



## Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2020

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Meeting Materials:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/climate\\_resiliency\\_workgroup\\_july\\_2020\\_in\\_person\\_meeting](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/climate_resiliency_workgroup_july_2020_in_person_meeting)

### MINUTES

- ✓ **ACTION:** Julie will work with Forestry Workgroup to coordinate the finance coaches' hours.
- ✓ **ACTION:** Kevin will summarize his idea for coaches to start with and send it to the CRWG staffers.

**1:30 PM Welcome and Meeting Overview – Co-Chair Mark Bennett (USGS) and Erik Meyers (The Conservation Fund)**

**Workgroup Announcements:**

- FY20 GIT-Funding Update  
CBT has sent comments for the GIT Funding proposal. Most of the comments are minor and two major comments are about reviewing existing literature and not duplicate work, and adding more details carbon market feasibility assessment. We expect finance coaches to help us frame a more solid proposal.

**1:40 PM Discuss questions to ask finance coaches – Julie Reichert-Nguyen, (NOAA)**  
CRWG will have a group discussion to prepare questions to ask finance coaches based on ideas listed in the spreadsheet. CRWG workgroup members, Jim George (MDE), Kate McClure (University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program), and Kevin Du Bois (Navy) will describe and lead the discussion on their idea. These ideas and questions will be provided to the finance coaches to incorporate into a “Finance 101” presentation at a later date.

**Preliminary Feasibility Assessment of a Financial Resilience Building Concept Involving Government Promotion and Subsidy of Flood Insurance**

Jim George presented his proposal to finance coach which is to have finance coach help evaluate concept of state governments devising a revenue neutral way to promote and subsidize flood insurance at long term cost savings to the government that would increase resilience to climate change. Does it warrant further development or is it fatally flawed?

- Jim mentioned that flood insurance policies are dropping despite increase in populations and climate-related flooding.
- Merit good concept – benefit of having flood insurance outweighs the cost.
- In Maryland, within 100 year floodplain generally requires flood insurance – currently analyzing 100-yr floodplain plus 3 feet are for building footprints – accounts for tidal flooding (not precip).

- Julie asked about if flood insurance revenue help build resilience of the community.
  - Jim responded that this concept does exist in national flood insurance as in community rating. Communities that are more resilient can have lower insurance premium raise.
  - I.e., rates go down in supported buffer areas
- Katie mentioned that Forestry workgroup is planning to use conservation finance hours to look at option for flood insurance companies to fund upland forest buffers to reduce downstream flood risk. She asked if Jim's work would look at upland or coastal areas?
  - Jim responded that they are conceptually similar so this would cover both.
- It was mentioned that it is difficult to get the private sector involved because flood insurance doesn't sell well. Reason why there is the Federal flood insurance program.
- Kevin asked how getting people to get flood insurance is related to restoring Chesapeake Bay Watershed restoration.
  - Jim responded that this idea has mitigation tied into. He added that financial resilient community will also have funds available to support Chesapeake Bay restoration.
  - Elizabeth Andrews commented that connections should be made clear. She had an example from RAFT. People thinks of planting trees as an approach to be more climate resilient but with coastal flooding those trees will just be ghost forests. She added a good overview of Norfolk zoning ordinance and its resilience quotient that encourages development on higher ground and placement of conservation easements on lower lying properties to prevent future development ([link here](#))
- Kristin added that finance experts posed the insurers as having an interest in investing in restoration activities as preventive measures to reduce flood impacts
- Action item: Julie will work with Forestry Workgroup to coordinate the finance coaches' hours.

### **Financial plan for coastal conservation easements to facilitate marsh migration into ag lands.**

Kate McClure presented her idea on creating a financial plan for coastal conservation easements to facilitate marsh migration into agricultural lands. This is identified by MD's saltwater intrusion plan. Jason Dubow and Debbie Herr-Cornwell from the MD Dept. of Planning have been tasked with developing a report this year that "presents specifics for how to implement conservation easements in MD that facilitate transitional land uses (e.g. saltmarsh) for salt-impacted farmland." It will be a challenge to understand options for translating the many benefits marshes provide into \$\$ for landowners (e.g., flood reduction, wetland mitigation requirement, blue carbon). This effort might really benefit from some financial coaching, and a robust plan for implementing easements for

marsh migration seems aligned with the CRWG climate resiliency goal and adaptation outcome.

