

**Maryland Coast Smart Council**

580 Taylor Avenue, Conference Room C-1  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Meeting Minutes**

March 6, 2017 20, 2016 1 p.m. -2 p.m.

**Immediate Action Items**

- **Chesapeake and Coastal Services (CCS) staff will develop an example checklist/summary statement for state agencies to provide to the Board of Public Works (BPW) for projects under review by the BPW. The checklist will include vulnerability status, the most stringent coast smart standards (i.e. freeboard), if the project meets standards, and if Coast Smart Council Review was required. The checklist will include a summary statement from the applicant that includes how the project has deviated from its original proposal to meet coast smart criteria. If not applicable, the statement should include why the project is not subject to coast smart criteria. CCS staff will discuss other potential elements of the checklist/summary statement and provide examples at the next Coast Smart Council meeting. The Critical Area Commission (CAC) checklist for climate resilience will be used as an example during development.**

**Council Members in Attendance:**

Chair, Secretary Mark Belton, Department of Natural Resources  
Dr. Gerry Galloway, Jr., P.E., University of Maryland, College Park (teleconference)  
Sepehr Baharlou, P.E., Bayland Consultants and Designers, Inc.  
Michael Bayer, Department of Planning  
Sandy Hertz, Department of Transportation  
Gary Setzer, Department of the Environment  
Fiona Burns, Department of Budget and Management  
Kate Charbonneau, Critical Area Commission  
Mostafa Izadi, Department of General Services  
Dr. Donald Boesch, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

**Council Members Not in Attendance:**

Chris Elcock, GWWO Inc./Architects  
Thomas Lawton, Somerset County  
The Honorable Dennis Dare, Ocean City  
Mark James, Maryland Emergency Management Agency  
Richard Higgins, Department of Commerce

**Council Staff in Attendance:**

Matthew Fleming, Department of Natural Resources  
Joe Abe, Department of Natural Resources  
Nicole Carlozo, Department of Natural Resources

**Guests in Attendance:**

Bill Anderson, Assistant Secretary for Aquatic Resources, DNR  
Dave Guignet, Department of the Environment  
Kevin Wagner, Department of the Environment  
Emily Vaineri, Office of Attorney General, DNR  
Alex DeWeese, Critical Area Commission  
Perry Otwell, DNR - Engineering and Construction  
Brian Ambrette, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Secretary Belton welcomed attendees and called for approval of the December meeting minutes. Kate Charbonneau, Critical Area Commission, made a motion to accept, seconded by Dr. Don Boesch. The minutes were approved unanimously and Joe Abe, Department of Natural Resources, provided an update on Council membership.

### **Coast Smart Checklist/Certification for Board of Public Works**

- Secretary Belton introduced the concept of a checklist for capital projects so Board members can determine if coast smart criteria are appropriate on projects under review.
- Charbonneau introduced the Critical Area Commission (CAC) checklist for climate resiliency, which addresses the CAC's regulations. Through the checklist, state and local agencies can demonstrate how they are considering climate resiliency in critical area projects. The checklist requires a statement from the agency about how they are or aren't addressing coastal resiliency issues such as sea level rise. An Assateague State Park example statement was shared. CAC reviews structural and nonstructural projects.
- Charbonneau requested assistance on data and mapping to better understand what data are considered or should be considered within project review, and how to apply data project by project.
- Boesch stated that the Coast Smart Council only reviews a project if an exception/waiver is requested. Regardless, the Board of Public Works will want to know which projects are subject to coast smart criteria and if they have been reviewed under the coast smart lens. The Council could design a means of providing that information to the Board.
- Charbonneau explained that not every CAC project goes to the Board of Public Works, so a separate process is needed at the Board.
- Abe asked Fiona Burns, Maryland Department of Budget and Management, to discuss project review prior to Board of Public Works. Burns stated that the DBM review process is very early on to ensure compliance of capital projects with the previous "Plan Maryland" effort. BDM will identify location concerns for proposed projects. This review does not include transportation and other projects, so there is a chance of missing projects that should comply with coast smart criteria.
- Abe suggested a simple checklist about compliance if the project is in a special flood hazard area, as documentation for the Board. Abe requested information on the elements of a checklist.

