

MARYLAND COAST SMART COUNCIL

Secretary Josh Kurtz, Chair
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Agenda Coast Smart Council Quarter 1 Meeting

Feb 26, 2025 | 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/xvi-nfqg-bjq>

Or dial: (US) +1 562-232-9376 PIN: 362 507 375#

I. Welcome, Introductions & Review of Agenda

12:30 - 12:35

Secretary Kurtz (DNR), will open the meeting, call roll, and review the agenda.

- a. Action: Member approval of Nov 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes via vote
- b. Materials: [DRAFT Nov 20 CSC Meeting Notes](#)

House of Representatives	Delegate Stein - ✗
DBM	Jason Wardrup - present
MDE	Matt Rowe - Jim George for Matt
DGS	Spyros Papadimas - present
MDP	Chuck Boyd - present
MDOT	Allison Gost - present
Commerce	John Papavasiliou - ✗
CAC	Erik Fisher - present
MDEM	Jesse Delph - ✗
University System of Maryland	Dr. Fernando Miralles Wilhelm - present
Comptroller's Office	Brooke E. Lierman - Kim Pezza (update) - present
Charles County Government	Beth Groth - ✗
<i>Gov Appointed</i>	<i>Vacant</i> ✗
Stantec Inc.	Rebecca Aiken - present
UMD Civil and Environmental Engineering	Greg Baecher - ✗
Crisfield Government	Mayor Darlene Taylor - present

Natalie ask for review

- Motion to approve - Allison (MDOT)
- Second - Jason Wardrup (DBM)
- No oppose - notes are approved

II. Sea Level Rise and Infrastructure Presentation

12:40 - 1:00

Many rural Maryland communities are on the front lines of climate change. The need to understand who may be affected, and the ways they may be affected is widely acknowledged as needed for inclusive and cost-effective adaptation planning. *Allison Reilly (University of Maryland)* will discuss the potential threat of sea-level rise on non-housing infrastructure (e.g., roads, septic systems) in rural, coastal areas to help inform the impact of their loss on local communities. The talk will focus on work that evaluates local accessibility loss during high tides (termed “risk of isolation”) for various climate change scenarios, and preliminary evidence from research that suggests that the risk of septic system failures is quite significant in Maryland.

Action: Informative talk

Materials: Slides to be presented

Natalie introducing Allison Reilly – identifying policies for identifying resilient infrastructure. Focus in recent work on risk equity in rural communities and impact from sea level rise. Provided background on Dr. Reilly.

Dr. Reilly's presentation:

- Focus on reliability, SLR, and what metrics are used for capturing risk and ensuring burden is appropriately captured.
- UMD Center for Disaster Resilience – looks at hazard assessments and risk in built environment. Resilience for climate adaptation, disaster finance and policy.
- How will SLR impact infrastructure beyond housing – transportation, wastewater.
 - What does inundation mean beyond provision of service.
 - Burden of impact is not equal even if impact of hazard is distributed evenly.
- Transportation
 - 3,700 miles of roadway will be inundated by 5' of SLR
 - Pavement depth increases will sink faster (heavier)
 - Isolation and the burden of SLR (impacts to transportation networks)→ reduces social, economic and schooling activities. Makes aspects of life harder. Reduced reliability to get to where they need to go
- Dorchester County calculations re: isolation rate.
 - Isolation rate. House may be dry, but public accommodations may be inaccessible.
 - 40% of homes will lose access at the same time they have a wet house.
 - 60% of the homes will remain dry, long after they lose access to the services
- Data available: insert link from slide deck
- SLR – what do we miss when we plan for inundation alone
 - Also affects water and wastewater; Flooding and Septic Systems
 - Working with “resources for the future” and UMD SPH to identify risks with increased system failure of septic infrastructure.
 - PH: empirical evidence – rates of salmonella and campylobacter increases in Bay / Bay adjacent counties. Degraded systems don't manage nutrients as effectively.
- What stymies robust adaptation planning?
 - Identifying what the tipping points are that will induce climate migration.
 - Fallacy about the need to continue to maintain the infrastructure.
 - Adaptation done thoughtfully, in an inclusive approach over a longer period of time has significant benefits.
- Opportunities: come work with them.

- Students: give seminar, let them know about internships and job opportunities. Join advisory committee for new program in climate systems science and engineering at UMD. Capstone projects.
- Research: provide data and insight into pressing problems. Partner on research proposals. Contract with us.
- Questions:
 - Natalie: trying to make informed decisions on where we invest. Looking at divestment when and how we're approaching. Ex: homeowners went in to invest, and then the community disinvested in the school. Thinking through how we as a state plan for this, and how we bring the data in.
 - Perfect example of what happens if planning is not done in an integrative way. Identifying areas that are not going to be invested in - no disaster aide. No federal funds for infrastructure aiding in post-disaster. These areas risk are too high here.
 - Jim: homeowners could have issues with condemnation risk of house if their septic system is failing. Does this happen with service breaks (too far from the firehouses).
 - Less condemnation and more can you get home owners insurance. Some HOI does include how long it takes for a fire department to get to you in their ability to provide coverage.
 - They consider how long it takes firetrucks to get to places, and how they can drive through high water. The increased degradation of saltwater on the vehicles, is significant especailly if they are doing it a lot
 - Jim: federal follow on – some of the houses are isolated before the ponds are inundated. Counties might not want to be investing in road upgrades. Are there policies being developed for future defunding of roadways, or infrastructure. Any policies for phased in approach of management.
 - Not familiar with any. Similar is the coastal LA master plan – approved universally. It identifies what will and will not be included in protection. Includes a purposeful equity (not housing value) - because housing is equally important for all people.
 - Rebecca Aiken: how much inundation is necessary for the properties to be identified as isolated? Is there a threshold that the team has arrived?
 - For simplicity – if the water is touching. 15cm for water, 25cm for firetrucks and ambulances. Water under roadways can degrade roadways. Degradation underneath the roadways – dearth of understanding about a lack of reliability due to under-road impacts. Significant increase in cost overtime. Significantly impacts the substructure.
 - We know how to engineer roads near the oceans - these roads were built not for that because the roads weren't previously by the oceans.
- Email: areilly2@umd.edu

III. Coast Smart Website Update

1:00 - 1:25

Ryland Taylor (DNR) will deliver an update on the revamp of the Coast Smart website.

Action: Informative update

Materials: None

- Ryland is showing a deadlinked webpage, and walking through.

- Next step: Ryland to send link to the CSC Members, for a 2 week review period then holding a vote for the final webpage and then it will go live.
- Walking through website:
 - Video from Secretary Kurtz - what is the CSC and why it matters
 - Removed right panel. Moving everything into buttons in the center page.
 - Providing separate links for the screening form and waiver form so you don't have to download the entire thing every time.
 - 2024 report is linked online (just received approval)
- Questions:
 - Is there a flowchart or timeline for specific projects?
 - Not currently, but can look into adding it.

IV. Public Comment, Updates, & Next Steps

1:25 - 1:30

- None
- Natalie adjourned the meeting at 1:22pm.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2025 12:30-1:30

Attendance

22 online

11 in person

1. Matt Negley
2. Christine Burns
3. Allison Gost
4. Natalie Snider
5. Jennifer Esposito
6. Charlotte Shearin
7. Erik Fisher
8. Nick Kelly
9. Kate Vogel
10. Jillian Seagraves
11. Ryland Taylor