

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Adaptation and Response Work Group

March 6, 2017 - 2:00pm - 4:00pm – DNR

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Secretary Belton (DNR), Brian Ambrette (MDE), David Costello, Dave Guignet (MDE), Fiona Burns (DBM), Gary Setzer (MDE), Jill Lemke, Sandy Hertz (MDOT), Megan Granato (DNR), Donald Boesch (UMCES), Kevin Wagner, Kelly Collins (DNR), Katherine Charbonneau (DNR), Alex Deweese, Emily Vainieri, Dan Nees (EFC), Brandy Espinola, Scott Zacharko (MDE), Annie Bennett, Matt Fleming (DNR), Phillip Stafford (DNR), Christopher Beck (MDE), Joe Abe (DNR), Jason Dubow (MDP)

Phone: Kate Johnson (DC)

2:00pm Meeting Begins

Agenda Item #1 Brief Introductions

- Secretary Belton called the meeting to order and introductions were given around the room
- Meeting notes from November 4th, 2016 were accepted.

Agenda Item #2 District of Columbia Resiliency Plan

- Kate Johnson from the District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment presented on DC's Climate Ready DC Plan.
 - Presentation looked at future impacts of climate change including extreme heat days and flooding.
 - Plan looks to rank and prioritize facilities in terms of risk and importance.
 - The plan took into account multiple climate projections to account for model variance due to factors such as impact of mitigations policies.
- Discussion of the challenges of putting together and carrying out the plan.
 - Because there wasn't new budget with plan DC is looking for places where there is overlap with regularly planned actions. This includes seeing where there are planned updates to development zoning plans as well as overlap also with homeland security.
 - They worked on getting multiple levels of government in the room. This included tapping into the Federal level on the emergency management side as well as working with Department of Defense facilities.

Agenda Item #3 Local Stress Test

- Dan Nees from the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) presented a proposal on formulating a local stress test that can be administered to local communities to see where there are gaps in ability to adapt and respond to the effects of climate change.
- Program would be aimed at both counties and municipalities that are either economically or geographically vulnerable to climate change.
- Program would be an in depth 4-6 month process administered by EFC to look at bringing planning and financing together. Would look at how green infrastructure can protect grey infrastructure.
- Brian Ambrette inquired if there were mechanisms to scale process as it would take a long time for EFC to go through all communities. EFC felt the deep analysis was necessary; however, down the line local resources such as UMD school of Architecture and school of Finance as well as Center for Disaster Resilience could be utilized to increase scope.

Agenda Item #4 Local Comprehensive Plan Adaptation Research Approach

- Jason Dubow presented an overview of Maryland Department of Planning's (MDP) strategy and development of the Local Comprehensive Plan Adaptation Research Approach (LCPARA). The program will look at local government comprehensive plans. This will include looking at where communities are planning to build and if they are incorporating risks into plans. The analysis will look at critical area and inland.
- Discussion included the need to assess communities' ability to implement adaptation as well as what tools we can provide and what incentives are out there that can be provided. It was also asked if there were any communications or outreach strategies. MDP responded that this wasn't in original scope but they could look at options.
- MDP will be creating a steering committee of key representatives.

Agenda Item #5 Working Group Logistics

- Secretary Belton led a discussion of the next steps for ARWG. There will be a follow up where we seek out to plan for action items. The group will look to aim for a two year thinking process where we look at both current year and what we will address in year to come.
- There was also discussion of the Building Resilience through Restoration program which funded engineering for 6 projects totaling \$500k. These included 2 projects in Anne Arundel County, St. Catherine's Island, Deal Island, Dorchester County, Prince George's County.