Local Leadership Workgroup Quarterly Meeting Notes
Date: Tuesday May 13, 2025
Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Location: Hybrid | MD Association of Counties Office in Annapolis, MD

Session Information, Contacts, and Resources

Coastal Resilience in Annapolis - *Multi-jurisdictional resiliency planning and collaboration*

- Contact: Gabe Cohee, Director of Programs, Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County | Email: gabe.cohee@aacounty.org
- Presentation: Coastal Resilience in Annapolis
- Resources Shared:
    - Resilience Authority's guiding legislations, bylaws, and strategic plan and annual reports.
    - NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund supports nature-based solutions to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems against increasing threats from storms, sea/lake level changes, flooding, erosion, and other coastal hazards.
    - MyCoast: Maryland - Portal to collect and analyze pictures and data relating to flooding caused by precipitation or coastal events.
    - Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: A Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) - Report in Brief

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week - *How can local governments use Chesapeake Bay Awareness week to highlight past, current, and future work they are doing to protect local lands and waterways?*

- Contact: Michael Augustin, Chesapeake Conservancy | Email: maugustin@chesapeakeconservancy.org
- Presentation: Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week
- Resources Shared:
    - 2025 CBAW Proclamation Template

Local Government Strategies for Flood Mitigation and Shoreline Resiliency Panel - *Innovative infrastructure, creative funding, community engagement, and strategies to overcome challenges to flood mitigation and shoreline resilience.*

- Contacts:
    - Susan Bates, Virginia Coastal Science Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy | Email: susan.bates@tnc.org
    - Jim George, PhD, Water Resources Advisor, MD Dept. of the Environment | Email: jim.george@maryland.gov
    - Laura Cattell Noll, Local Government Initiative Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay | Email: lnoll@allianceforthebay.org
- Panelists Questions and Responses:

- Q1: What types of support or services do local governments request most often from your organization regarding flood mitigation or shoreline resilience?
- R1(Susan Bates from TNC):
  - Main support:
    - Identifying funding opportunities, determining project priorities and pairing funding with local projects
    - Assist with writing proposal and managing existing funds
    - bringing people together for projects and establishing connections to local communities.. Act as a trusted source of information for communities and project leads
- R2(Jim George from MDE):
  - Funding requests (revolving fund) primarily for
    - infiltration of sewage collection systems
    - repairing infrastructure
    - wetlands and waterways program permitting service
  - MDE is the state representative for the National Flood Insurance Program - MDE helps smaller local governments with their flood insurance
- R3(Laura Cattell Noll from ACB):
  - Assistance managing and accessing different levels of funding (state and federal)
  - information on federal audits
  - Provide information on permitting and supports for septics
- Q2: Integrating flood resilience into comprehensive planning, zoning, and/or hazard mitigation plans has been used by local governments to address water issues in their community? Do you have examples of that and why it was or was not successful?
- R1(Susan Bates from TNC):
  - Examples of flood resilience and comprehensive plans:
    - Hazard Mitigation Plans
      - Coastal resilience tool
      - Living shoreline map
    - Climate Adaptation Working Group working; this group brings together state, federal and local governments as well as research partners/ institutions.
      - Project that came out of this group was the Coastal Resilience Master Plan
- R2(Jim George from MDE):
  - Issue in the past:
    - Issuing permits that have been poor examples of land use planning particularly when it pertains to flooding events.
  - In response MDE in combination with MDP have put together some guidance that builds on FEMA conceptual framework of community lifelines. (see link below)
- R3(Laura Cattell Noll from ACB):

        - Provided examples from both Pam Shellenberger and Janet Thigpen
            - Janet Thigpen - NY - Flood mitigation specialist for three counties
            - Pam Shellenberger - PA
                - York County Comprehensive Plan
                    - All 71 municipalities adopt as their local plan to receive funding
                - York County Integrated Water Resources Plan
                    - Connection between water resources and land use and meets the requirements for the country to have a stormwater management plan
                - PA DEP has incorporated resiliency into their stormwater management plan
                - 2024 York County Hazard Mitigation Plan
                - York County Stormwater consortium for MS4s
    - Q3: What does effective collaboration between technical assistance providers and local governments look like to you? What models or partnerships have proven most sustainable?
    - R1(Susan Bates from TNC):
        - Most Virginia communities/local governments fall within the category of needing medium level assistance-capacity built for them. TNC's role is to advocate that state and federal level agencies provide assistance/resources to these Va local governments. (e.g. Va community preparedness fund)
    - R2(Jim George from MDE) - (Les Knapp MDE):
        - Two types of effective collaboration within MD governments:
        - Developing relationships indirectly through local stakeholders (e.g. Maryland Association of Counties, Maryland Municipal League, Maryland Municipal Stormwater Association)that include local elected officials or technical staff
            - Pro: reach a broader range of individuals with differing expertise
            - Con to this approach: lack strength of more direct relationships with state level officials
        - Developing direct personal relationships with state level officials and technical staff
            - Pro: established strong relationships with substantial results
            - Con to this approach: Takes time and effort and with high turnover you have to make new connections when those you have moved on, retire, etc.
    - R3(Laura Cattell Noll from ACB):
        - 3 buckets/categories of local governments
            - Those who have resources and technical staff
            - Those who fall in the middle of both ends of the spectrum that maybe need their capacity built for them (e.g.opportunities for training or information on fees)

