

Adaptation & Resiliency Working Group Meeting

HYBRID MEETING

Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023 · 2:00 – 4:00pm

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

Google Meet Video call link: meet.google.com/njj-vvwm-crn

Or dial: (US) +1 573-559-1280 PIN: 440 908 989#

Chair: Secretary of Natural Resources, Josh Kurtz
Coordinator: Ryland Taylor, ryland.taylor@maryland.gov

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions** **2:00 - 2:05p**
Meeting Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approve Minutes from May 31, 2023 meetings and set hybrid meeting expectations - *Secretary, Josh Kurtz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*

State Delegate	Del. Dana Stein - Yes
The Conservation Fund	Erik Meyers - No
UMD Sea Grant Extension	Fredrika Moser - Yes
UMD Environmental Finance Center	Brandy Espinola - Yes
MDE	Matthew Rowe - Yes
DNR	Anne Hairston-Strang - Yes
MDEM	Sara Bender - Yes
DNR	Tom Parham - Yes
MDH	Clifford Mitchell - No
MDP	Jason Dubow - Yes
MDA	Alisha Mulkey - Yes
MDOT	Allison Breitenother - Yes
DNR	Catherine McCall - Yes
MEA	Brandon Bowser - No
Commerce	John Papavasiliou - Yes
MIA	Alex Borkowski - No

Secretary Kurtz asked for a motion to approve the May 31 meeting minutes after no changes were requested. Motion was made by Jason Dubow and seconded by Fredrika Moser. Meeting minutes approved.

Secretary Kurtz also reminded members to fill out the [Google Form](#) soliciting input on potential co-chairs to serve with DNR in ARWG leadership.

Action: Members approve meeting minutes via vote

Materials: [DRAFT May 31 2023 Meeting Notes](#)

II. **Saltwater Intrusion Update**

2:05 - 2:15p

Jason Dubow, MDP will provide a progress update on the state's Saltwater Intrusion Plan and wetland adaptation strategy subgroup.

The Saltwater Intrusion Plan is required to be updated every five years, this will be due in late 2024. The goal is to have a draft by July 2024 so it can be reviewed by the Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG), ARWG, and state agencies before it is finalized.

Each chapter is being updated by subject matter experts, pulling from those that assisted with the report in 2019. They are looking for guidance on who else should be interviewed to contribute to these chapters. Please contact Jason Dubow at MDP to suggest potential collaborators. They are specifically looking to update the research and adaptation recommendation sections. They are also looking for any suggestions on research papers that can contribute to the plan.

Two new aspects they are hoping to add to the plan are resource plan needs and 2019-2024 progress. Resource plan needs could be staff needs or funding (for research or consultants). There is a subteam focused on the Statewide Wetland Adaptation Strategy which directly comes from a recommendation out of the Coastal Wetlands Chapter of the 2019 Saltwater Intrusion Plan. The subteam met in April and June and completed an early draft outline.

Anne Hairston-Strang asked if Jason was hearing from local jurisdictions about data needs that would help them understand and manage their risks. Jason said they are receiving those requests. He referenced a paper out of Delaware that might help to answer those questions and will send that to Ryland to circulate. [Linked here.](#)

Action: Informative talk

Materials: [Slides](#)

III. **ARWG Milestone Discussion**

2:15 - 3:35p

Ryland Taylor, DNR will introduce and lead a discussion on the Next Generation Adaptation Plan milestones.

[Discussion Prompt Slides](#)

23:29 - Discussion Begins

[Jason Dubow -MDP-](#) Very difficult to look at the milestones separately from the Framework recommendations which has a lot of the context in goal and vision statements. One question is where does the MDEM Office of Resilience and the new Chief Resiliency Officer fit into this? Will they have a role in reviewing this before it is finalized?

Sara Bender (MDEM) said that MDEM is basing their NextGen Milestones comments on the legislation that created the Office of Resilience to tag things that they could potentially lead. Funding coordination is likely going to be one of the biggest pieces that they will be leading.

