

Agenda Coast Smart Council Quarter 1 Meeting

February 28, 2024 | 12:30pm - 1 :30pm

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401
Room C-1

Or

Meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/sca-ania-agt>

Or dial: (US) +1 848-468-5101 PIN: 492 519 928#

I. Welcome, Introductions & Review of Agenda **12:30 - 12:40**
Secretary Kurtz (DNR), will open the meeting, call roll, introduce new appointees and review the agenda.

- a. Action: Member approval of Nov 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes via vote
- b. Materials: [DRAFT Nov 29 CSC Meeting Notes](#)

House of Representatives	Delegate Stein
DBM	Jason Wardrup
MDE	Matt Rowe
DGS	Spyros Papadimas
MDP	Jill Lemke
MDOT	Shawn Kiernan
Commerce	John Papavasiliou
CAC	Erik Fisher
MDEM	Jesse Delph
MDEM	Vanessa Calaban
University System of Maryland	Dr. Bill Dennison
Treasurer's Office	Dereck E. Davis
Charles County Government	Beth Groth
Somerset County Government	Mary Phillips
Stantec Inc.	Rebecca Aiken
UMD Civil and Environmental Engineering	Greg Baecher
Crisfield Government	Mayor Darlene Taylor

Welcome & introduction / reintroduction of members (Beth, Rebecca, Greg, Mayor Taylor)

Minutes – Sec. Kurtz asked for motion

- Jason – motion to approve minutes, Beth second.

Secretary Kurtz gave a brief overview of the agenda.

II. MDE and Coast Smart Presentation

12:40 - 1:05

Walid Saffouri (MDE), will present about identifying possible structures in the MDE funded water and sewer systems, where Coast Smart is applicable, and MDE's effort to provide mitigating measures to be in compliance with the law.

- a. Action: Informative talk
- b. Materials: [Slides](#)

MDE Presentation, Coast Smart Guidelines and Implementation Water and Wastewater Projects

- NPS, flood management grants. Multiple fund sources, federal, state, etc. Utilize mix of the fund source from local governments.
- Most projects CS is not applicable to (underground water and sewer, water storage tank).
- Many projects that involve structures (slide)
 - o Treatment plant (water and wastewater), a lot of them have administration buildings, storage facilities, etc.
 - o Pumping stations – completely inside of a building.
 - o Generator – elevate, they still apply coast smart to.
- Process –
 - o They start by trying to site outside of the CS-CRAB, preferable and attempt #1.
- Encourage use of State Comprehensive Flood Management Grant (CFMG) funds to relocate systems out of CS-CRAB
 - o Windmill Pumping
 - o Hancock WWTP
 - o Middletown West WWTP
- Moving pumping station outside of the CS-CRAB
 - o (?) – what prompted this? Proactive, or the repair needed to happen.
 - o Windmill Pumping - Easton got a new pumping station and then they moved the pumping station outside of the area.
 - o Hancock – moving ½ mile outside of the area, funded partially by Bay Restoration Fund
 - o Middletown West – funded by Bay restoration fund
- Categorical Exemption
 - o Not many categorical exemptions.
 - o Water dependent uses – structures associated with drinking water intakes or wastewater outfalls
 - o (?) – is this what the categorical exemption is covering?
- He provided overviews of the example projects.
- Smith Island – no location within Smith Island isn't in the CS-CRAB, cannot move it out of the area. However, they funded a timber deck elevated more than 3 ft. above the current 100-

year floodplain. Project was fully funded by MDE BRF, other state grants, SRF loan/loan forgiveness, EPA and USDA grants. Project is approximately 34% complete.

- Discussion:

- o (? – Ryland) – Do you receive pushback when indicating projects take longer or cost more to comply with CS?
 - § Yes, but not a lot of resistance. Grant money is contingent on the compliance with the program – they can either take the grant and follow the rules, or walk away and get funding elsewhere. Incentive of the grant has been helpful. Also, by nature – engineers are conservative by nature, and err on the side of safety, so they agree with the requirements.
- o (? – Mayor Taylor) – What does the CS-CRAB stand for?
 - § CS – Coast Smart, CRAB = Climate Ready Action Boundary.
- o (? – Mayor Taylor) – Copy of presentation?
 - § Yes, Walid provided to Ryland, Ryland will upload them to the CSC website. They are also linked above.
- o (! – Mayor Taylor) – Crisfield project is out to bid.

