

**Adapting to a Changing climate in Delaware**  
**7/19/22**

**Purpose:** Provide an opportunity for individuals actively working on climate adaptation activities in Delmarva to gather in person to share and discuss adaptation activities.

**Objectives:**

- To identify and connect practitioners working on climate adaptation in the region, especially since there has been significant turnover in the past couple of years.
- To establish a shared understanding of what’s happening on climate adaptation in Delmarva, and to identify and strengthen connections between the various efforts.
- Provide for peer-to-peer learning through exchanging information about similar adaptation efforts and challenges
- To explore ways to share expertise and/or work collaboratively to advance climate adaptation in the region.
- To initiate a discussion about more effectively positioning practitioners to obtain infrastructure funding to address adaptation challenges in Delmarva.

**Outline of an Agenda**

10:00 (20 min)	Welcome and Overview of Day		Finch
10:20 (20 min)	Icebreaker	Break into small groups and have folks introduce themselves (groups of four or five individuals, shuffle after first round of intros)  Name, Affiliation, Location What makes Delmarva special?	
10:40 (10 min)	Topics for Discussion – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are you working on?</li> <li>● What do you want to discuss with others at this gathering?</li> </ul>	Slido for polling?	
10:50 (35 min)	Lightning talks – Round 1		
11:25 (5 min)	Pick a Discussion Topic		
11:30 (40 minutes)	Small Group Discussions #1		
12:10 (50 min)	Lunch		
1:00 (10 min)	Reconvene		

1:10 (5 min)	Pick a Discussion Topic: Common Challenges and Potential Solutions		
1:15 (45 min)	Small Group Discussions #2		
2:00 (35 min)	Lightning talks – Round 2		
2:35 (15 min)	Afternoon Break		
2:50 (5 min)	Pick a Discussion Topic: Moving Forward with Adaptation		
2:55 (25 min)	Small Group Discussions #3		
3:20 (30 min)	Future Collaboration Opportunities		
3:50 (10 min)	Wrap Up and Next Steps		
4:00	Meeting Concludes		

#### Lightning Talks:

- Jen Merritt (Delmarva Restoration and Conservation Network – Updates from the Delmarva Restoration and Conservation Network
- Dylan Tallie (MD DNR Chesapeake and Coastal Services) – Updating Maryland’s Wetland Adaptation Areas
- Clay Ferguson (VA Department of Wildlife Resources) – sea level rise vulnerability assessment of the VA Department of Wildlife Resources assets
- Archer Larned (Maryland Coastal Bays) – Success of Artificial Term Habitat on Coastal Bays
- Roman Jesien (Maryland Coastal Bays) – Sand Management and Sea Level Rise in Coastal Bays
  
- Danielle Swallow (DE Sea Grant) – Capacity-Building Efforts in Delaware
- Jackie Specht (The Nature Conservancy of Maryland/DC) – creating coalitions of community engagement initiatives to influence state/federal planning and policy
- Amanda Poskaitis (NWF) – Greening Gray Infrastructure and Innovative Coastal Adaptation
- Matthew Houser (The Nature Conservancy of Maryland/DC) – Social science research to identify agricultural stakeholders’ responses to climate change
- Jacques Koko (Salisbury) – Moderation and diversity in Energy Usage

#### Guidance for those doing lightning talks

- Thanks for volunteering
- You will have no more than 6 minutes for your presentation. Please make sure your presentation fits within that allotted time.
- You are welcome to use slides. Please bring your presentation on a thumb drive/USB stick (**we will have a laptop and projector available**).

- Lightning talks have been divided into two sessions (see division below). If you have a preference for presentation order (e.g., I'd prefer to go last), please let me know.
- Since the goal is to move through these quickly, there will not be time for Q&A after each presentation. The meeting provides lots of opportunities for discussion, so individuals will be able to follow up with you afterwards.
- Feel free to bring printed material. We'll have a table available for any handouts you'd like to share.

Ground Rules:

- Be respectful of others (esp. groups trying to have a conversation)
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Name tags

Laptop

Projector

Microphones?

Flip charts and markers

Painters tape

NOTETAKER

Logistics:

- Directions: The meeting will be held on the campus of Salisbury University. The City of Salisbury is at the junction of east-west U.S. Route 50 and north-south U.S. Route 13. SU is located on Route 13 Business at the south end of the city. Driving directions are available using Google Maps: 1101 Camden Ave Salisbury, MD 21801-6837.
- Map of campus: Meeting will take place in the Worcester Room in the Commons Dining Hall (blue building in lower right hand side of the map below) .



