In 2018 when Stephanie started in this roll, formed an interagency working group focused on water quality, focused on PACE and new LANDSAT
    - have had some land use planners participate in this, could expand this to bring in more land use
    - name of workgroup: Interagency Chesapeake Bay Work Group
    - [stephanie.uz@nasa.gov](mailto:stephanie.uz@nasa.gov)
- Elliott Campbell (DNR)
  - Working with MDE on aquaculture - for targeting, or predicting events impacting?*
    - could be both, but MDE (Rusty) found with shrinking resources, sampling 800 sites a month is difficult (worried about aging septic systems and overflow) and wanted remote sensing to point out if there is a problem. Fecal coliform is difficult to remote sense
- Eileen Gladd (MDE)
  - Working on modeling flood risk, SLR viewer application?*
    - NASA SLR viewer can be used!
    - But discussing climate projections over land, based on likelihood of extreme precipitation. Note, doesn't deal with levees. Might work with First Street Foundation to integrate levees
  - follow up: where are you in that project?*
    - supposed to be done by Sept, it is in validation
- Secretary Kurtz has questions about plankton movement but saving them for later

#### IV. ARWG 2024 Work Plan Discussion

2:50 - 3:40p

Ryland Taylor, DNR will introduce and lead a discussion using a Mentimeter poll about how best to utilize ARWG meetings in 2024 to move forward the objectives listed in the year's work plan.

Action: Members participate in a discussion about work plan goals for the next year.

Materials: [Final ARWG 2024 Work Plan](#), [Mentimeter Results](#)

Mentimeter!

[see menti results, few notes taken here]

*Ryland states that she will be using results to facilitate future meeting agendas and guide discussions going forward.*

- Ryland - one of the themes seems to be that community liaison should come from that community itself, rather than hiring someone to focus on that area.
- Brandon Bowser - thinks liaison is a better term, using liaison in their resiliency planning efforts
- Comments on these items to share with the group?
  - (Jennifer Mizrahi) fantastic as a tool, would love to get ideas about how to engage public around these tools
  - (Jason Dubow) We should try to fit this into the Governor's Plan and the Key Performance Indicators he would like us to measure. Use as leverage to track progress

## V. Policy Development

3:40 - 3:55p

This time is set aside at every meeting to allow for discussion of policy recommendations that would help increase resiliency and adaptation across Maryland. This meeting we will be opening the floor for any policy we want to build for the next legislative session.

Action: Members discuss the most important policy items from ARWG.

Materials: None

*Never too early to start teeing up next year's discussion, even though we are in session now.*

- Jennifer Mizrahi
  - *Noticed in upcoming legislation that there isn't comprehensive strategy for funding*
  - *In the state plan pg 77 and 78 are most important because it says what we want to do and how we want to pay for it. We should get polluters to pay for it*
  - *No bill for Comprehensive climate education plan*
    - *MCCC's recommendation for Maryland Climate Education week (passed the House, stalled in Senate) is the closest*
- Rachel Lamb (responding to Jennifer)
  - *multiple funding options outlined in the plan are polluter pay options*
- Jason Dubow
  - *Thoughts about sub groups of the ARWG that meet between now and the May meeting, what can members participate in to help inform the Office of Resilience between now and the May meeting?*
    - *Interagency funding taskforce and the JEDI taskforce are some ideas we have discussed*
    - *Mike - groups that the Office of Resilience is going to put forth, that is part of the Office's workplan and he wants to make sure there is buy in from secretaries. Done his best to streamline how information is gathered. Holders of none of the subject matter expertise, conveners of info holders*
- *Note from Ryland our recommendations are put forth in the MCCC annual report*
- Anne Hairston-Strang
  - *Mention the invasive species prism (regional points of contact and organization around invasive species management) that other states are introducing can be important in the management of that issue*
  - *Fredrika Moser - aquatic nuisance species act set out a requirement for nuisance species, mid atlantic chapter of this could be engaged*
- Jennifer Mizrahi
  - *Suggestion for lexicon change - words JEDI change to IDEA (inclusion equity diversity and access)*
- Fredrika Moser
  - *should we not take the time to say the words, rather than use any acronyms?*
- Allison Breitenother
  - *Note - as far as the policy discussion goes, maybe after session we could use what was proposed and what was passed/not passed we could look at what was put forth and comment on them*
  - *"session roundup"*
- Cliff Mitchell - back to discussion on health earlier
  - *Challenge, that is built into the plan, of dealing with health now vs health into the future and reconciling that with how local Health Depts are dealing with immediate issues*
  - *Curious about the questions that will come up around the ARWG plan for future - not clear on how the local health departments will participate*
- Jennifer Mizrahi
  - *another potential policy - amount of funding and demand, and how we are doing on what we have already passed*
- Fredrika Moser

- *Important point to keep captured - it's not like we are particularly resilient today so the future can be difficult to visualize*

**VI. Public Comment, Wrap Up and Next Steps**

**3:55-4:00p**

*No public comment*

Next Meeting: May 29, 2024 2-4pm