

Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Adaptation and Response Working Group
September 11, 2017 – 2:00pm - 4:00pm –DNR
Draft Meeting Notes (10/4/17)

Attendance: Mark Belton DNR; Matt Fleming DNR; Catherine McCall DNR; Kimberly Hernandez DNR; Nicole Carlozo, Joe Abe, Kristen Fleming, Kevin Smith DNR; Emily Vainieri MD OAG/DNR; Jason Dubow & Debbie Herr Cornwell MDP; Allison Gost MDH; Susan Payne MDA; Sandy Hertz MDOT-TSO; Gary Setzer MDE; Brian Ambrette ESLC; Frederika Moser MDSG; Erik J Meyers TCF/CRWG; Jill Lemke MDOT Port Administration; Mostafa Izadi DGS; Mark Symborski M-NCPPC/Montgomery Co.; Alex DeWeese CAC; Kevin Wagner MDE-WSA; Astrid Caldas Union of Concerned Scientists; Nell Ziehl MHT; Elizabeth Habic MDOT/SHA; Christopher Beck, Lisa Nissley (phone) MDE; Kristiane Huber, Ashley Lawson Center for Climate & Energy Solutions (C2ES); Jim McElfish ELI; John Fiastro MEA; Sadie Drescher CBT (phone)

2:00 PM Meeting Began

Agenda Item #1: Introductions and approval of agenda, and meeting notes

- Approval of 5/22/17 minutes
- Re-cap of Coast Smart Council Meeting

Agenda Item #2: ACCO Climate Change Trainings

- Dan Kreeger, Executive Director of the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) presented on a pilot training effort that will down-scale ACCO climate change training for DNR's Chesapeake and Coastal Service and can also be tailored to local government partners
- ACCO seeks to institutionalize climate change into decision making
- As first step in Maryland, ACCO will be working with DNR-CCS to build climate competencies among staff, based on similar model developed in Colorado
- Next step in 2018 will be to build capacity among other state agencies and local governments
- Shortest course module is 50 minutes; longest is 3.5 hours – able to work with agencies to downscale and focus content
- Concept of a "Maryland 2040 Initiative" was discussed and would be a commitment by institutional leaders to participate in this workforce training, working together with the support of third-party organizations to drive meaningful actions
- Concept of "Compact of Maryland Governments" was also discussed and would be opportunity to build capacity, exchange knowledge, support implementations, and identify similar goals and projects
- ARWG expressed interested in learning how these trainings can be adapted for industry (e.g. MD Ports)

Agenda Item #3: Green Infrastructure for Chesapeake Stormwater Management

- Jim McElfish, Senior Attorney at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) presented ELI's recent report addressing legal opportunities to use green infrastructure to help meet the climate change-stormwater management and provided a number of recommendations that Maryland could:
 - Update to Stormwater Design Manual (2000, updated 2009) could include climate siting criteria
 - Revise flood control grant requirements to include climate considerations
 - Create overlay districts and incentivize zoning to regulate location of structures
 - Identify program changes to implement climate adaptation policies for stormwater management
 - Update the Stormwater Design Manual
 - Update specific provisions of regulations or statutes to provide clearer authority regarding predicted climate change impacts, future hydrological conditions, and green infrastructure practices
 - Require mandatory climate siting guidelines

- Allow localities to act prospectively instead of relying on outdated data in stormwater and flood management
- Require planning bodies to incorporate strategies to combat projected climate change impacts
- Create and reference in laws/regulations an easy-to-update policy document containing detailed siting criteria.
- ARWG encouraged greater regional focus, beyond just local jurisdictions

Agenda Item #4: Resilience and Restoration

- At a 2016 ARWG meeting, the ARWG learned about the State's Coastal Resiliency Assessment – a tool to proactively identify, protect and enhance coastal habitats that provide risk-reduction benefits to residents impacted by coastal hazards.
- Today, Kevin Smith, Director of the Center for Habitat Restoration and Conservation at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, presented on putting restoration projects into practice to promote resiliency
- DNR is challenged to design and construct resiliency projects that address storm events and maintain (or enhance) ecological integrity
- When identifying opportunities, it is important to consider site conditions, property ownerships, navigation hazards, and/or length of shoreline
- Ferry Point Living Shoreline Project at Kent Narrows and Conquest Beach Shoreline Resiliency Project (both Queen Anne's County) good examples of projects in the coastal zone
- Historic dams provide opportunity inland (e.g. Bishopville Dam Removal at Buntings Branch)
- Stream restoration provides opportunity to reconnect floodplain, slow movement of water, provide for nutrient processing, and improve habitat, but it is critical to also consider high intensity storm events for successful dam removal/stream restoration projects

Agenda Item #5: Local Comprehensive Plan Adaptation Research

- Jason Dubow, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), gave a brief status update about their Local Comprehensive Plan Adaptation Research Approach (LCPARA)
- Research and preliminary analysis show the following results:
 - 8 of 24 counties identify climate change/resiliency as a topic to address and included actionable and strong recommendations for how to address it
 - 16 of 24 counties at least mentioned climate change/resiliency
 - 8 of 24 counties did not mention climate change/resiliency at all
- MDP staff anticipates providing a full update and results at the ARWG's 4th quarter meeting in December
- Members interested in joining smaller discussion prior to December meeting, contact DNR

Agenda Item #6: ARWG report recommendations, progress reports, new business

- The ARWG reviewed upcoming milestones and deliverables this fall - end of September recommendations for MCCC Steering Committee, annual report in October. Staff noted that some additional input may be needed from the group.
- A check in on 2017 and 2018 Work Plans is coming up in December
- GCC adaptation table – last call was made for state updates.
- Member comments specific to the report recommendations:
 - The Regional Adaptation Meetings are a good place to explore the ACCO Government Incentive Program; should also look into partnering with Silver Jackets flood reduction team and/or MDH community resiliency forums to avoid duplicity
 - A research agenda should not just be ARWG, but rather a research agenda for all of MCCC
 - Are we thinking about resilience of species that we are planting? Considering how often may need to be re-planted due to climate change
 - Question about where adaptation measure that address GHG reduction falls under ARWG purview or MWG purview (e.g. habitat loss of installing a solar farm)
- Draft Report due out later this month

Adjourned 4:00 PM

