

**Adaptation & Resiliency Working Group Quarterly Meeting**

November 16, 2020 | 2:00p - 4:00p

**Virtual Meeting Only**

**Chair:** Secretary of Natural Resources, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio

**Coordinator:** Allison Breitenother, [allison.breitenother@maryland.gov](mailto:allison.breitenother@maryland.gov)

**Attendees:**

*Members\*\*:* Secretary Haddaway-Riccio (DNR), Allison Breitenother (DNR), Jim Bass (ESLC), Matt Rowe (MDE), Megan Granato (DNR), Kyle Overly (MEMA), Jason Dubow (MDP), Susan Payne (MDA), Sandy Hertz (MDOT), Catherine McCall (DNR), Wade Haerle (MD Commerce), Gregory Derwart (MD-Insurance), Kate Charbonneau (CAC), Kevin Wagner (MDE), Nell Ziehl (MDP), Spyros Papadims (DGS), Sasha Land (DNR), Matt Fleming (DNR), Jalessa Tate (MEMA), Jalessa Tate (MEMA), Nick Adams (MDH/UMD), Dave Guignet (MDE), Dave Nemazie (UMCES), Deborah Herr-Cornwell (MDP), Jill Lemke (MDOT), Thomas Walz (DHCD),

*Interested Parties:* Abdulrahman Mohammed (MDE), Alexandra Dewesse, Beth Growth, Carrie Cook (MDE), Carrie Kennedy (DNR), Chloe Obara, Chris Beck (MDE), Cindy Osorto (MDE), Dan Nees, Elliott Campbell (DNR), Hannah Brubach (CLA), Hans Schmidt, (MDA) Jason Keppler (MDA), Secretary Haddaway-Riccio (DNR), Jenn Raulin (DNR), Jesse Iliff, Jim George (MDE), Josh Foster (MDOT), Joy Hatchette (MD Insurance), Karen Metchis, Kate McClure (MD Sea Grant), Katie Spidalieri, Kayhla Cornell (MEMA), Kimberlee Drake (MDE), Kristen Forti (MEMA), Laura Brush, Lisa Wainger, Mike Shefffer (MDOT), Treasurer Kopp, , Susan Casey (MDE), Sylvia Tognetti, Tim Lavallo (MD Commerce), Jackie Specht (TNC), Landon Fahrig (MEA), Siena F, Peter Goodwin (UMCES), Erick Thunell (MDE), Steve, Kate Vogel (DNR), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Charmaine Brown (Charles County; MCCC Co-chair); Mark Beck (USM); Beth Groth (Charles County)

\*\*includes appointed members, their proxies, state agency leads, and technical advisors.

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome, Introductions & Review of Agenda** **2:00 - 2:10**  
*Secretary Haddaway-Riccio*, will open the meeting, ask for introductions and seek approval of May 11, 2020 meeting notes.

Materials: ~~May 11~~ August 5 Meeting Notes attached to email.

Unanimous motion to approve meeting notes.

- II. HB539 Local Government Resiliency Authority** **2:10 - 2:30**

**Presentation:** In 2020, HB539 established into law Local Government - Resilience Authorities. As local governments bear much of the responsibility and cost required to mitigate the impacts of climate change through infrastructure investment, the ARWG will discuss how resilience financing authorities can work in partnership with local governments to accelerate infrastructure financing, reduce the cost of implementation, and mitigate and manage the risks of climate change.

- Dan Nees provided a summary of the [legislation](#), SB457. It is a non revenue bill focused on work in local level coastal communities. Provides increased flexibility and opportunity to local governments to leverage funding, plan for the unknown, determine where best to send funding. Many times general funds are not sufficient to cover needs of resiliency, this allows for off balance financing. Anticipated that between now and 2050/2060 - climate impacts will increase cost of installing and maintaining infrastructure by up to 50%. Supporting pilot work in two communities (UMD Center for Global Sustainability), Arundel County - City of Annapolis and Charles County. Annapolis is looking to introduce legislation to establish a resilience authority. Charles County is working on flooding and drainage. Not anticipating every county to establish a resilience authority, focus on supporting the communities with the highest need. Not a replacement for state participation or leadership, but another avenue of support.
- Question: Jason Dubow (MDP) asked where the money to support these initiatives would come from. Dan Nees responded, that in some ways it is the opposite of how we manage stormwater management fees. Future approach is if you are benefiting the most from infrastructure, you are paying for the most, which provides the biggest opportunity to raise money for these communities. Areas can get tax deferments if not using the funds. They will move the taxes if necessary if there is a real infrastructure issue. This gives local governments the ability to determine where the money should come from, this legislation isn't telling governments what to do, but providing an option for how to do it.
- Question: Jim George (MDE) asked a question regarding public meeting assets and if it is an important aspect to public/private partnerships? Why couldn't local governments do this before? Are there concerns about spreading bond ratings? what's the magic to this thing. Dan Nees responded, this is another tool for local governments to have - bond ratings are relevant to the implementation of this. Bond ratings require them to stay below a debt ratio so they may not be able to have their general funds spent. This bill allows governments to leverage the funding opportunities. Many local governments almost privatize parking to help raise money. This is critical for hard infrastructure projects (or intense environmental structures). Who owns and operates these assets will be essential and critical.
- Question: Jim George (MDE) asked about resiliency authorities role in potentially subsidizing flood insurance in high risk areas (just outside floodplain) - can an entity like this be set up to supercharge private purchase of flood insurance which could help offset costs to the government Dan Nees responded, that nothing in the bill prevents that. May encourage building in places you don't want it to. Insurance systems could be a huge asset to this - through subsidizing insurance. Huge revenue streams on both sides of the insurance operations. Key push to this was for natural infrastructure. Stormwater - water quality side to be financed, moving to how to get the resilience side of storm water financed.