Ryland Taylor (DNR) asked about the timeline, Sara responded that the interviews are going on right now. They don't know when the person would be onboarded. It would likely be the Chief Resilience Officer and potentially one other person under them. The selection would hopefully be made quickly and they may have a chance to review, but the hiring process is a big unknown. Sara and Vanessa plan to finish their review of the NextGen milestones this week, but want to get it in front of senior leadership next.

[Matthew Rowe -MDE-](#) For a number of the milestones, there are not clearly identified leads. This is something the team is clearly aware of because it's embedded in some of the questions being asked, but that will be important going forward. For equity, it might be important to call out the Department of Corrections as a partner to get incarcerated people recognized as an underserved population in terms of potentially training opportunities or otherwise. We can also do a better job of encompassing heat and fire impacts. It's good to have greening pilots, but maybe we should think about that more broadly for example including cooling (white roofs, cooling centers, etc.). We should also partner with MDA on urban farms as a type of green space and to help combat food deserts. Is there a role for the state to do better emergency notification given the recent fires in Hawaii? In working lands, some specificity around fire management and vulnerability planning may need to be mentioned. Is there anything actionable now that we can put in the plan?

Anne Hairston-Strang followed up saying forestry is doing a lot around risk reduction planning, but they are not always in the room during these conversations. They just finished the draft revised forest management plan for the reservoir watersheds around Baltimore. Part of that is to look at climate adaptation and the next step is to work with the firewise people (Maureen Peterson) to work in risk reduction. There is some planning already on the reservoir watersheds but there is more to be done to regulate density and the ability to not have catastrophic fires.

Jennifer Mizrahi (MCCC-Philanthropy Representative) brought up the point that the report does not have the word disability anywhere. It does talk about underlying health conditions, but she would like to encourage the specific inclusion of disability mention and Secretary Beatty (Department of Disabilities) in the development of these milestones. People with disabilities are extremely vulnerable to these climate impacts. She suggests that the section Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion have disability access included in the group title and that all meetings and discussions remain accessible.

Secretary Kurtz agreed with this assessment that we need to make sure we are keeping in mind our most vulnerable populations. We also need to have a plan for when we are in a crisis how are we communicating across the state which is what the Local Government section is working toward. We need a better regional system with buy-in from local governments. The threat of fire is also an interesting issue that cross cuts sectors and can quickly affect infrastructure. We need to ensure that all contexts are considered in the plan. [Anne Hairston-Strang -DNR-](#) responded that fire is definitely in their scope but they are looking to strengthen connections with MDEM to incorporate this response in their plans along with long term response such as debris management.

Delegate Dana Stein mentioned that the Hawaii and Colorado fires were caused by overgrowth of large tracts of grasslands. He asked if there was any risk assessment for fires that came from these sources along with forests. He also added that older adults should be considered as vulnerable populations. For example they tend to lack mobility so if a heat dome were to settle over the area they may not be able to get to a cooling center. Another comment was how climate change is depleting Aquifers. He referenced a New York Times article on this and from the article it looks like Southern Maryland is in bad shape with rapid depletion. In terms of workforce development, the NOAA Climate-Ready Workforce RFP is soliciting applications that may help support the Climate Jobs & Training Goals. Secretary Kurtz seconded the comment on aquifers quoting the article that Southern Maryland is experiencing an 80-100 ft depletion. How might that progress in the future?

Jennifer Mizrahi brought up that the previous year or legislative cycle there was a recommendation for 5 or 6 million dollars specifically budgeted to communicate around climate specific issues, but this was not passed by the legislature. She would like us to strongly advocate for communication funding, specifically for those with cultural competency to communicate to low-income communities and discuss the whole variety of issues. Secretary Kurtz agreed that communication is going to be an important component of this for the ARWG and would like to add this to our list of policy recommendations to discuss. Ryland Taylor (DNR) added that there is a plan to do a webinar about the NextGen plan which will help communicate at least that aspect to the general public. ((40:09))

There was a question in the chat about the difference between "investment needed" and "resource ready". These will be defined in the plan, but [Ryland B. Taylor -DNR-](#) explained that "investment needed" refers to a priority that might not have the resources ready to implement this policy, but we acknowledge this is something we should be

working toward. Categorizing priorities in this way allows us to not scare away agencies that read these and are scared because they do not have capacity to implement this right away. Secretary Kurtz added that this document is put forward by ARWG but we will be adapting and working on it as we move forward.

