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MEETING SUMMARY
MARYLAND ADAPTATION & RESPONSE
WORK GROUP (ARWG)
Meeting #7, January 11, 2007
10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Attendance:

ARWG Members:

Don Halligan, *MDP*
Zoe Johnson, *DNR*

Ron Bowen, *Anne Arundel County*
Sherwood “Duke” Brooks, *MD Assoc. of Realtors*
Carl Bruch, *Environmental Law Institute*
David Burke, *Burke Environmental Assoc.*
Phillip Connor, *Marine Trade Association of Maryland*
Gil Dissen, *Dissen & Juhn Corp.*
Ira Feldman, *Greentrack*
Bill Giese, *USFWS* (by phone)
Lynn Heller, *Citizen*
Jason Holstine, *Amicas Green Building Center*
Joan Kean, *Somerset County*
Dennis King, *UMCES*
John Kostyack, *NWF* (by phone)
Joe Maheady, *USGBC*
Clifford Mitchell, *Department of Health and Hygiene*
Ellen Moyer, *City of Annapolis* (by phone)
Dru Schmidt-Perkins, *1000 Friends of Maryland*
Sue Veith, *St. Mary’s County*

MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

Joe Abe
Carrie Decker
Gwynne Schultz
Gwen Shaughnessy

Other Maryland Departments:

Ruth Mascari, *Department of Health and Mental Standards & MEMA*
Cathy O’Neill, *DHMH*

Center for Climate Strategies (CCS):

Virginia Burkett, *Facilitator (by phone)*
Kirsten Dow, *Facilitator*
Gloria Flora, *Facilitator*
Brian Joyce, *Facilitator*
Katie Pasko, *Assistant*
Linda Schade, *Assistant*

Members of the Public:

Bob Cadwallader, *Somerset County*

Background documents:

All posted at: <http://www.mdclimatechange.us/twg.cfm>

1. Meeting Agenda
2. ARWG PowerPoint presentation
3. Policy Option Descriptions

Discussion and Key Issues

Gloria Flora opened the meeting and asked for introductions. She reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The primary goal of this meeting is to review policy options overlapping more than one TWG and determine the means to resolve the conflicts. A process will be proposed and all common options assignments reviewed under the approved process.

Flora reviewed the overall process of the ARWG and the timeline necessary to meet the April Final Report goal. She also reviewed the Straw Proposal Template used for all policy options. Each TWG is responsible for researching, designing and writing the draft straw proposals for approval by the ARWG and the MCCC.

The 7 December 2007 summary was approved with no changes.

Common Issues Proposal

Flora outlined a proposal to address issues common to policy options assigned to multiple TWGs. Such issues will be aggregated and assigned to one TWG for leadership, with sub-groups containing volunteer members to prepare the straw proposals. Each sub-group should include representation from all TWGs sharing in that issue. The lead TWG is responsible for ensuring that the goals of the policy options are met.

Note that the titles of each group are merely advisory. The assigned lead TWG is responsible for ensuring that the work for all related policy options is completed. The grouping is a mechanism to prevent duplication of efforts.

A suggestion was made to send the summaries of all sub-group meetings to all included TWGs. It was decided that this is not practical and interested individuals should volunteer to work on the sub-group.

The ARWG approved this process without objection.

Common Issues Review

Eight common issues were identified and reviewed by the ARWG. The final name of each group is in boldface and underlined. The lead TWG is in italics.

- **Coastal Protection Evaluation** incorporates *EBEI-6* and *FBEI-7*. This group was approved without change.
- Building Standards includes *EBEI-8* and *FBEI-3*. The name of this group was changed to **Development Standards** which goes beyond building standards and includes zoning as related to buildings and associated elements siting).
- **Planning** includes *EBEI-7*, *FBEI-1*, *RRI-2*, *RRI-5*, *RRI-6* and *HHSW-5*. This sub-group includes zoning issues and health considerations. The inclusion of *HHSW-5* is a change. Zoning may be revisited as the issue is explored further.

Concerns were expressed regarding the criteria for restricting use of private property. New standards will need to be implemented and should be outlined in the straw proposals.

Incentives can be utilized. Flora emphasized that all options can be implemented by a variety of entities and should include all citizens, organizations and groups, not just governments.

Health criteria should be explicitly outlined in planning process proposals.

