

Panel Description: Inside local land use planning: How decisions are made and how ecological issues are considered.

Introduction: The Fisheries GIT has invested an interest in evaluating land use impacts of fisheries as the latest science and research showing fisheries habitat loss has impacted fisheries, feeding, reproduction, and in some cases access to fishing opportunities. In its simplest case, jurisdictional, federal, and academic partners are coming to the realization that more development and the expansion of impervious surface is negatively impacting our fisheries

Facilitation: Christine Conn has agreed to help us as an informed facilitator to administer the questions below as well as help GIT staff ensures the conversation remains organized and begins to address the outcomes below.

Members

Margaret McGinty
Candice Quinn Kelly
Laura McKay
Ken Hastings
Jim Long
Dan Baldwin

Our thoughts are to provide each panel member with a 5 minute presentation to discuss the following items and set the stage for further discussion.

Dan Baldwin: Offering perspectives of the Maryland Department of Planning on land use and development.

Laura McKay: A brief description of the outcomes from the Coastal Partners workshop discussion on land use and fisheries, as well as a brief description of the tools that VA has developed.

Candice Quinn Kelly: What is the political process to adopting a comp plan? How does the public's opinion inform the process and what are the potential challenges to developing conservation oriented growth?

Jim Long: A history of the Charles County Comprehensive Plan and what has happened since 1990. Chapman's forest will be used as a case study.

Ken Hastings: A regional example of some of the successes and shortcomings in Mattawoman creek from the perspective of a fisherman and conservationist.

Margaret McGinty: Provide a local example of biological and ecological significance where DNR provide science on potential impacts to fisheries and ecological health of the system. Also a brief description of other tools the state is developing and applying to promote sound resource management.

General Panel Questions

1. How would you define sustainable growth?
2. Considering these definitions, are we on a common ground?
3. If not, how can we get there?
4. What actions can we take to improve coordination and meet the goals of sustainable growth?
5. What tools and or information would help planners understand the ecological impacts of development and conservation?
6. What tools and or information would help planners understand the economic impacts and tradeoffs of development and conservation?
7. How is the planning community addressing conflicting needs and what are the high and low priorities for planners?
8. What actions can we take to improve the coordination and ensure the goals of sustainable growth are met?

Outcomes:

This portion of the meeting will provide the full GIT an opportunity to better understand what factors are important inland planning and how natural resource values are incorporated into the planning process. Furthermore, it is our intention to hear multiple perspectives addressing the questions below. Participants include, biologists, regional activists, as well as state and local planning commissions.

From this panel discussion we hope to highlight the need to develop cooperative partnerships with land planners to understand the complexities of planning, but also communicate the value of conservation. It is understood the planning process is arduous and difficult with many constituencies and needs but healthy economies and lifestyles are viable while supporting healthy resources. Economic goals, lives and resources can be mutually beneficial.