- Question: Treasurer Kopp asked, is this not like BEDCO (economic development corporation) or the other local set-ups? Dan Nees responded, absolutely, this is very similar. If given the opportunity for communities to use those systems they should and if they don't, this provides them another option. Ultimately this is an economic issue - how to govern, relationship with ED corp with local government, etc.
- Question: Kevin Wagner (MDE) asked could existing stormwater utilities be expanded to address community resiliency? Dan Nees responded, yes as long as you had another source of revenue. SW fees only be used for what it's collected for (federal restrictions on that). If it's collected for a water quality permit, you can't use those monies for non water quality.
- Meeting chat box: Karen Metchis shared that stormwater management needs to merge with flood management including local 'nuisance' flooding. The key is state codes and regulations. Secretary Haddaway-Riccio (DNR) provided an alternative view of the flood insurance discussion related to the Community Rating System [program from Talbot County](#). Kevin Wagner (MDE) indicated that Maryland has 15 communities that participate in the NFIP's Community Rating System with Oxford being the most recent addition.
- Final comment that at the start of the new year, project details will be shared with the public.

### III. 2020 Priority Activities

2:30 - 3:30

#### A. Saltwater Intrusion Plan Recommendations

25 minutes

*Jason Dubow (MDP) will present an update on the Coastal Easement effort and Wetland Adaptation Plan, two deliverables of the Maryland Saltwater Intrusion Plan*

- Slides will be posted alongside the meeting minutes on the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's page for the [Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group](#).
- Jason Dubow (MDP) provided a summary update on the coastal resilience easement effort on behalf of Christine Conn (DNR). Effort is aimed at ensuring wetland that is established and allowed to move is the best wetland possible. Working to develop and establish government and academic discussions to inform management recommendations that leverage the most recent scientific evidence. Efforts will include at the 10 year mark, evaluating how the wetlands are doing (compared to the original buffer and decisions made in order to make management adjustments.
  - Question: Treasurer Kopp asked, looking at other easement programs, what is the anticipated reception among property owners for an indefinite ask in terms of their proprietary interest in the property, looking at management plan in 10 years, if things haven't turned out as anticipated, will owners be receptive to a change in management in 10 years. Is this need to change in 10 years an impediment. Secretary Haddaway-Riccio responded sharing that they are spending time thinking about this - with more traditional agriculture programs there is a more steady revenue stream - easements are 1 time payment, how this influences agreements.
  - Question: Susan Payne (MDA) asked with the one time payment and long term wetland change, are they limited from opening their lands to hunting lands /



rights? There is current limitation to just being used for invasive or endangered species management?

- Jason Dubow (MDP) will relay questions to Christine Conn for additional clarification and response.
- Jason Dubow (MDP) provided an update on the 2019 recommendation to develop the first phase of a statewide wetland adaptation plan which includes marsh migration. Will be looking to ARWG to provide feedback and guidance on plan development. One goal is to revise and prioritize wetlands based on new modeling, data, and analysis. Looking to use Blackwater 2100 plan criteria or the Maryland ESSLR project findings, GreenPrint, US Climate Alliance blue carbon grant, and others. Acknowledged need to identify human community needs to inform decisions and incorporate equity. Looking to implement adaptive measures to protect existing priority wetlands and priority wetland adaptation areas.
  - Question: Hannah Brubach (CLA) asked if this plan is for tidal and non-tidal wetlands? Jason Dubow provided an answer that currently it's just coastal wetlands and though there is no formal plan to expand into tidal, they are not ruling it out.

