Adaptation & Resiliency Working Group Meeting

HYBRID MEETING
Wednesday, Feb 26, 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/iow-nknj-vny
Or dial: (US) +1 559-854-1447 PIN: 650 763 644#

Chair: Secretary of Natural Resources, Josh Kurtz
Coordinator: Ryland Taylor, 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 Aug 28, 2024 meeting.

    Action: Members approve meeting minutes via vote
    Materials: DRAFT Meeting Notes ARWG 11.20.24

    Natalie Snider (DNR-CCS Unit Director) leading meeting on behalf of Secretary Kurtz.

    Ryland does roll call and records attendance.

State Delegate	Del. Dana Stein ❌
The Conservation Fund	Erik Meyers ❌
The Nature Conservancy	Bob Allen ✅
UMD Sea Grant Extension	~~Fredrika Moser~~ Taryn Sudol ✅
UMD Environmental Finance Center	~~Brandy Espinola~~ Kristen Clear Mielcarek ✅
MDE	~~Matthew Rowe~~ Jim George ✅
DNR	Anne Hairston-Strang ✅
MDEM	~~Sara Bender~~ Vanessa Calaban ✅
DNR	Tom Parham ✅
MDH	Clifford Mitchell ✅
MDP	Debbie Herr Cornwell ✅
MDA	Nadya Chehab ✅
MDOT	Allison Gost ✅
DNR	Catherine McCall ✅

MEA	Brandon Bowser ❌
Commerce	John Papavasiliou ❌
MIA	Bill Fawcett Joy Hatchette ✅

Call by Natalie to approve meeting notes.

Motion - Anne Hairston-Strang
2nd - Allison Gost
Minutes are Approved

Natalie reminded the group that all MCCC working group recordings are now uploaded on the Commission's YouTube page so our meeting notes will consist of highlights only.

Ryland reminds everyone that she is gathering ideas for a group site visit. Ideally, we will look to combine a few locations that may be in the same area. Please send ideas her way!

II.   Resilience Metrics Presentation   2:05 - 2:45p

Kate Boicourt and Anushi Garg (Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) will present on Measuring Resilience, an effort conducted in collaboration with Regional Plan Association (RPA) and other partners and frontline stakeholders in New York City to understand community-based priorities for resilience, and identify resilience goals and indicators that could be used to measure progress across a specific geography. Kate Boicourt and Anushi Garg from the Resilient Coasts and Watersheds team at EDF will present key findings and lessons-learned on developing resilience performance measures that are evidence-based, community-informed, easily updated, and can be used to support management, decision-making, advocacy, and to track implementation of resilience actions over time. They will also provide insights into how this work might be applied in other geographical contexts.

Action: Informative talk
Materials: Slides to be presented

Anushi Garg is a Senior Analyst for Environmental Defense Fund's Climate Resilient Coasts & Watersheds program in the New York-New Jersey region. She collaborates with a diverse team of economists, scientists, policy experts, community members and local partners to develop equitable solutions and build lasting resilience in communities facing some of toughest climate challenges. Her work involves action-focused research, advocacy and influencing policy, spearheading projects that address the intersection of climate and affordable housing, environmental justice as well as green infrastructure.

Kate Boicourt is a Director for EDF's Climate Resilient Coasts and Watersheds team, focusing particularly on the New York-New Jersey region. She works within EDF's Climate Resilient Coasts and Watersheds team to foster partnerships to collectively advocate for comprehensive, evidence-based and equitable policies and investments that build resilience for all in New York, New Jersey and beyond.

