

## Maryland Coast Smart Council Quarterly Meeting

May 11, 2020 | 12:30p - 1:30p

### **Virtual Meeting Only**

Google Hangouts Link: [meet.google.com/exw-shxa-zmn](https://meet.google.com/exw-shxa-zmn)

Conference Line: +1-314-730-0702 - Pin#: 936-552-479#

### **Agenda**

**Attendees:** *Zoe Johnson, Susan Larcher, Susan Gore, Spyridon Papadimas, Sepher Baharlou, Sasha Land, Sandy Hertz, Sandi Olek, Robert Newton, Dr. Peter Goodwin, Paul Berwin, Nicole Carlozo, Nick Kelly, Nancy Kopp, Michelle Canik, Michael Bayer, Megan Granato, Matthew Fleming, Kristen Fleming, Tim Lavalle, Astrid Caldes, Bill Neville, Brad Rogers, Catherine McCall, Christine Conn, Dave Guinett, Dave Nemazie, David Bohannon, Dorothy Morison, Drew Budelis, Emily Vaneri, Ethan Cohen, Jaleesa Tate, Jenn Raulin, Josh Foster, Kate Charbonneau, Kevin Wagner, Kristen Forti, Kyle Overly, Lee Mayer, Sec. Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio*

#### **I. Welcome and Announcements 12:30 - 12:35**

- a. *Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Maryland Department of Natural Resources* will welcome attendees and request introductions.
- b. Review & Approve the 02/10/2020 Council Meeting Notes

*Minutes were reviewed and approved without amendments.*

#### **II. Presentations 12:35 - 1:00**

*Brad Rogers (South Baltimore Gateway Partnership) and Ethan Cohen (Baltimore City, Mayor's Office)* Presenters will share details on the project titled "The Middle Branch of the Patapsco River: Baltimore's Next Great Waterfront."

*Overview of the Middle Branch Project. The Middle Branch Restoration Project is a multi-year, multi-million dollar effort to transform 11 miles of shoreline in south Baltimore. Once completed, this effort will improve water quality, restore habitat, reconnect neighborhoods and improve public access from Locust Point through Brooklyn. The City is spearheading this effort in collaboration with a number of partners, including Parks and People Foundation and South Baltimore Gateway Partnership. Last summer, West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture won the competition to develop the Middle Branch Waterfront Master Plan.*

*Ask: Presenters were interested in hearing feedback/impressions from the Council members on the project and how they can keep interested parties engaged in the process as it moves forward.*

## Minutes approved by Council 08/03/20.

Would like to reach out to CSC members to help provide input and guidance. Sandy Olek from the Department of Natural Resources volunteered to coordinate.

Question: Treasurer Kopp was interested in how climate change was informing aspects of the project. Answer: Different pieces of the project will provide critical buffers for infrastructure; has the potential to be a case study for resiliency projects but could be a good opportunity for input from Coast Smart Council Members.

Question: Jaleesa Tate asked about funding sources that were being pursued for this project. Answer: Currently the project is receiving \$500k from the state (Dept. of Planning) - in addition, looking at ecosystem services that the project provides and pursuing funds for implementation of living shorelines, wetlands and even dredge. Also looking at partnering with Baltimore for potential MS4 mitigation areas.

### III. Coast Smart Council Program Documents Update

1:00 - 1:20

*Emily Vainieri (DNR-OAG) and Dave Guignet (MDE)* will provide a summary update of the Coast Smart Siting and Design Guidelines and 100+3 mapping boundary effort.

Mapping update: In response to the 2018 passage of SB 1006, the Coast Smart Council formed an expert workgroup to evaluate the most technically feasible and accurate approach for addressing the expanded Coast Smart siting and design criteria, which required the council to address inundation from long-term sea level rise risks and short-term storm effects. Over the past year, the expert workgroup evaluated a variety of mapping scenarios that would address a similar footprint to Category 2 storm surge, and that could address sea level rise inundation. As presented during the hearing, the expert workgroup recommended — **and the full council agreed** — that using the 100-year FEMA floodplain maps plus a 3-foot rise to convey resiliency via elevations is the most technically feasible and accurate approach for addressing the Coast Smart siting and design criteria.

Current Flood risk is mapped as the regulatory Base Flood Elevation or BFE, also known as the FEMA 100-year FEMA floodplain. Areas where higher resiliency or Coast Smart criteria should be considered were determined by adding a 3 foot rise to the Base Flood Elevation. The BFE + 3 feet map shows the limits of this higher water elevation in low lying areas currently not considered to be at risk. High resolution elevation data was used to map the limits of the expanded flood risk and was also used to develop a depth grid. The depth grid describes at any chosen point in the BFE +3 area how high a structure should be elevated to avoid inundation. Depth grid data is summarized by 1 foot contour lines for ease of interpretation. Across the BFE+3 feet, the user can determine at a glance how this elevation criteria varies over 1 foot intervals by viewing the contour lines rather than delving deeper into the depth grid data.

**Minutes approved by Council 08/03/20.**

Mapping team will have all coastal counties completed and online by the July 1 legislative deadline.

Question: Dr. Peter Goodwin asked if it was accurate to say that the approach reflects Sea-Level Rise? Answer: Yes the mapping approach most closely approximates the Horizontal Boundary of the Category 2 storm surge line that is used in the current regulations, but it adds an elevation for everyone (State and local) to follow and it is more consistent with data (the floodplain) that all State Agencies already have to follow. It provides resiliency now based on the limited science and analysis available to managers right now to predict what sea level rise will do in the 100 year floodplain some period of time in the future.

Coast Smart Siting and Design Guidelines Update: Small workgroup has been updating the Program Document over the past 2 months. This is the first comprehensive update of the document since it was first developed in 2015. The following is a summary of the major changes required by the legislation:

- Expanding the scope to include local capital projects (not only State capital projects)
- Expanding the scope to include highway facilities (not only structures)
- Clarifying the mapping boundary within which the siting and design criteria apply (i.e., creation of the Coast Smart Climate Ready Action Boundary (CS-CRAB))
- Developing siting and design criteria for highway facilities

The following is a timeline for final review:

- **May:** Finalize internal review of program documents.
- **By May 22:** Draft Program Documents sent to Council for review.
- **Early June:** Council will schedule a special meeting for discussion and approval.
- **By June 12:** Draft program documents submitted to the State House for review.
- **July 1:** Legislative deadline to have updated siting and design documents.
- **July - October:** Develop FAQ, process diagram and summary of changes document to be included with program update once finalized. Public dissemination of updated documents, siting and design guidelines, map product. Proposal to host a series of technical assistance sessions for updated guidance in local jurisdictions in the fall.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, seconded. Approved unanimously 1:40