[Jason Dubow -MDP-](#) suggested that it would be good to establish a team under the ARWG that is focused on implementing the priority highlighted in the slides. The team could also focus on an existing statute that requires state agencies to review their standing regulatory and fiscal programs to identify and integrate climate issues. This could be modified to include requirements to look at JEDI issues in relation to climate. This approach is something a JEDI team in ARWG could make sure is implemented. Secretary Kurtz suggested this might be good to elevate to the Commission as a whole to maintain consistency across agencies. This will also help to align mitigation goals with adaptation and resilience. [Sasha Land -DNR-](#) mentioned that there is a priority under the Local Gov section that should be added to that recommendation. There are a number of actions that could support this when looking at it together.

Ryland reminded everyone that the ARWG is charged with elevating 2-3 legislative priorities to the MCCC every year. This discussion is teed up for later, but we are happy to discuss them as part of this larger discussion. Sasha added that one of their action items is to develop an action campaign and that should be tied to any legislative recommendations. The group struggled because the purview was under them but they do not have outreach campaign experience.

[Anne Hairston-Strang -DNR-](#) asked about water flowing through developed areas. How do we get green infrastructure in our urban areas? Is there something we have that we should be building on? Should we be linking more to A-Storm? [Matthew Rowe -MDE-](#) said that A-Storm is in the plan and there is a bill that requires them to look at and update stormwater recommendations. They currently have an advisory group working on that to update design standards to include precipitation projection beyond historic Atlas 14. This stuff is covered in the water resources sector group milestones and they hope to have a legislative update later this year. He also thinks drought is a concept that has been identified in the investment needed priorities. [Jim George -MDE-](#) seconded that this will have to be a living document. They have a lot of milestones built in already and hope to be able to accomplish those and move on to new milestones. He then asked if we have a plan to make this document adaptable.

Secretary Kurtz responded that we haven't really discussed that aspect yet. What will this look like, will we have scheduled check ins? Ryland responded that we have not discussed that yet, but we are planning to discuss it during the November meeting agenda because it will make up a large part of our work plan for next year. This will be a discussion to have with the whole group. Much of the discussion so far has looked like a subgroup of representatives that can speak to these milestones. Secretary Kurtz added that many of the changes that we may need to implement going forward will be on different time horizons so we will have to keep that in mind.

[Frederika Moser](#) (Maryland Sea Grant) posted in the chat asking: *I wonder how well this work integrates with policy in the State Department of Education to build out an effective climate change education program in the K-12 system.* [Sarah Lane -DNR-](#) mentioned that the Climate Jobs & Training group has done a lot of work in that sector and they have been focused on consistency across the system. Jennifer Mizrahi mentioned that PG County has an especially good plan. Ryland brought up that DNR's Chesapeake and Coastal Service (CCS) Unit has had discussions about getting climate change education in state law which it is not currently, but other states have.

[Jason Dubow -MDP-](#) asked if there was some way to be sure that the ARWG's assessment of progress is in some way tied to each agency's annual budget requests. This way if certain areas are lagging or need to be expanded this can be adapted. This would mean that timing would need to be coordinated with these efforts. Secretary Kurtz said that brings us back to the question of how we engage institutions and resources outside of state government in these efforts. Specifically we will need to capitalize on things like federal grant opportunities. We should also be looking at how the Insurance incentives drive infrastructure changes and private property improvements that fall outside of state spending. It will be important to figure out how we become catalysts for these state decisions. There are significant challenges in the grant space that are being tackled legislatively this year.

