

Maryland Coast Smart Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Ave., C-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2014

The Coast Smart Council met at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Ave., C-1, Annapolis, Maryland on July 22, 2014. Chair Joseph P. Gill called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Council Members in Attendance:

Joseph P. Gill, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Jenn Aiosa, Maryland Dept. of Planning
Sepehr Baharlou, P.E., BayLand Consultants & Designers, Inc.
Dr. Donald Boesch, University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science
Fiona Burns, Office of Capital Budgeting, Maryland Department of Budget and Management
David Costello, Maryland Dept. of Environment
The Honorable Dennis Dare, Town of Ocean City
Chris Elcock, GWWO Inc., Architects
Dr. Gerry E. Galloway, Jr., University of Maryland, College Park
Keith A. Holmes, Department of Business and Economic Development
Mark James, Preparedness Directorate, Maryland Emergency Management Agency
Thomas J. Lawton, Somerset County
Margaret McHale, Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Commission
Meg Andrews representing Don Halligan, Maryland Dept. of Transportation

Council Members Not in Attendance:

Mostafa Izadi, P.E., Department of General Services

Council Staff in Attendance:

Zoë Johnson, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

Chair Gill called the meeting to order and welcomed the Council members and guests. Members were asked to introduce themselves and give a brief statement to describe their expertise and/or interest in the subject matter of coastal construction and sea level rise or coastal hazard management. Each member present stated their name and provided a brief description of their related job duties and interest in the subject matter.

Presentation: Overview of House Bill 615

Zoë Johnson provided the Council with an introduction to the contents and legislative mandate detailed in House Bill 615. The Council was created in response to House Bill 615, enacted during the 2014 legislative session, to ensure that the State makes safe and fiscally wise capital investments in the future. Zoë's presentation covered the Council's charge, project applicability, the requirements for the development of specific criteria, and the schedule for criteria development. Zoë explained that it is envisioned that the Council will meet between four and six times between July 22, 2014 and June 30, 2015 to develop the siting and design criteria, as required by the legislation. The process to develop the criteria will build off the work of the Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Working Group,

including recommendations contained in the report: Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Infrastructure Siting and Design Guidelines (2014), available online at: <http://climatechange.maryland.gov>. Zoë also explained that the legislation allows the Chair of the Council to establish subcommittees consisting of members of the council, experts in fields related to climate change and sea level rise, and interested parties to address or study specific issues and she suggested that the Members consider the need for subgroups and their interest in participating on one or another throughout the meeting. A copy of Zoë’s presentation is incorporated as an addendum to these meeting minutes.

Presentation: Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland

Dr. Donald Boesch, President of the University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science presented the Council with a talk on the latest science behind the measurement and projection of sea level rise in Maryland. Dr. Boesch’s presentation focused on the results and findings detailed in the report: Updated Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland, published by the Scientific and Technical Working Group of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change in June, 2013. A copy of Dr. Boesch’s presentation is incorporated as an addendum to these meeting minutes.

Presentation: Maryland Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Infrastructure Siting and Design Guidelines

Zoë Johnson provided the Council with an overview of the report, Maryland Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Infrastructure Siting and Design Guidelines, issued by the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources in January, 2013 in response to the charge detailed in Executive Order 01.01.2012.29. She started the presentation by giving a brief overview of Maryland’s vulnerability to sea level rise and coastal flooding and provided a general description of state-level planning and policy measures that have been completed or are currently underway. Zoë described the recommended policy framework, siting considerations, design consideration, exception criteria, proposed implementation mechanisms, and project screening checklist. She explained that the work of the Coast Smart Council would build off and expand upon the recommendations contained in the report as presented. Zoë proposed the following tentative timeline and work plan for consideration:

Meeting Date	Meeting	Task
July 22, 2014	Meeting #1	Council kick-off meeting
Mid-Sept., 2014	Meeting #2	Review & discuss design considerations
Mid-November, 2014	Meeting #3	Review & discuss siting considerations
Mid-January, 2015	Meeting #4	Explore standards for natural and nature-based resiliency measures
Mid-March, 2015	Meeting #5	Review & discuss waiver provisions and process
Mid-May, 2015	Meeting #6	Draft initial criteria
May – June, 2015		Public review and comment period
Mid-June, 2015	Meeting #7	Refine criteria
Early-July, 2015	Meeting #8	Approve Final Criteria

Council members were in general agreement that this schedule and work plan was acceptable and as a group they decided that Tuesday mornings on the second or third of every other month was a good meeting time. Zoë responded that she would work up a proposed meeting schedule and inform Council members of meeting dates and times as soon as possible. The members also discussed ideas for potential site visits to learn more about “coast smart practices” in the field. Council Member Chris Elcock suggested that a site visit to the Harriet Tubman Visitor center project in Dorchester County, Maryland would be interesting for the group.

Chair Gill asked the group if there was interest in forming subgroups to provide feedback to Council staff on specific topic areas in between bi-monthly meetings. The role of the subgroups would be to advise and help frame meeting agendas and assist with compiling reference and background materials for distribution to the full Council. Subgroups on Design Criteria, Siting Criteria, Natural and Nature-Based Infrastructure and Exception Criteria were suggested. Zoë indicated that she would contact Council members to solicit feedback and interest on serving on particular subgroups.

Zoë closed the business portion of the meeting by mentioning that she would be developing a website dedicated to the work of the Council to post meeting materials and reference documents.

There being no further business, Chair Gill closed the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Zoë Johnson, Council Staff