

Science and Technical Working Group Meeting

Minutes of the April 12, 2019 Meeting

UMCES Annapolis Office 1-3pm

In attendance:

Peter Goodwin, Amir Sapkota, Gerrit Knaap, Russ Dickerson, Belay Demoz, Jane Kirschling, Don Boesch, Eric Davidson

Nancy Kopp, Charles Glass, Jess Herpel, Lori Arguelles, Joe Lutz, D. Melaz, Jason Keppler, Tom Walz

Minutes

Meeting Objective: Review the workplan and submit comments/modifications to Brian Hugg and MDE staff to ensure the STWG activities are supporting the MCCC.

STWG Work Plan

Modeling: Many of the models used by other working groups (WGs) use historic data (such as temperature and humidity) - could the workplan look at projections of future conditions. For example, the AR WG are looking at energy usage for HVAC under increasing temperatures. Potential sources of these projections (such as Matt Fitzpatrick at UMCES) were discussed.

Human Health: potential vulnerability maps were discussed and an overview of what is missing to better understand the human health issues.

Action: Amir will distribute documents he has available. This discussion will be continued at the next STWG meeting.

Review of the GGRP: this will be a significant task for the STWG and could require refinements of the workplan. The release date is still uncertain. There will be many inter-connected elements of the plan, and several members emphasized the importance of taking a holistic view of the plan during the review.

It was asked whether it would be part of the responsibility of STWG to review the financing and cost-effectiveness of the GGRP.

Action: MDE to give guidance and is this aspect covered by reviews and comments by others.

Communication the risk and probability of Sea Level Rise (SLR) and associated storm damage. This links with ECO WG and ARWG activities. UMCES has just completed the updated sea level rise projections and through the Coast Smart Council and DNR we are working to develop the mapping strategy - so a single set of maps and projections can be provided to residents and local governments.

Action: STWG, ECO and ARWG to see what is developed through Coast Smart and seek DNR guidance on how the WGs can support the effort.

WIP and Climate Change: DNR reported that water quantity and quality will be affected by climate change with potential impacts to BMPs. This is being considered in the Phase 3 WIP. STWG will track progress.

Sea Level Intrusion: Maryland Department of Planning are developing a plan for adapting to salinity intrusion under SLR. This preliminary plan is being developed under a very short time-line and STWG will be asked to review.

Blue carbon and tidal wetland restoration as a technique for carbon sequestration is generating significant interest. Maryland/Virginia SeaGrant and Maryland DMMP have both recently held workshops. Workshop reports will be distributed to STWG when available to inform the 2019 task of quantifying the potential carbon reductions.

4.2 Workplan. Ensure methane and black carbon is adequately represented.

5.2 Workplan. Ensure these models can take a multi-decadal perspective to inform communities about alternative future scenarios.

5.4 Workplan. This generated considerable discussion on how to calculate and communicate uncertainty. Workplan will be adjusted.

The importance of evaluating the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of BMPs was discussed and attention will be included in reviews and work products in 2019.

Liaison with Other MCCC Work Groups

STWG agreed to attend other Work Groups meetings if requested to bring their specific expertise. The meeting schedule for other Work Groups are provided in this STWG meeting materials.

Treasurer Kopp commented that this would help the discussions in other Working Groups and shorten the response time. To date, no request has been received from the Chairs of other Working Groups.

Adaptation and Response

STWG may want to offer assistance on the development of Adaptation metrics

Mitigation

STWG to review GGRP and respond to questions raised by the Work Group if requested and if feasible.

Education, Communication and Outreach

Suggestion was made to liaise with the Maryland Climate Academy. STWG could assist ECO in ensuring this great program is current and focused on Maryland examples.

The revenue impact of climate change is going to be a key faculty - and ECO may ask for support from STWG on the economics.

Compass is working on reviewing emerging carbon capture technologies and methods. Before STWG work on this, STWG could invite a talk from the Compass team, either to STWG or MCCC.

Other Comments:

During the last legislative session, the chair of the STWG and Mitigation Working Group were asked to be part of an informational panel for the Senate. There were several constructive comments (for example: Senator Clarence Lam on the human health impacts of climate change to Maryland residents). STWG experts on human health impacts will arrange to check in with Senator Lam to see if any additional information should be researched by STWG for MDE in the next few months.

STWG will review the work plan in relation to the 2018 Report recommendations and GGRP.

UMCES is planning to host a screening of 'Paris to Pittsburg' documentary to stimulate discussion around climate change with the Annapolis and Baltimore communities. The viewing will include a panel of local experts to discuss consequences to their cities.

Public Comment

There was no further comment.

Date of Next Meeting: June 14, 2019. 10:00-noon