[Matthew Rowe -MDE-](#) had additional thoughts in the chat: *Some additional thoughts for education include integrating in the Community Colleges, also Agricultural Extension. I know you do reference the University System.* Secretary Kurtz added that we should bring the new DCSI department in for review as they think of partnerships related to Climate Corps. They are currently looking at a partnership in California. This also is a format for how we form relationships with groups like the Chesapeake Bay Trust who have core programs. He then asked if these partnerships were touched on in the Climate Jobs & Training section to which [Sarah Lane -DNR-](#) responded that yes, Conservation Corps was touched on in that section.

Ryland mentioned that we had not yet discussed much about the Critical Infrastructure section and asked if anyone had thoughts on the prompts presented in the beginning. [Allison Breitenother](#) added context that initially this priority was proposed as a step for Statewide asset management of resilience for critical infrastructure. A big question that never got fully fleshed out was whether or not an inventory is a good way to manage critical infrastructure. An alternative could be that there is a statewide definition for what qualifies as critical infrastructure then everyone manages their own list. Feedback is critical to inform how the group moves forward. How are agencies managing infrastructure and what counts as critical? Can we be consistent across agencies in how we determine the criticality of an asset or asset class? There are going to be limitations on data sharing particularly around where your critical infrastructure is, so is an inventory the best approach? Consistency is key, but not everyone needs to have the same approach because we all have different asset classes.

Secretary Kurtz said this makes him think we need a better understanding of how our critical infrastructure is related with the federal government in our area (like DoD installations but also local governments). To be effective in management of critical infrastructure we need to be effective in where critical infrastructure is shared on different levels of governance. He then asked if it was evaluated in this multiple levels of government context or is this looking at state only? Allison responded that this was definitely considered, although they looked more towards the local component and less to the federal. They did align with the federal government in some contexts like for transportation the feds tell them how to manage the state highways. Discussions around local government infrastructure revolved around who is responsible and would they even have interest in data sharing or a comprehensive approach. MDOT already coordinates with MDEM and knows their critical assets, evacuation routes, etc., but further coordination is needed for example if there is a building that another agency deems critical they would need to make sure that the infrastructure and transit routes to get there is maintained for both acute and chronic events. Secretary Kurtz was thinking about this for the interconnectedness of the energy system on the lower eastern shore particularly around the Patuxent flyway and how the DoD plays into that and how we think of deployment from an electrical perspective. We can leverage the resources and capital for projects like that.

[Jason Dubow -MDP-](#) suggested looking at county emergency response plans and talking to MACO's emergency management affiliate. Are these groups aware of critical infrastructure at the local Critlevel? People in Harford emergency management probably coordinate with people at Aberdeen so they can be notified of potential emergencies. That might be an avenue to reach out to local military installation employees. Then MDE's office of preparedness and response but they might not have as broad of a range of critical facilities.

[Kate M. Vogel -DNR-](#) This question made her think of a past ARWG meeting where the Chesapeake Bay report card was released. Part of this report was identifying critical facilities. There isn't a ton of detail in this report, but it could be referenced or used as a guide moving forward. She also shared NOAA's coastal flood exposure mapping tool that has an infrastructure exposure layer called "critical facilities". It is unclear where this data is coming from, but it has a lot of mapped facilities so you can see where high tide flooding and storm surge is predicted. They use this tool for some of their planning. Allison responded that having a screening tool to get a clearer picture of what the risk looks like for each piece will be helpful. That would be a first step, to perform a screen then assessment to inform the asset management plan for the state.

Jennifer Mizrahi appreciated the mention of the report card with the mapping. She wondered if there is an effort to combine all mapping into a single comprehensive map for Maryland. She mentioned that we know that we already have infrastructure at risk and what the possibility is to prevent new structures from being placed in the floodplain. She suggested partnering with insurance, realtors, and banks as well as partnering with the comptrollers office on

this effort. Secretary Kurtz said the concept of data aggregation and building these models on top of each other is very important because we are using different layers and models and agencies are making different decisions using different data. We need to flag this for consistency moving forward. Jennifer Mizrahi also suggested that Google and Zillow could potentially be private partners in an effort like this. Ryland chimed in to mention that Maryland does have the Coast Smart Council that regulates capital investment in state or local structures built in the flood zone. That only regulates state and local owned buildings currently, not private property.