            - Small town or township with one or two staff that need capacity provided to them
    - Audience Questions:
        - Kristin Saunders for Susan: CRMP has this effort been integrated into local comprehensive plans?
            - Response from TNC: separate but integrated; localities that are in the process of rewriting their comprehensive plans have pulled information from the CRMP (e.g. Northampton County in Va)
        - Andrew Fellows for all panelists: Advocacy question - how do you advise people against living/ developing on and around the water and advise communities to relocate? How do you handle these questions?
            - Response from MD: these questions don't come to the state level often. Can't outright deny permits for development if check on laws and regulations have been satisfied although can provide recommendation to not develop or be informed of potential hazards.
            - Response from VA & TNC: TNC is not direct;y asked for permission; sometimes exceptions to building/ redrawing property lines have to be made if the property is purchased by the developer but then there are evident water hazards to the site. There is also a culture of "It's easier to pay the consequences than ask for permission"- enforcement isn't "harsh enough" to keep people from doing things in the first place. Help write adaptation and resilience plans for communities .
            - Response from ACB: pay attention to and learn from history -
            - Addition from MD: sometimes nature is needed to move people and enlighten them of their circumstances; it could be beneficial to have a backup plan through for relocation and evacuation
            - Addition of TNC: The history of flooding is integrated into lifestyle of communities "deal with the flood and keep going" - knowing how to engage with these communities
- Resources Shared:
    - Grants and Other Financial Assistance Opportunities at MDE
    - Land Use Planning Climate Change Guidance, in the context of Maryland's Water Resource Element for Comprehensive Land Use Plans (See the Left-hand Column)
    - MDE Flood Hazard Mitigation
    - MDE Dam Information Mapper
        - (Includes tool that shows areas that would flood – be inundated – if a particular dam was to break: (Select "DSS-WISE Dam Inundation" and "Sunny Day" from the Layer List)
    - FEMA Community Lifelines
    - The Nature Conservancy
        - TNC Resilient Land Mapping Tool

        - TNC Coastal Resilience Mapping Portal
        - Climate Change Stories Building Coastal Resilience Recognizing the protective value of nature.
    - Community Driven Adaptation and Resilience Plan for Oyster, Virginia
    - MDE Flood Hazard Mitigation Program - Maryland
    - DNR Coastal Resilience Program - Maryland
    - Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grants and Loans - Virginia
    - 2024 York County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Pennsylvania
    - Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board - Flood Resilience - New York

Geospatial Decision Support Tools Study - *Aligning the tools of the USGS and CBP with the needs of local governments.*

- Contact: Alex Gunnerson, Geographer, USGS | Email: agunnerson@chesapeakebay.net
- Resources Shared:
    - Targeting Tool Portal
        - A collection of maps and applications that can be used to evaluate watershed restoration and landscape conservation initiatives relative to multiple goals and outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
    - Survey Link
        - The Targeting Tools Portal is currently undergoing user research to inform updates to its features and functionality to better meet user's needs. Use the Survey Link to share feedback.

How-To: Water Quality Status and Trends Resources - *How-to Guide of the Tributary Summaries Reports and Story Maps created by the Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT). These products provide both high-level information and an interactive web-platform on the long- and short-term trends of the different tributaries in the Chesapeake Bay. In this presentation, the team will review case-study uses of the Tributary Summaries and how it can be utilized for different audiences.*

- Contact:
    - Gabriel Duran, Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Staffer, CRC | Email: gduran@chesapeakebay.net
    - Kaylyn Gootman, Integrated Analysis Coordinator, EPA | Email: Gootman.Kaylyn@epa.gov
- Presentation: How-To: Water Quality Status and Trends Resources
- Resources Shared:
    - Tributary Summaries Project Webpage
- Upcoming Training:
    - ITAT will be hosting a webinar on **May 29th from 12-1PM** on the Geonarratives. All are welcome to join! Registration is required at this link here.

Local Leadership Outcome/Chesapeake Bay Agreement Revisions Update

- **If you have any questions, want clarifications, or want to chat anything regarding the outcome/target/Bay Agreement revisions let Rick know!**
- Updated Outcome Language: *Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local government leaders to empower them to make decisions and implement local actions that support the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.
- New "Target": *Increase the percentage of local government leaders reporting water resource management actions biennially.*
- Presentation: LLWG Presentation May 13 2025 Slides 21-28
- Resources:
    - Local Leadership Outcome Language Draft Proposal for MB

Modified Site Visit - Annapolis Resilience Projects

- St. Mary's Church Resilience Journey
    - Contact: Claudia Donegan, Habitat Restoration & Conservation Division, MD DNR | Email: claudia.donegan@maryland.gov
    - Resources:
        - Shared Folder
        - BLEIKER Training | Resolve Conflict Gridlock & Get More Effective Decisions through Consent Building

- City Dock Resiliency Project
    - Contact: Eileen Fogarty, City Dock Project Lead | Email: efogarty@fogartygroup.net
    - Presentation: Experiencing City Dock
    - Resources:
        - City of Annapolis Resilience and Sustainability
    - Key points (Eileen Fogarty & Mayor Gavin Buckley):
        - City dock project to revitalize parking lot in downtown Annapolis area
        - Major successes of revitalization project attributed to
            - Recognition of threat from flooding downtown
            - recorded over 120 flooding events last year alone
        - Major Struggles in advancing project attributed to:
            - Interest in preserving history/ historic buildings within downtown Annapolis
            - Concerns of continued funding for restoration efforts
        - Project initiated by 100 member action committee (divided into groups) on behalf of director from Annapolis Mayor
        - P3 partnership with HUD Financial
            - Funded construction of Phase 1: Hillman garage
                - Provided extra 160 spaces; total 588 garage
                - Revenue from garage helps funding the next phases of the project & provides revenue for city transit