

Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Adaptation and Response Working Group
December 11, 2017 – 2:00pm - 4:00pm –DNR
Draft Meeting Notes (12/11/17)

Attendance: Matt Fleming, Catherine McCall, Kimberly Hernandez, Joe Abe, Sasha Land, Megan Granato DNR; Elizabeth Habic MDOT/SHA; Bill Jorch MML; Susan Payne MDA; Jason Dubow, Debbie Herr Cornwell MDP; Allison Gost MDH; Sandy Hertz MDOT-TSO; Gary Setzer, Matt Rowe, Kevin Wagner MDE; Brian Ambrette ESLC; Jill Lemke MDOT Port Administration; Paola Ariza MDOT MTA; Nell Ziehl MHT; Kate Charbonneau CAC; Clifford Mitchell MDH; Fiona Burns DBM

2:15 PM Meeting Began

Agenda Item #1: Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Agenda

- Approval of 9/11/17 minutes
- Round of introductions

Agenda Item #2: 2017 MCCC Report Summary & 2018 Schedule

- MDE (Jess Herpel) provided highlights of the 2017 MCCC report.
- Recommendations related to adaptation:
 - MDE to identify the capacity of water infrastructure facilities and assess ways to increase resiliency and effectiveness
 - Workforce discussions at MDE/MWG may include how future climate impacts worker productivity and construction seasons
 - MDE, CEJSC and DNR to clarify definitions of vulnerable populations that would most benefit from coastal resiliency projects and other climate adaptation work, and identify data or tools to meet these needs
 - Consider the implication of Federal actions on State activities and goals
 - DNR and MDP to convene meetings that solicit local and regional climate adaptation priorities and support local adaptation efforts by offering scientific, technical, logistical and planning resources
- Recommendations regarding ARWG collaboration with other work groups:
 - Collaborate regarding the Healthy Soils Program, including adaptation benefits
 - Consult with ECO regarding best practices in messaging around climate change outreach and public meetings
 - Include climate and Commission events in the calendar maintained by MDH
- Workgroup meetings in December to discuss 2018 work plans. ECO working to discuss report dissemination.
- Schedule of 2018 meetings coming via email soon.

Agenda Item #3: Local Capacity Analysis

- MDP staff (Debbie Herr Cornwell) provided an overview of their 2017 work on a local capacity analysis for climate adaptation planning. Reviewed plans for 23 counties and municipalities.
- 14 county comprehensive plans and 2 other adaptation plans mention climate change. See meeting materials for specific data.
- Next steps could include review of hazard mitigation plans in collaboration with MEMA. Could evaluate the strength of existing policies (by more thorough review). Could evaluate what resources are impacted.
- Questions/Comments:
 - May be a lack of data - SHA has been asked for where to find data. SHA storm-related sea level rise data will be out early January and will be made available to everyone via MD iMAP.
 - Would looking through hazard mitigation plans be useful? To what end? Would time be better spent developing guidance on how comprehensive plans could be used as a tool, rather than a check box.

- Recommendation to look more closely at Calvert County because comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans updates aligned and being updated now.
- Question of which planning tool is more powerful - depends, but hazard mitigation is more of a stick because it is tied to federal FEMA funding.
- In the analysis was there a model plan that we could point to as a model? Comp plans not specifically mentioning comp plans - "hazards" (including climate change) are not a specific chapter that the counties must legally address.

Agenda Item #4: Regional Adaptations Meetings

- One of the primary recommendations for the ARWG's 2018 direction is hosting regional meetings in local communities to understand local and regional climate adaptation priorities and support local partners in their own adaptation efforts. The goal is for these meetings to offer scientific, technical, logistical and planning resources that provide regionally-relevant climate change adaptation planning assistance. The ARWG is proposing the use of regional adaptation meetings to:
 1. understand and share priorities and assistance opportunities
 2. support local partners in their own adaptation efforts
 3. ensure data consistency across boundaries
 4. identify future opportunities to incentivize local action
- DNR, MDP, and ESLC staff led three small-group discussions to frame and guide the development of the meetings. The discussions lasted about one hour, and included the following highlights:
 - All three breakout groups identified a need to better communicate to local governments what tools and data are available, and to build capacity within local governments to use those, and other (e.g. grants) available resources. The Maryland Resiliency Partnership was one suggested location to collate and distribute those resources.
 - There were recommendations to use the meetings as a opportunity to not only identify barriers to adaptation, but to also identify and share success stories of local adaptation efforts.
 - There was a general appetite for at least 5-6 regional meetings, with two groups suggesting the MEMA regions. Staff capacity will be needed to coordinate and lead the meetings. Staffing commitments to date include: Catherine McCall, Kim Hernandez, Sasha Land DNR; Brian Ambrette ESLC; Jason Dubow, Debbie Herr Cornwell MDP; Nell Ziehl MHT; Elizabeth Habic MDOT/SHA. If others are interested, please contact catherine.mccall@maryland.gov
 - There were several suggestions to send out a survey/questionnaire ahead of time to target which issues are most important to a given region. MML staff offered to send the survey via the MML network. A recommendation was made to also send through MACo and state networks.

Adjourned 4:00 PM