[Paul Berman](#) seconded the suggestion that the State Department of Assessment and Taxation along with insurance, realtors, etc. from the private sector. The revenue impacts on consumers as insurance premium payers and financial institutions which require hazard insurance, and loss of state revenue are all in play in all of this. The consequences can be devastating for citizens. The Maryland Insurance Administration should be involved at least. The people most affected are often the people who can least afford it. Secretary Kurtz responded that MIA is a member of the ARWG and they gave a presentation at our last meeting that might be of interest.

Jeff Silva commented in the chat that Maryland needs to expand education of reserve skills needed by individuals to establish a resilient community.

[Jason Dubow -MDP-](#) asked if there is a University that could partner with the Department of Health's Climate Health Profile Report and would that University need funds from the state budget or a grant to make that happen? Allison responded that there are multiple Universities within the state system of Maryland that have the capacity to help with that analysis depending on the final scope. The last report was focused mostly on health data (emergency room visits, etc.) but this group feels that should be expanded more to focus on vulnerable populations and what is being done to address it. The CHPR should be expanded to be more than just an analysis of tertiary care/hospitalization data. The University partners would definitely need funding though. Previous funding came from the CDC's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects program which is a competitive funding opportunity. MDH missed out on the last round of funding and the budget of the program was reduced. Maryland can reapply for that program three years from now, but that is not the only funding source. Jennifer Mizrahi suggested checking in with the Bloomberg Public Health program at Johns Hopkins which is funded. Allison agreed it would be worthwhile to reach out to them. An alternative would be to separate out components of the large report into smaller parts that can be done by multiple partners across the state.

Ryland wanted to call the groups' attention to the Interagency Funding Group that is a priority from the Water Resources sector group. A lot of discussions have revolved around funding coordination among agencies so it would be a good asset to have a group devoted to keeping their eye on some of these funding opportunities. Someone asked if this would be in addition to what already exists. Sarah Lane added that the idea came from the Framework but was pared down to focus on funding. They chose specific issues, for example the aquifers, that would be important for this group to tackle. The Wallman commission has a bunch of recommendations for water supply which is also in the plan to take recommendations and match them up with funding opportunities. Sasha Land added that we should think about how this intersects with the Maryland Resiliency Partnership (MRP). Formerly the MRP focused on flooding, but at the last meeting it was agreed that the group would expand to focus on other topics as well. We will also need to factor in what role the office of resilience will play in this opportunity. Sara Bender confirmed that coordination will be a big focus of the MDEM office of resilience. They will also be looking at funding sources and preparing for when funding is not selected. There may be opportunities to bundle projects together amongst agencies to capitalize on other sources. Funding alignment (dates specifically) will be important. Sasha Land added that coordinating competitive grant funding will be important, but there are agencies with more consistent multi-year funding that could host projects from other agencies as well if there is alignment. This will be important both for local and regional projects. Sara Bender said that regional projects are probably the biggest need because no one agency wants to take on the liability.

Jennifer Mizrahi has been to briefings from the White House on this subject and they have made it clear that they are going to prioritize giving this money to Justice 40 communities. As people are putting together regional applications, the group should be sure to have someone from a Justice 40 community involved in that grant proposal. Also, as a representative of philanthropy, she reminded the group that there are over 100 philanthropic

organizations in the state of Maryland that can help people get grants or be part of a group like this. Secretary Kurtz mentioned that helping people get access to these funding sources is going to be an important component. You shouldn't have to be an expert in grant writing to get funding for your community. Sara Bender said that is something they are looking at, increasing their technical assistance capability. For MDEM, they are typically working with a single person in a county hired for emergency management and they don't typically have the expertise to write very technical grants.

Frederika Moser added in the chat: Perhaps how we can improve the mechanisms to bring many different funding sources together effectively around mitigation and adaptation to climate change might be something the legislature could chew on to make these big multi-sector projects work.