#### B. Adaptation Framework

35 minutes

*Adaptation Framework team members from the University of Virginia and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will provide ARWG members with an update on the progress thus far.*

- Allison Breitenother (DNR) provided an overview of the timeline for the initiative. Highlighting the framework specific review of draft worksheets (December 2020 - January 2021), followed by edit integration and an external review period (February 2021 - March 2021), culminating in a draft framework finalized in mid to late May 2021.
- Catherin McCall (DNR) summarized the worksheet and resource toolkit, two key pieces that have provided the background, information and structure that the sectors and focus groups have followed since the project's inception.
- UVA team joined the meeting and described the overall scope, approach and progress to date. Describing the worksheets in more depth, highlighting the specifics of the collaborative products and how they help the sectors to walk through this process. From outreach and member identification, to goal and strategy draft language and prioritization. Worksheets provide a guide but are adaptable and allow flexible utilization based on the sector's input. DNR and UVA agreed to include consensus training in the process to ensure that all voices are being heard and groups move forward in collective agreement. The consensus training is recorded and can be accessed by emailing Allison Breitenother, [allison.breitenother@maryland.gov](mailto:allison.breitenother@maryland.gov) for access.
- Question from attendee: How does this relate to the UMCES Indicator project? Allison Breitenother provided a response that the lead team of both are in communication and specific areas of intersect have been identified and followed as it progresses. This includes stakeholder engagement and feedback as well as specific priority identification and program development.

## IV. 2021 Recommendations & MCCC Update

3:30 - 3:40

### A. 2021 ARWG Recommendations





*Allison Breitenother (DNR) will provide members with an overview of the final ARWG recommendations for 2021.*

- Allison Breitenother (DNR) read through the 2020 recommendations from the 2020 MCCC Annual Report, [found online here](#). No comments or questions.

## B. MCCC Update

*ARWG members will hear a summary of the November 9 Commission meeting including an update on the Commission's approach of integrating*

- Chris Beck (MDE), Division Chief of MDE's Climate Office shared updates on MCCC activities, recent meetings and the partnership with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC). The Commission is working closely with and aligning efforts of the CEJSC. Devon Dodson (MDE) and Camille Burke (Baltimore City) are leading the CEJSC now. For this years recommendations, the Commission reached consensus on very strong recommendations that are progressive and forward thinking. The teeth of the report are in the recommendations. A recommendation to highlight, 50% emissions reduction goal by 2030 came out of MWG work. Net zero by 2045 - same economic provision to support a health economy. Goals in alignment with IPCC, first time goals are online with a trajectory recommended by best scientists in the business. Provided a section for the state to set a more ambitious emissions reduction goal. There was a subgroup on building emissions, very progressive which was led by Mark Stewart (UMD Office of Sustainability) recommendations from the final report came from this building area. Some other areas of focus include impact of climate change on coastal buildings, increased sequestration agriculture soils, short and long term climate resiliency and mitigation. Cindy Osorto - works closely with Devon Dodson. Report recommends new goals focusing on ensuring equity and environmental justice are incorporated. Came out of multidisciplinary collaboration. The Commission is working to incorporate more diverse voices in the group so we can speak more intelligently. Secretary Grumbles with the Commission support appointed a third co-chair to MCCC - Charmaine Brown.
  - Charmaine Brown added that they are mindful of the existing work and looking to help further the great work already being done and supporting equity in the forefront.
  - Cindy Osorto (MDE) helps to staff the CEJSC and is happy to take any questions that may arise, [cindy.osorto1@maryland.gov](mailto:cindy.osorto1@maryland.gov) She also added that ARWG is ahead of the curve on adaptation efforts that include equity and appreciates the work of the group. Also directed attendees and members to the Chesapeake Bay Programs recently [released a statement](#) in support of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice within the region's partners.
- Chat box: Nell Ziehl (MDP-Historical) indicated that this will dovetail nicely with the Adaptation Framework's DEIJ work and provide another way to reinforce all recommendations.

## C. Other Commission and Workgroup Updates

*Open floor for MCCC and other workgroup updates.*

- Matt Fleming (DNR) shared a Maryland Climate Leadership Academy update, that with COVID-19, the academy has had to pivot. Is working to develop online short courses



with MDOT, MDA, MDH. Offered to membership if there is a climate or adaptation/resiliency training that is a need at your agency or sector, to reach out.

**V. Public Comment, Updates, & Next Steps**

**3:40 - 4:00p**

- Dave Guignet (MDE) shared about the Maryland Flood Resiliency Week 2021, that they are turning it into a month and that the Maryland Resiliency Partnership Group is leading the charge, working with agencies and anyone else to get flood related topics out. Open to any and all topics and groups. Looking to get information to the public and are breaking up the weeks - riverine, climate, planning, etc.
- Beth Groth shared information about an upcoming Charles County Board of Directors meeting where Charles County Administrator Mark Belton will be presenting on the resilience authority concept to our Board of County Commissioners. The meeting information is found [here](#).

**Next ARWG Meeting:**

Monday February 22, 2021 - 2p - 4p.