- Secretary Belton reiterated that the purpose of this exercise is to increase visibility of the Coast Smart Council and criteria, and that projects that are subject to them. The Annual Report could be provided along with the checklist for more information.
- Kevin Wagner, Maryland Department of Environment, stated that the 100-year floodplain is essentially the same as the special flood hazard area, and that communities often adopt higher standards than what is required by the state. For example, St. Mary's County just adopted a 3-foot freeboard. Wagner asked if there is a way to communicate the highest or most stringent standard and ensure projects are meeting them.
- Boesch stated that the Board wants to be assured that wise investments are being made. This exercise is an opportunity for leadership to better understand issues and as a broader education opportunity. The checklist should detail changes made to project that meet coast smart criteria.
- Sepehr Baharlou, Bayland Consultants & Designers, offered that a statement from the project sponsor seems to be the most relevant. The Council could provide guidelines to the project sponsor for a required coast smart summary statement and what elements the statement should include.
- Burns asked if a statement is only needed if the project is located in a vulnerable area, and Baharlou suggested that the summary statement could have a N/A option, such as "this project is not subject to coast smart criteria because..."
- Secretary Belton asked Abe to provide examples of checklist content for review at the next meeting.
- Gary Setzer, MDE, asked if the Board would be more interested in how a project has deviated from its original proposal to meet coast smart guidelines.
- Secretary Belton asked if the CAC checklist is a requirement for the Board. Charbonneau answered that the checklist is only for internal use and that there is not a lot of overlap with the Board of Public Works due to the type of projects that are reviewed by CAC.
- Matthew Fleming, DNR, volunteered to communicate with the Board on flow and content.
- Brian Ambrette, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, recommended looking to NY State for guidance.

#### **Local Spotlight – Naval Academy, Department of Public Works (See PowerPoint)**

- Kevin Jenkins, Director of Facilities Management Division, and Gail Kenson, Community Planning Liaison, at the Naval Academy in Annapolis provided an overview of the Naval Academy's climate adaptation, community resilience and hazard preparedness activities. Issues include sea level rise; subsidence and fill compaction; 40 events per year of nuisance flooding due to an aging stormwater system; increasing numbers of severe storm events; risk to historic structures; and more frequent microbursts.
- The Naval Academy has a Sea Level Rise Committee that provides analysis, guidance, and recommendations. Federal and DOD guidance is used, as well as a new climate change planning tool that may be tested in Annapolis.
- Hopper Hall is currently under design with 2 feet freeboard and flood-proofed walls. Jenkins clarified that the freeboard is 2 feet above Hurricane Isabel. Stormwater is a major problem for the Academy. They are researching alternative practices to the capture, treatment and discharge of water via underground tanks. However, DOD construction funds are competitive. Some alternatives include the use of sea walls without obscuring the viewshed; door dams/sand

bags, and aquafence tools. The Academy is working with other naval institutions, the City of Annapolis, and other partners to ensure projects are compatible and support each other.

- Jenkins spoke to the overall academic mission and placement of the new building, with the more vulnerable building uses on a higher level.
- Secretary Belton asked about other DOD methods and Kenson responded with her experience in Key West, FL. These institutions are not high on the DOD priority list. She suggested that Norfolk is the naval institute to watch, both with vulnerability of the Base and access to the Base. Jenkins added that the Norfolk/Hampton Roads area is a larger effort, but still in the Planning & Developmental Stage. No one has the answers yet, but we need defense in depth. When do we get to implementation? Right now we are still in the exploration phase.
- Abe asked about how Climate resilience is beginning to be incorporated into design.
- Gail responded that Key West, FL is beginning to think about climate change impacts to projects, and California is dealing with more black flag days (hot days limit construction and activities outside). She mentioned that we need to use other terms with Congress, such as flood mitigation.
- Gerry Galloway added that Universities through the Association of State Floodplain Managers and Sea Grant are including sea level rise in curriculum and climate change in general if not near the coast. He suggested the Council refer back to the Union of Concerned Scientists information distributed with the December meeting notes.
- Jenkins reiterated that there is no mandate with stormwater management, so it is hard to compete for DOD funding. She asked if the coast smart checklist could stop a project from occurring.
- Boesch explained that the process forces applicants to rethink, redesign and re-site if necessary.
- Kenson discussed the concept of retreat and the impacts of retreat, acknowledging that there will be delicate and sensitive conversations in the future.

### **Wrap Up**

- Galloway mentioned that the Maryland Center for Disaster Resilience is working with Texas A&M on a flooding project. Contact him for more information.
- Secretary Belton closed the meeting and transitioned to the Adaptation & Response Working Group.