- Vulnerable Area Inventory, Mapping and Monitoring includes *EBEI-4*, *EBEI-5*, *FBEI-6*, *RRI-3* and *HHSW-3*. The title was changed to **Integrated Spatial Data Systems**.

A monitoring system for leading indicators should be included in this work. In addition, health aspects of the mapping should be considered, but the focus should be on geographic data.

Emphasis will be on affected infrastructure in mapped areas.

A member raised the point that this work asks people to adapt and respond to risk, not just inundation and sea level rise. The Insurance Commission is also concerned about these risks. The commission has been invited to participate in this research. Representatives will be in attendance at the next meeting of the ARWG and will present their Coastal Issues Task Force Final Report.

The policy option should delineate clearly what Maryland can accomplish and what falls under the purview of federal and regional governance. For example, federal regulations allow the placement of mobile home, and require this allowance, in high risk zones. The state may wish to ban such structures due to risk factors. This conflict would have to be resolved at a federal level, through the state Congressional delegation.

Concerns were raised regarding property rights of owners of coastal property, should the coastline change in the future. Current regulations are based on mean high tide, which is generally considered to be a static level.

Current law has provisions for this situation. If land is exposed, the adjoining landowner acquires it. Any land under water becomes the property of the state.

- **Hazard Preparedness and Emergency Planning** incorporates EBEI-9, HHSW-4, HHSW-6. HHSW was added This policy design should include provisions to work with and be complementary to existing programs, so as to not lose funding tied to current programs.

Monitoring of leading indicators should be included in these straw proposals.

- **Public Awareness and Capacity Building** was proposed to include EBEI-1, RRI-6 and HHSW-10. The ARWG added ‘and Capacity Building’ to the original title. The members also added HHSW-7, HHSW-8 and to the group and removed RRI-6 to the Planning group. HHSW-11 was moved to Hazard Preparedness and Emergency Planning above. Monitoring of leading indicators should also be reviewed in this area. The Public Health department has several programs to monitor diseases and health risks throughout the region and country.

Public Awareness is a broader, more overarching concept than Public Education, a name suggested at the meeting. Awareness incorporates more of the concepts covered in these policy options.

Various approaches to hazard awareness exist and should be noted for utilization in increasing awareness of dangers and risk. An “All Hazards” approach teaches people how to respond to a given emergency, regardless of the source of the risk, such as how to evacuate in the a major storm event. Teaching specific audiences how climate change effects can increase risk would possibly result in innovative adaptations to reduce risk. For example, the creation of hurricane ties has greatly reduced the risk of roof removal during high winds.

A focus on risks increased or created by climate change issues is the primary focus of this group. All approaches should be used as components of the plans to cover short and long term issues. Explicitly state those recommendations that are emergency response indicating sea level rise issues where appropriate.

HHSW-9 was left as an exclusive option after discussion regarding its inclusion in this or other groups.

- **Training and Capacity Building** covers HHSW-7, HHSW-8, HHSW-11 and FBEI-9. This is a very large umbrella. FBEI-9 ranges from all building trades to insurance.

There are approximately ten subsets to this topic. Care must be taken to explain the rationale for all proposed actions to minimize negative reactions.

One member pointed out that the ARWG can aggregate policies, but the legislature doesn’t operate in that manner. Flora responded that the straw proposals are not directed exclusively to the legislature, but are targeted to all citizens. Proposed legislation should be included where appropriate but is not required for all action items.

The term “hazard event” should be used to incorporate all levels of response.

The link between climate change and the outlined risk should be delineated in the straw proposal. More outlying events, with strong rains and floods, will be seen as a result of climate change.

The ARWG dissolved this group, moving all the HHSW options to Public Awareness and Capacity Building leaving FBEI-9 as an exclusive option.

- **Revision and Development of Legislation Related to Sea Level Rise** includes *FBEI-2* and *RRI-7*.

The ARWG feels that this topic should either be greatly expanded, which is impractical, or greatly focused. The members chose to separate each policy option to be exclusive options.

The focus of these options is expected to be on environmental causes of sea level rise and the resulting legislation that would guide adaptive practices.

The ARWG will determine, at the end of the process, if the policy options stand as options or be modified to become a guide on how to actualize this report

Questions were raised regarding the ability of the state of Maryland to enact such changes. It was reiterated that the purview of this group is to make recommendations for policy and implementation based on the science and research.