[Jason Dubow -MDP-](#) the Saltwater Intrusion group has struggled with lack of staff capacity and lack of funding to implement all the research recommendations in the plan. He is hoping that we can develop a resource plan to better capture what additional funds or staff are needed to successfully implement the plan. This could be valuable as part of this as well. Could we maybe do an estimate to the best of our ability about what funds would be required to implement this? Secretary Kurtz responded that understanding the resources we need to implement this plan will be critical. That is going to be an important next step and a conversation with the Commission to get their feedback. This will also be an opportunity for the new Resilience officer who are looking at the intersection of mitigation and adaptation to see how we are bringing funding together. The governor's office has a new federal investment team and a focus for the governor's administration is on cooperation and collaboration among communities and organizations. When large sums of money are spent in the state it should go towards a well coordinated effort to improve resilience. A key to a resilient community is having good communication.

[Christopher Beck -MDE-](#) shared an effort that MDE is leading as a result of the Climate Solutions Now Act. MDE Commissioned the Center for Global Sustainability from the UMD School of Public Policy to complete a report on the total amount of money spent on the mitigation of greenhouse gasses (and to the extent practicable, co-pollutants). Of that dollar amount of state money spent, they are charged with calculating the percentage that went to disproportionately affected communities. MDE and CGS are reaching out to other agency staff to get a better understanding of how much money is currently being spent. The report is not currently generated yet, but he suspects one of the outcomes will be that we are not collecting the right information. This report is due annually to the MCCC, in future years, we should do a better job of collecting it. It will be submitted to the MCCC as an addendum to the annual report. Jennifer Mizrahi asked about the tracking of tax credits in terms of a type of "cost". Chris responded that it will depend how the report defines spending and they don't really have an answer for that right now. That number should find a way into the report though.

[Rachel Lamb -MDE-](#) wanted to add to Frederika's education comment earlier. MDE is standing up a local support group that explicitly hires grant writers to write grants on behalf of local governments. Within the scope of the EPA grant, it's supposed to target high priority greenhouse gas mitigation measures. They are always looking for projects that are win-win for mitigation along with adaptation and resilience. The program is still in the thought process of structuring, but it might be able to seed a growing program to complement the 2031 mitigation plan with the NextGen plan. That way when you do go to local governments, you can listen to needs and resource them in a way that is win-win. Details about implementation grants are coming out within the next week or two so we will all need to learn together. This will be implemented in partnership with other sister agencies.

Action: Members participate in a discussion about Next Gen milestones specifically agency comments, efforts that may not have been captured, and flagging regulatory items for legislative action.

Materials: [NextGen Milestones Draft](#)

IV. Policy Development

3:35 - 3:50p

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 discuss which two to three policy recommendations ARWG will be elevating to the MCCC.

Ryland steered the discussion towards more policy items that could be moved forward as recommendations from the ARWG to the MCCC for the annual report. Secretary Kurtz clarified that this didn't have to be a concrete statement that we want this bill, this should be something that we want to recommend to form the work for next year.

[Jason Dubow -MDP-](#) suggested to begin to require that local governments integrate climate change into their comprehensive plans. By doing that, each county would be analyzing climate change impacts to their resources. That could begin to lead to recommendations or strategies at the local level that would help inform regional plans. In Maryland, there are existing requirements for each chapter of the comprehensive plans, but this would be added to all chapters rather than being its own distinct chapter. [Anne Hairston-Strang -DNR-](#) said this will be important to analyze what data is out there so that these questions can be answered. Coordination and wrangling of all resource data will be difficult but it will be necessary for the users to be able to understand and use it properly. Secretary Kurtz added that it goes back to the earlier comment about the need for a compilation of data so people know trusted data to make decisions. There would also need to be assistance in interpretation of that data to help them understand how their choices affect these issues. This is something valuable that the ARWG could contribute. If we don't have a base level ability to communicate this information we are going to have difficulty implementing all the things we have discussed. This seems like a recommendation we should put forth to the MCCC and this could also work with mitigation as well.

