

**Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Adaptation & Response Working Group**

Date/ Time: Thursday, June 2, 2016; 1–3 PM
Location: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Annapolis, Maryland

Draft Meeting Minutes

- I. **Economy and Investment Decisions Forum:** For 2016, the ARWG identified four enhancement opportunities to explore during their quarterly forums. The forums are designed to allow the ARWG partners to share capabilities, identify collaboration opportunities around a common purpose and identify gaps that may limit increased adaptation and resilience work.

For the second of these, the ARWG focused on the impacts climate change could have on the State's economy, revenues, and investment decisions. The ARWG heard about the State Highway Administration's vulnerability analysis of transportation infrastructure; Coast Smart siting and design guidelines for State investments and the ongoing Sagamore Development project as an example of climate change adaptation integrated into development.

- a. SHA Vulnerability Presentation, Elizabeth Habic (SHA)

State Highway Administration completed a 2014 Vulnerability Assessment Pilot study. The study focused on roads that were at risk from flooding in coastal areas and used extensive GIS mapping to analyze and illustrate this. While the study focused on roads, the data could be expanded to encompass other vulnerable infrastructure. This work was conducted with the assistance of a grant from Federal Highways Administration. It is anticipated that coastal county assessments will be complete by 2017.

- b. Sagamore Development/Biohabitats, Chris Streb (Biohabitats) and Tommy Maulding (Sagamore Development LLC)

The project developers laid out ways they will integrate green design into the master plan of the Port Covington Development in South Baltimore. This will include living shorelines, green streets, and mixed use trails to promote human health. Individual ARWG members were interested in following up with the project team to discuss health impact assessments and equity issues.

- c. Coast Smart Council (Joe Abe, DNR)

Following the May Coast Smart Council meeting, feedback was sought from the ARWG as to whether to expand the scope of the design criteria to include riverine

flooding as well as tidal flooding. MDE noted that the Wetlands and Waterways Program at MDE could be used to help address nontidal Coast Smart guidelines through existing programs and regulations and that this would allow the Coast Smart Council to maintain its existing construct and approach since it would be pursued under other existing authorities.

II. Responding to the Maryland Climate Change Commission

a. ARWG Work Plan Review

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change met on April 18th and approved the direction of the working group work plans in draft or final form. An overview of the workplan was given including responsibilities, solutions and targets, meeting schedule, and upcoming initiatives. The upcoming initiatives included Maryland Resiliency Program, Cultural Resources Hazard Mitigation Planning Program, Transportation Vulnerability Assessment, Community Resiliency Grants Program, Maryland State Hazard Mitigation Plan, among others. At the next ARWG meeting, it was noted that there would be a need to identify 2-year or other short-term milestones for the work plan.

b. Maryland Climate Change Commission Reporting

Two reporting requirements are needed related – individual state agency reports to meet GGRA legislation requirements and a work group report. For the state agency reports, MDE will be corresponding with agency leads to identify required information and templates.

For the ARWG report, the work group is expected to provide an annual report to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. The group discussed that the report should include an update on the State's efforts to prepare for and adapt to the consequences of climate change as well as recommendations for initiatives, strategies and potential legislation to accelerate progress.

The draft schedule for this work group reporting is as follows:

June-August

- DNR Staff Outline Format and Table of Content/Sections
- Workgroup Members provide content for sections.

September

- Complete first draft in preparation for the MCCC meeting
- Discuss ARWG Recommendations and Report at 3rd Quarter Meeting

October

- Complete second draft
- Finalize ARWG Report and Recommendations for MCCC Report

November

- 9th – MCCC final vote on report at full meeting

- 15th – final report due

c. Town Creek/UMCES Funding Opportunity:

The ARWG discussed options for proposals in response to the RFP for \$100,000 available through Town Creek to support the Maryland Climate Change Commission Work Groups. Ideas were generated that included a capacity assessment for local governments, mapping of sea level rise and flooding updates, economic analysis of adaptation, and healthy soils. Staff stated that they would work with interested ARWG members to generate short descriptions and vet and develop the ideas.

III. Meeting Adjourned