The vision statements can include these concepts. Every effort will be made to avoid the perception that this work is just an intellectual exercise and will focus on actionable recommendations.

Members agreed that the last chapter of the Final Report should include a summary of the purpose and application of the report, with specifics about how state and local governments, citizens and business and industry can use the information contained in it.

Exclusive Options Review

All language used in the straw proposals should be actionable, not conceptual.

Existing Built Environment and Infrastructure

EBEI-2, EBEI-3, and EBEI-10 remain as standalone policy options. No changes were made.

Future Built Environment and Infrastructure

FBEI-2 – Remove MD CCC findings from title. Refer to sea level rise instead.

FBEI-2, FBEI-4, FBEI-5, FBEI-8 and FBEI-9 remain as standalone policy options. No changes were made.

Human Health, Safety and Welfare

Policy numbers and titles were changed by the TWG. Changes are noted.

HHSW-1 no change

HHSW-2 The TWG recommends changing the name to Coordination Across Agencies Responsible for Human Health and Safety.

HHSW-3 The TWG recommends dropping HHSW-3 Uniform Indicators and Data Standards as a standalone policy option as it has been incorporated into other policy options.

HHSW-4 The TWG recommends changing the name to Public Health Surge Capacity Support. Surge capacity can be a gradual buildup, not just a catastrophic emergency. Both are climate related issues. The distinction between emergency surge and gradual pool or rise issues should be made in the straw proposal. This is part of a common option headed by HHSW.

HHSW-5 The TWG recommends changing the name to Public Health Response Plans for Large Scale Floods, Storms and Storm Surges.

HHSW-9 This remains as an exclusive option.

HHSW-11 The TWG recommends reinstating Heat Wave Awareness and Early Warning as a policy option to be included in the common option, Hazard Preparedness and Emergency Planning (was Early Warning).

This issue is not strictly related to sea level rise but should be included due to its importance. The ARWG agreed to reinstate this policy option, but to drop Heat Wave from the title. This subject would be covered in the body of the straw proposal.

All the above recommendations were accepted by consensus without changing the numbers of the policy options.

Resources and Resource-based Industries

RRI-1, RRI-4, RRI-7, RRI-8, and RRI-9 remain as standalone policy options.

RRI-1 – Existing green and blue assessments should be included in the research. The TWG is requested to target and identify priority areas for protection.

RRI-4 – RRI-4 and RRI-11 were combined as Forest and Wetlands Protection. It was noted that forest health is changing and requires increased monitoring.

RRI-8 – The intent of this policy option is to monitor and assess the impact of sea level rise on fish stocks and habitat, not to monitor the actual fish stocks and commercial fisheries. That is a far more wide-ranging issue, and was specifically not included in this scope of work. It will be addressed in the future.

Migration corridors are included in this goal.

RRI-9 – No changes were made.

Smart Growth Planning

Don Halligan of the Department of Planning presented a report on Smart Growth in Maryland, including vulnerability to climate change. The power-point presentation is included on the Maryland website, www.mdclimatechange.us.

Topics covered included a summary of projected population growth, and land coverage. Population is predicted to increase 20.5% over 25 years. If current patterns of settlement and development continue, sprawl development will encompass Frederick and Harford counties as well as the peninsulas.

Housing affordability was also reviewed. The median income of homeowners in the state was calculated. These are residents who have already purchased their primary home. The affordability of those homeowners to move to more desirable homes was used as the basis.

During discussion of this presentation, it was noted that affordability variables include commuter costs, babysitting and other child care costs, home service such as cleaning and yard services, etc. should also be included with the base price of homes. Since homeowners in outlying areas commute for longer times, there is less time for household tasks. These increase costs and GHG emissions.

Smart growth and smart costing are valuable principles to bear in mind for this work. The challenge is to develop planning processes that address concerns of local planners and encourage smart growth outcomes.

The TLU TWG from the Mitigation part of the process should also be given this information.

Public Input

There was no public comment.

Next ARWG Meeting

The next meeting of the ARWG will be held on February 8th, 2008 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Department of Emergency Planning offices, 5401 Rue Saint Lo, Reisterstown, MD. A presentation on the Insurance Commission's report on coastal issues will be on the agenda.

Members are reminded to bring photo identification to the meeting.

Subsequent meetings are scheduled for March 7, 2008 and April 11, 2008.