[Sasha Land -DNR-](#) mentioned that this goes very well with one of their priorities in the Local Government focus group related to climate impact statements. She agreed that comprehensive plans could be one mechanism for longer reaching plans, but the goal of this would be promoting understanding in the near term to stimulate short term actions.

Delegate Dana Stein commented on Jason Dubow's link in the chat (<https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/envr-planning/water-resources-mg/2022/03/climatechange-stateguide-data.aspx>) and comment (*The above is one compilation of data sets within the recent MDE/MDP update of the Water Resources Element (WRE) guidance in local comprehensive plans.*) He stated that including project sea level rise is at minimum a data point that local governments should be including. Jennifer Mizrahi commented that the Sea Level Rise maps are delivered by consensus and thus tend to be more conservative than people think they should be in underestimating potential storm impacts. Delegate Stein followed up by saying that it is at least a starting point that the state can refer local governments to even if they are conservative. Sasha Land added that the Scientific and Technical Advisory Council is working off the middle ground emissions scenario for this most recent Sea Level Rise Projections update. They do provide justification for moving forward with this scenario and potential implications for that decision. One thing they are working on is a sea level rise approach along with a total water approach that recognizes in addition to sea level rise there is high tide and storm surge as well. So these estimates may be conservative but we have to start somewhere beyond just looking at current sea level conditions. These should be done in the next year or so and they will give us a specific state projection unique to the Chesapeake Bay rather than relying on projections from federal partners. Anne Hairston Strang asked if it would look at the interaction of rainfall flooding and high tide flooding. Sasha said they recognize that they need to be integrated, and the total water approach might get them closer, but as a state this is a need for non-coastal areas as well.

Anne Hairston Strang asked if we had any recommendation related to the Interagency Funding Task Force. Ryland responded that she doesn't think that priority has fleshed out specific policy recommendations, but there is definitely potential. Secretary Kurtz said it sounds like our recommendations are to integrate resources, integrate existing plans and processes, etc. and integrate funding. Integration seems to keep coming back up. Anne Hairston Strang said we should be making sure we capitalize on these increased funding streams while they are available. Sara Bender added that she is thinking of it the opposite way, what do we do when money runs out? MDEM just heard that the disaster relief funding from the federal government is out of funding except for immediate needs. This is only potentially the first thing that happens, what comes next and how do we replace that? Public dollars might not be the answer, we need to be prepared to not rely on federal funding.

Action: Members discuss the most important policy items from ARWG and propose which will be elevated to the MCCC.

Materials: None

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

3:50-4:00p

Jeff Silva - The lack of funding for communications efforts will constantly cause problems for all the MCCC working groups and the Governor in the future. We need to break out of the echo chamber of talking amongst ourselves. Money should be spent on public service announcements in government office waiting rooms where the public is waiting to have issues addressed (like the MVA).

Paul Berman - He seconded Paul's comment about involving the members of the public in outreach. There are only two or three other members of the public in this meeting. DNR oversees many parks across the state, they should consider having meetings in various communities and public outreach efforts should be made to invite members of the public to tell them what they are doing.

Secretary Kurtz reminded the group that we are looking to expand the co-chairs of ARWG in order to represent the public better.

Next steps - Ryland will write up a summary of the recommendations that are coming out of ARWG and will send them to the group for a vote before they are due October 1.

Next Meeting: November 29, 2023 2-4pm

35 attendees online

In Person:

1. [Vanessa Calaban -MDEM-](#)
2. Sara Bender
3. [Sasha Land -DNR-](#)
4. [Laura L. Canton -DNR-](#)
5. Sara Coleman
6. [Kamil Williams -DNR-](#)
7. Jennifer Mizrahi
8. [Rachel Lamb -MDE-](#)
9. [Catherine McCall -DNR-](#)
10. [Amanda Small -DNR-](#)
11. Gabe Cohee
12. [Sarah Lane -DNR-](#)
13. [Dylan Behler -DNR-](#)
14. Secretary [Josh Kurtz -DNR-](#)
15. [Ryland B. Taylor -DNR-](#)