III. Wetland Migration and Coast Smart Presentation

1:05 - 1:25

Rachel Bacher (DNR), will deliver a presentation about the state Wetland Adaptation Strategy. The presentation will focus specifically on wetland adaptation areas and how these areas might have implications for Coast Smart projects.

- e. Action: Informative talk, members will discuss inclusion in project screening
- f. Materials: [Slides](#)

- Worked with Dylan and Elliott.
- SLAMM layer that aligned with the Maryland SLR report
- 2010 is base layer
- Wetland Adaptation Areas – is an index.
 - o Layer all of the factors into the index.
 - § Factors: SLAMM layer – is it a wetland in the year of interest (2100, 2050, ??)
 - § If yes, what is the size – given a corresponding score based on the size.
 - § If there is green infrastructure in the areas that overlay with the persistent or converted wetlands
 - § Hydric soils
 - § BioNet
 - o Total max is 60 (low to high).
- Red does not meet that the area is more likely to convert, it is the highest priority – it is a prioritization index, not a likelihood
- Available on coastal atlas.
- Also have Uplands to Wetlands conversion – 2100. Identifies areas of
- Drowned lands in 2050 and the wetland migration corridor (WAA footprint for all three years combined / all turned on).
- Coastal Atlas – you can add your own data.
 - o Black layer on the slide, is the CS-CRAB, significant overlap between the wetland adaptation area and the CS-CRAB. Zoomed in photo is the Blackwater area.
- (?) Should the wetland adaptation areas be added to the Coast Smart screening area.

- Is the project located in the WAA.
- Has the project considered WAA needs in the design.
- Discussion
 - (? – Sec. Kurtz) – what would change in regards to project planning if it's in a wetland adaptation area.
 - § Depends on where the project area. If it is in an area where it's expected to turn into wetlands within the design life of the project. Infrastructure in place for the project – would have another 50 years.
 - (? – Christine Conn, DNR) – asking Kate to comment on how the CAC deals with wetland adaptation areas.
 - § They are an element area of evaluation – for critical area. We have wetland adaptation areas included in our state development regulations, she will put together an email with how they are currently using them and what we're thinking.
 - (! – Ryland) – Coast Smart Project Screening Form – flexibility in the program document and flexibility around questions in the project form. Add in as a screening, to prompt them to look at the map.
 - (! – Nicole Carlozo, DNR) – would want to evaluate the project to see if it leads to a wetland migration barrier.
 - (! – Sec. Kurtz) – opportunity to capture additional data.
 - § Per Ryland – providing a sample question to the CSC for feedback.
 - § (+) Add to the next agenda to discuss this.
 - (! – Elliott Campbell, DNR) – data seems like it's very long (2050, 2100) – overlay with what we are seeing now – ghost forests and saltwater intrusion – significant overlap with what we are already seeing now. Need to be pulling in the context of what is happening now. Could be used as a predictive tool for those impacts in the near term.
 - (! – Dave Nemazie, UMD) – collective effort to pull together photos from the same area, timestamp, and understand how things are transitioning and how fast – thought it would likely be faster.
 - § CBNERR – does photo stations, not thinking they are very long.
 - § Blackwater would have 50 – 75.
 - § Dave Nemazie could make an inquiry, but DNR may have it for their portion.
 - (! – Sec. Kurtz) – as marsh migration happened, how did it happen, what components, and what does it mean going forward.
 - § There are multiple steps to these ecosystems changing – doesn't just go from marsh to open water – looking at the steps can help us to prioritize interventions to help slow or stall the process.
 - (! – Elliott) – different studies looking at how active management impacts speed of transition – tree removal, invasive management.
 - (! – Ryland) – Blackwater is important but it is not very applicable to CS – no development, but the other cities and towns.
 - (! – Dave Nemazie) – some NASA photos may be high enough resolution to use for this information and considerations.
 - (! – Bill Dennison, UMD) – working on 3rd iteration of 1m resolution of Chesapeake Bay – perhaps supporting the ghost forest interface.
 - (? – Sec Kurtz) – scale of WAA?
 - § 10 m.

IV. Public Comment, Updates, & Next Steps

1:25 - 1:30

Next Meeting: May 29, 2024 12:30-1:30

Updates and Next Steps

1. Ryland to send draft question for review and feedback

Next Meeting

1. May 29, same time and place.