

Maryland Coast Smart Council

March 12, 2018 – 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm – DNR Meeting Notes

Attendance: Matthew Fleming (DNR), Don Boesch (UMCES), Kevin Brown (Ocean City), Chris Elcock (GWWO Inc./Architects), Nancy Kopp (Maryland Treasurer), Gary Setzer (MDE), Dave Guignet (MDE), Fiona Burns (DBM), Katherine Charbonneau (DNR/CAC), Joann Throwe (DNR Deputy Secretary), Bill Anderson (DNR Assistant Secretary), Joseph Abe (DNR), Catherine McCall (DNR), Sasha Land (DNR), Jackie Specht (DNR), Zoe Johnson (NOAA), Alexandra DeWeese, (DNR/CAC), Astrid Caldas (Union of Concerned Scientists), Brian Ambrette (Eastern Shore Land Conservancy), *Conference Phone:* Daniel Kreeger (Association of Climate Change Officers), Gerry Galloway (U of MD), Richard Higgins (Commerce), and Michael Bayer (MDP)

1:05 p.m. Meeting Begins

Agenda Item #1

- Matthew Fleming welcomed everyone, asked for introductions and called the meeting to order. Matt mentioned that the Council has two new members: Jaleesa Tate (MEMA) and John Brush (DGS). Both members expressed regrets for not being able to attend because of prior commitments.

Agenda Item #2

- Members were asked if there were any edits to the 12/11/17 meeting minutes. With none suggested, a motion to approve the minutes was requested by Matt Fleming. With a motion from Gary Setzer and a second by Don Boesch, the Council voted to approve the 12/11/17 notes as written.

Agenda Item #3

- Zoe Johnson announced a new NOAA 2018 report, entitled *Patterns and Projects of High Tide Flooding Along the U.S. Coastline Using a Common Impact Threshold*, that Joe will distribute after the meeting with meeting notes. Zoe also mentioned a NOAA project that identified 21 new indicators for climate adaptation. NOAA plans to brief the Council and other groups shortly on these indicators.
- Matt Fleming mentioned the State of the Coast conference (May 21-23 in Cambridge, MD) and invited Council members to participate in this inaugural event.

Agenda Item #4

- Daniel Kreeger, Executive Director of the Association of Climate Change Officers, presented an overview of the proposed Maryland Climate Leadership Academy, a

project jointly developed with CCS leadership. Afterward Dan fielded questions and comments. Don Boesch expressed strong support for the Academy. He then emphasized a few key points to help ensure its success: (1) the need to integrate mitigation and adaptation efforts in Maryland (2) make sure the process is both bottom up and top down (3) be sure to include already existing education projects (especially K-12 and undergraduate) (4) adaptation should include both climate change and economic challenges and (5) the importance of having sustained investment from diverse sources, including state, private and other sources. Gerry Galloway stated he was interested in working on the Academy's Steering committee. Matt invited continued input from Council to help shape Academy, including the discussion at the upcoming State of the Coast conference in Cambridge, MD. DNR Deputy Secretary Joanne Throwe said she was very excited about the Academy. Maryland Treasurer Nancy Kopp also voiced her enthusiasm and support.

Agenda Item #5

- Kevin Brown, Chief Building Official and Flood Plain Administrator for Ocean City, made the case for including Zone X (Shaded) with the Coast Smart Construction Program siting and design guidelines. The primary issue before the Council is whether to extend a freeboard requirement into Shaded Zone X. Kevin explained that Shaded Zone X, the area immediately adjacent to Special Flood Hazard Areas, have been flooded fairly regularly indicating that existing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) have limited ability to predict impacts because the estimated flood probability is based on historic data. Changes in development, impervious area, sea-level rise, weather patterns, tidal floods and other factors are generally changing faster than development and issuance of FIRMs. This problem has also been acknowledged by FEMA. Kevin pointed out the distinction between Shaded Zone X (an area with moderate flood risk from a 0.2 % probability flood (or five-hundred-year flood) and Unshaded Zone X (an area with low flood risk considered outside the five-hundred-year flood). The focus here is on Shaded Zone X.
- Council members were asked to respond to Kevin's presentation. Gerry Galloway felt it was an important issue to pursue. Don Boesch agreed and mentioned that UMCES has done some research on the "500-year" storm – especially modeling of a Cat-2 storm and factoring in sea level rise and water warming. For instance, Isabel in 2003 flooded Pratt Street in Baltimore. According to their models, a similar storm in 2050 would cover all of Little Italy. Dave Guignet mentioned that this proposal tracks well with a previous Council discussion about harmonizing Maryland standards with evolving (i.e. more protective) federal flood protection standards. However, this point is mute since the executive order modernizing FEMA standards during the previous Obama administration was rescinded by the Trump administration.

- A motion was made, seconded and approved by the Council: Form a technical group to review this issue further. Gary Setzer, Dave Guignet, Kevin Brown, Kevin Wagner and Dr. Galloway and others would examine the issue and come up with options.

Agenda Item #6

Joe Abe gave a very brief summary of the 2018 revision to the Coast Smart Construction Program that reflects Council and technical committee recommendations. The development of the already-approved Coast Smart Assessment and Certificate was the key driver to changes in the appendices as well as the main introductory text in the Program document. Joe noted that the Certificate will be an important tool to show that projects before the Board of Public Works or similar approval bodies have considered their flood vulnerability and have complied with Coast Smart siting and design guidelines. A motion was made and seconded, and the Council voted to approve the 2018 revisions to the Coast Smart Construction Program. This is the first revision of the Program document since it was initially approved on June 26, 2015.

Adjourned: 2:00 p.m.