- Nicole Carlozo mentioned that MD DNR does have a [Coastal Resilience Easement program](#) that is currently being revived and we are working with MDP to summarize the existing program as part of MDP's report.
- Taryn Sudol commented that she has heard that farmers/property owners would be more receptive to easement/restoration if it wasn't tied to a governmental program. Maybe the finance coaches could explore the private option possibility for marsh migration?
- Kevin commented that farmers are proud about their ability to grow crops. There needs to be a shift in perception, that farmers can take pride in growing wetlands as a "crop" (value is paid for by the government) rather than the current view is that SLR is destroying their crop production.
- Jim commented that with regards to managed retreat, have government to provide some sort of funding credit with a limited time window to entice early adopters to transition their farm for credit.
  - Julie responded that a question for the coaches could be to see if there are any examples of this approach with other investment strategies that has worked well?
  - Jim mentioned that there was a similar strategy in the 1990s for upgrades of waste water treatment plants.
  - Kristin suggested that we try to think about bundling activities with what others have worked on.
- Jennifer Miller Herzog with Land Trust mentioned a pilot effort in Norfolk piloting the concept of resilience points. This information can be found in a Wetlands Watch webinar ([Link](#) to the recording of the webinar) about two pilot efforts they are working on. [Link](#) to slide: The relevant section in this slide deck begins at slide 19. Slide 21 shows a helpful schematic on how a transaction might occur under such an arrangement.
- Kevin mentioned that a nexus with CBP goals and flood insurance could involve lowering insurance rates if group is engaged in a natural resources project.

### **Partnerships to maximize joint expenditures**

Kevin mentioned that with regard to the financing, at the DoD, they can't take advantage of grants, since DOD expenditures can only come from Congress. However, he is interested in exploring how federal agencies and the DoD can most effectively partner with others to maximize joint expenditures (like with the REPI program)

- Action item: Kevin will summarize his idea for coaches to start with and send it to the CRWG staffers.

2:20 PM

### **[Overview of Upcoming SRS Review Process and Timeline – Breck Sullivan \(CRC\)](#)**

Breck will give an overview of the SRS review process and timeline, as the

logic and action plan for the climate resiliency outcomes need to be updated by November 2020. Current CRWG Work Plan located [here](#).

SRS Process Links:

- <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/decisions>
  - Provides an overview of the ChesapeakeDecisions webpage.
- <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/decisions/srs>
  - Provides an overview of the Strategic Review System (SRS).
- <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/decisions/meetings-deadlines>
  - Before using this section, make sure you filter by the correct cohort. CRWG (and its related outcomes), falls under the “Climate Change and Resiliency” Cohort. This page shows the upcoming meeting and document deadlines.
- Mark commented that before presenting to STAR, the presentation should be made to the Climate Resiliency WG first.

**2:50 PM      Wrap up**

Opportunity to share any additional announcements with the workgroup

**3:00 PM      Meeting Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** August 17, 2020 1:30 – 3:30

Meeting Participants:

Amanda Poskaitis  
Ashley Gordon  
Sally Claggett  
Shalom Fadullon  
Jim George  
Kate McClure  
Katie Brownson  
Katie Matta  
Kristin Sanders  
Cassandra Davis  
Lindsay Bryon  
Mary Gattis  
Rebecca Chillrud  
Selaam Dollisso  
Taryn Sudol  
Ann Philips  
Breck Sullivan  
Kevin Dubois  
Dave Guignet  
Cuiyin Wu  
Breck Sullivan  
Julie Reichert- Nguyen  
Melissa Deas  
Meg Cole

Mark Bennet  
Jennifer Miller Herzog  
Elizabeth A. Andrews