- ○ Measuring Resilience
- ○ Not great at answering 'How resilient are we?'
- ○ Maryland getting to a measurable report of resilience/adaptation
- ○ Can map vulnerability, hazards, but important to map health to get to resilience
- ○ 8 final goal themes
    - ■ Ex. Goal theme: Maximizing tree canopy
        - ● Indicator: tree canopy cover

- Measurement: % of area covered in trees
  - How do things come together?
    - Combine exposure, vulnerability, and resilience to create toxic sites in the floodplain map (shows SVI, floodplain, and toxic sites) - shows gaps in service
  - Allison question about the RIGHT metrics and how they respond to changes
    - Boston Tube analysis
  - Cliff question - projects like this take a lot of time to absorb and how they can actually be integrated into a project?
    - Depends on the application, update this data annually rather than re-creating this each year. Didn't get into permitting
  - Jennifer Mizrahi question - we are supposed to track climate spending in our state. Advice on climate budget tracking?
    - Can connect to people who have done this work
  - Ryland - how to show incremental progress?
    - Measurable tracking year over year
    - Not measuring effort but rather measuring outcomes ? if you are doing a resilience project that gets folks out of the floodplain, results in better resilience score
    - Funding checklist for communities or green infrastructure project checklist
    - Opportunity to tell story before/after changes at a neighborhood level

III. **Office of Resilience Update**   **2:45 - 3:05p**
Mike Hinson, Chief Resilience Officer will provide an update on the Office of Resilience initiatives.

Action: Informative Update
Materials: None

  - Coordinate across state agencies
  - Providing local gov'ts assistance
  - Defined resilience!!
  - Establishing a shared picture of hazards and stressors across the state (strategy)
    - Where can we most move the needle across the state? Best return on resilience investments?
    - Review of existing resiliency work
    - Crosswalk of existing plans
    - Housing has not been covered super well in plans
  - Snapshot of workgroup participants
    - State entities, local gov'ts, resilience authorities, NGOs and CBOs, private sector, universities
  - Questions - climate budget tagging, conversation with comptroller? Spent a lot of money preparing for permitting and grants, but no grants now?
    - Money that state spends vs money that climate costs the state
    - Places where it is no longer safe to build, places where you can't get flood insurance
  - Questions - have they looked at the cohesive wildfire strategy?

IV. **NextGen Tracking Discussion**   **3:05 - 3:40p**
Members will discuss progress made with the Next Generation Adaptation Plan from the past year using DNR as an example. A discussion will follow on how the ARWG should demonstrate achievements and how progress should be reported to the broader group.

Action: Members come prepared to discuss methods for tracking progress made on NextGen priorities. Agency leads should be prepared to gather this input on behalf of their agency.
Materials: None

- A lot of the parts of the plan are about work that is already ongoing within agencies
- High level overview of if progress has been made - are we making progress without extra effort? Where does investment need to be made?
- ACTION: ARWG agrees that next meeting each agency should report out about Next Gen progress

V. Policy Discussion   **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.

Action: Members discuss the most important policy items from ARWG.
Materials: None

- Maryland Flood Awareness month proclamation is coming
- Jennifer wants to push for climate budget tracking
  - MD Climate Commission website - report put together on state climate funding that is wildly inaccurate, 10% of state funding is "climate related". Are we recognizing all of the cost, or just the increment? 100% of heat pump, or how much more did the heat pump cost than the fossil fuel
- Would it be helpful to have adaptation related numerical goals? Tying specific numbers to adaptation goals?
  - Adaptation related KPIs?
  - (Natalie) - miles of shoreline restored isn't exactly a resilience metric… because shoreline might not be in front of people
  - (Mike) it's helpful to have a goal, but given the current funding environment it could show that we aren't able to move these things - it's dangerous!
- (Jennifer) do we care so much about definition of EJ community that we want to keep words like race and immigrants in our mapping?
- (Allison) MDOT has a resilience metric - miles of roadway that are vulnerable to flooding (CS CRAB) - hard to manage movement on this metric
  - Avoidance of flooding as metric?
  - Wet proofing? Disruption of service?

VI. Public Comment, Wrap Up and Next Steps   **3:55 - 4:00p**

Meeting was opened for public comment, no public comment was made.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2025 2-4pm