

Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Adaptation and Response Working Group
March 12, 2018 – 2:00pm - 4:00pm –DNR
Draft Meeting Notes (3/12/18)

Attendance: Matt Fleming, Catherine McCall, Joe Abe, Sasha Land, Megan Granato, Nicole Carlozo, Gregg Bortz DNR; State Treasurer Nancy Kopp; Susan Payne MDA; Debbie Herr Cornwell MDP; Zoe Johnson NOAA CBP Office; Gary Setzer, Dave Guignet, Jim George MDE; Brian Ambrette ESLC; Charles Glass MDOT; Jill Lemke MDOT Port Administration; Nell Ziehl MHT; Kate Charbonneau, Alex DeWesse CAC; Fiona Burns DBM; Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman MEMA; Jette Findsen Abt Associates; Astrid Caldas Union of Concerned Scientists;
[by phone: David Costello IEER; Hannah Brubach, Lisa Nissley MDE]

2:20 PM Meeting Began

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

- Round of introductions
- Announcement: ARWG sponsored event: Healthy Soils Farm Visit and Roundtable Discussion on March 27, 2018. As a follow up to 2017 conversations about carbon farming between the ARWG and MWG, participants will have the opportunity to visit Mason's Heritage Farm and the Mason Branch Farm to learn about soil assessment techniques and practices used in conventional and organic operations. This will be followed up by a roundtable discussion. Register by March 19 by contacting Susan Payne (susan.payne@maryland.gov). Sponsored by the ARWG and MDA, DNR, UMD Extension, Alice Ferguson Foundation; Future Harvest; Town Creek Foundation.
- Announcement: State of the Coast - May 21-23 in Cambridge. Addressing Healthy Ecosystems, Resilient Communities & Vibrant Economies. By invitation on the first day, there will be an ACCO climate training program. <https://mdstateofthecoast.org/>
- Approval of 12/11/17 minutes - (Brian Ambrette ESLC; Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman MEMA)

Agenda Item #2: 2018 ARWG Regional Meetings & 2018 Schedule

- Catherine McCall, on behalf of an ARWG planning committee discussing regional meetings, provided an overview of the December 2017 regional meeting discussion and described follow up work that a planning committee had in February to narrow down the target audience, meeting content, scheduled 2018 surveys and meetings that address local-oriented issues and geographic areas. Two options for ways to proceed on regional meetings were presented. Option A would cover various issues and regions in 5 meetings and solicit feedback through existing efforts. Option B would capitalize on the same surveys to garner feedback and use MML and MACo meetings to host 3 initial conversations. Discussion items included:
 - Option A appears to have a geography gap for urban areas such as Washington, D.C. and Baltimore City
 - Questions and general support of the primary goals and outcomes - Climate 101, model documents, solicit feedback
 - A recommendation was made to do both Option A and B
 - Delivery of technical assistance, alignment of the resources to local needs
 - Option B could be used as leader to informing Option A in out years
 - Website/model resources could be made available in the long-term. Possible connection with ECO and the new MCCC website
 - Consensus that the ARWG should not forgo the opportunity to include climate change questions in the other meetings or surveys for 2018 when proceeding with Option B initially

Agenda Item #3: The Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Climate Change & the Phase III WIPs

- Zoe Johnson provided an overview of the TMDL and current discussions and projected nutrient load changes anticipated due to climate change. Climate resiliency was added to the TMDL discussions in

2014 with a monitoring and assessment outcome and an adaptation outcome that will address - above and beyond the water quality/nutrient and habitat goals of the TMDL - how climate change will alter watershed goals. The Bay Program used STAC recommended climate projections for 2025 that had a high level of confidence and that were based on observed climatic and resultant river flow conditions. Each state is assigned a pollution reduction target. Changes in nutrient loads due to climate change for Maryland would cause a 4.8% increase in nitrogen and 3.2% increase in phosphorus. On March 9, 2018 the Bay Program STAC issued a report on "Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design"

STAC activities: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=280 and

Report: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/392_Johnson2018.pdf

- Jim George provided an overview of timelines for the TMDL and WIP and pollution sources. On a sector-by-sector basis (e.g. wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, urban stormwater, agriculture, trees/forestland, atmospheric sources) the existing BMPs were described, along with the connections where climate and resilient practices could be implemented or create co-benefit opportunities. The strategy for including climate in Maryland's Phase III WIP was presented and included ways to include stakeholder engagement, programmatic actions, improvement of science in partnership with the Bay Program, and incorporation of climate in the 2-year milestones accountability framework.
- Matt Fleming posed questions about how the WIP process and the ARWG could work collaboratively to identify: options to address climate in the WIP, guidance and recommendations on planning/siting/design of BMPs, and identification of practices that readily provide climate co-benefits. In coming months, this issue will be included in future ARWG conversations. A small group will be organized of ARWG members and others to discuss this work (Elizabeth Habic or Sandy Hertz MDOT;). Discussion included (1) co-benefit opportunities of stormwater ponds, agriculture and other issues, (2) investing monies in a way that extends benefits, (3) interest in continuing the conversation and discussing specific BMPs.

Agenda Item #4: ARWG Work Plan, Old & New Business

- Work Plan updates for 2018. The group discussed the general updates for the 2017-2018 work plan, including the annual quarterly meeting schedule and potential topics. General support for the updates in the work plan that highlight 2017 milestones and plans for 2018. Topics of interest for 2018 discussion included adaptation indicators, TMDL, Climate & Health updates with MDH and the American Academy of Pediatrics, insurance industry and economic impacts, MARISA project with precipitation downscaling.

Adjourned 4:03 PM