

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

Date/ Time: Thursday, September 15; 10:00AM-12:00 PM
Location: Eastern Shore Conservation Center
Easton, Maryland

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Low Income and Vulnerable Communities 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.

The 3rd quarter focus area for the ARWG was to look at the challenges facing low income and vulnerable communities. The ARWG heard about Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) Coastal Resiliency Assessment; Maryland Historical Trust's efforts to protect historic communities; DNR and University of Maryland's efforts to increase resiliency on Deal Island; and the Georgetown Climate Center's presentation on methods for assessing adaptation progress.

- a. Natural Solutions for More Resilient Communities , Nicole Carlozo (DNR)

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy released a state Coastal Resiliency Assessment in June 2016

(<http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/coastalatlus/Pages/CoastalResiliencyAssessment.aspx>)

The Assessment identifies high hazard shorelines and priority areas where conservation and restoration can best reduce risk for coastal communities.

The Workgroup discussed possible uses for the assessment including project prioritization, ECO working group outreach, land acquisition planning and connections with public health efforts. It was also suggested that the data could be used to look at protected value and connect coastal and riverine systems. It was noted that the data does not include riverine flooding. Project partners will look to expand this coverage.

- b. Vulnerable Communities: Historic Structures and Communities , Nell Ziehl, (Maryland Historical Trust), Lisa Craig (City of Annapolis), Jen Sparenberg (Maryland Historical Trust)

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the City of Annapolis have been working together on efforts to protect historic communities from flooding and sea-level rise. Annapolis is the first in the country to apply FEMA's 2005 guidance for

cultural resources and hazard mitigation to planning for sea-level rise. Building on the Annapolis model and with funding from the National Park Service, MHT is providing grants and technical assistance to improve the resilience of historic communities statewide.

MHT has capitalized on multiple funding streams for building the Annapolis model including NPS, FEMA, and others. They are actively working with businesses to better develop the historic protection planning. This has included several charrettes and teaching property owners' tools for protection. Once completed MHT is looking to share the results nationally. They are carrying out several assessments across the state and will be holding a conference in November 2017.

c. Vulnerable Community – Deal Island, Sasha Land (DNR)

MD DNR (CCS), the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve-MD, and The University of Maryland have partnered with the Deal Island Peninsula communities, governmental and non-governmental organizations at local, state, and regional levels, managers, and scientists to address options for increasing resilience of the Peninsula in the face of coastal flooding, erosion, and other change. The Deal Island Peninsula is located in Somerset County, and is 26 miles of low-lying land dominated by marsh and tidal waterways interspersed with rural unincorporated communities.

In giving the overview of Deal Island, it was explained that high points of the island were built on old dunal structures and that the community is economically vulnerable. There is a large religious community and outreach has been taking place through that forum. The assessments of vulnerability are being looked at first through 2050. The group is working on developing a list of BMPs that can be used to decrease vulnerability.

d. Measuring Adaptation, Jessica Grannis (Georgetown Climate Center)

The Georgetown Climate Center (GCC) has been working on a Town Creek Foundation effort to provide examples from around the country on methods for advancing or assessing adaptation progress. They offered a summary of recommendations for additional work and examples from other jurisdictions that could benefit ARWG work. GCC is working on a statewide guidance document which was shared in late September, 2016.

II. Working Group Updates & Logistics

a. Logistics Comments

1. Senator Rosapepe mentioned that snow and rain storms should be taken into account as impacts of climate change. ARWG will continue to make sure that impacts other than sea level rise are within the focus of adaptation.
2. There was also a call to make sure the ARWG is properly identifying and defining different vulnerable groups such as elderly risks for heat stroke.

3. MACO has been involved in the Maryland Climate Change Commission but not yet on the ARWG. It was suggested that we reach out to them.
4. It was briefly discussed that the ARWG was responsible for delivering a work group report to the Governor and General Assembly in November 2016. ARWG members were asked for updates for this report and a draft was distributed in October 2016 and recommendations were reviewed at the October MCCC meeting.

III. Meeting Adjourned