- **Where do I park?**
- **Where is the meeting?** The Worcester Room in the Commons Dining Hall. The meeting begins at 10 am and runs until 4 pm.
- What should I bring? Bring your ideas, expertise, energy and enthusiasm for engaging with others working on adaptation.
- What will be provided (lunch and beverages with afternoon snack) and stimulating conversation
- List of participants that have RSVPed – provided at the meeting
- Tool for polling the group
- . . . .

**Topics from Previous Meeting we could use for Discussion Topics**

- **Most significant challenges for working with rural communities**
- **Helping coastal communities move forward with adaptation**
- **Approaches for Engagement**
- **Convenors choice (what do you want to discuss with others at this meeting)**

Below are notes from previous meeting:

**Most significant challenges with helping rural coastal communities move forward with adaptation**

- low staff capacities for engagement (very limited staff) and for decision-making
- finding people to manage the projects (what's the top priority)

- funding
  - complicated requirements
  - securing funding
  - meeting match requirements
  - timeline not matching
- federal grants often prioritize regional/multi-faceted approaches that are
- NGOs unable to invest long-term
- too sophisticated for what the town needs
- difficulty in getting elected official buy-in
- lack of NGOs and private-public sector partnerships
- hard to get funding to support personnel and communication needs
- lack of community based leadership (no individual leaders or organizations)
- basic human health needs not met (e.g., grocery stores, health care)
- inability to deal with societal baggage
- disconnect in understanding of what government actually does
- false trade-offs
- hard to link adaptation to other pressing issues
- lack of trust
- climate change overload
- too few experts assisting communication

*Things that could **help rural coastal communities** more effectively overcome their capacity limitations*

- increased and focused long-range planning by local government
- external investment, especially if it promotes longer-term thinking/planning
- multi-year grants that move them from planning to implementation
- matrix that describes funding opportunities through various government agencies
- science-based and technical assistance from NGO's and others
- **circuit riders** who can help apply for grants
- training on land use planning and associated processes
- assistance with cultivating and implementing public-private partnerships
- active engagement with principal employers
- finding resources for engineering designs and feasibility studies
- developing regional or sub-regional partnerships
- complex ally building
- advocacy to residents to influence L.E.O.s
- Volunteers!
- Better coordination of service delivery
- Make university connections (extension and ???)
- Community of practice
- Mapping resources
- Opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange on challenges and solutions
- Leadership development so efforts can continue once tech assistance providers move on
- Monitoring or coaching from tech assistance providers or communities that have expressed (interest)
- Support for complex networks of allies
- Local thought leadership

- Capital funding of adaptation

## WAYS TO ENGAGE RURAL COMMUNITIES

- Convince federal, state and other regulators to trust community input
- Meet with community members over food & drink and in their homes or fire stations
- Identify something in common with them (e.g., you both belong to same club or church)
- Invite to community meeting
- Host an event (coffee hour, happy hour, etc.)
- Meet them where they go (dock, pier, etc.)
- Got to THEIR meetings (HOA meetings, group meetings, etc.)
- Go to local group events
  - outreach
  - cultural events
- League of local governments
  - municipal league events
  - invite to have representation on your resilience groups
- Funding
  - be a resource and advocate for all resilience work
  - cross-pollinate - if there is interest in one
- Participatory mapping
- Bring resources and ask how they can be deployed
- Community events (e.g., have a table at an event about something else)
- Schools - engaging parents through youth
- Community meetings
- Social media / online resources
- Facilitated conversations to get community perspectives - help to legitimize their worldview and opens opportunity for dialogue
- Identify opinion leaders in civic organizations
- Know your audience:
  - meet them where they are ~ literally and figuratively
  - understand the issues and language that resonates with them
  - develop solutions together because without local ownership implementation won't continue when assistance providers leave town
- Attend community events
- Build relationships and trust with community officials
- Listen to their concerns and match with ways your organization can address these concerns (bring resources)
- Identify community leaders
  - use power mapping in communities
- Honesty / transparency about objectives
- Meet community where they are at

- Provide information above and beyond - act as a networker
- Going to farm exhibits
- Talk to cooperative extension people who work with farmers
- Community forums - "coffee hour" and talking about what communities are seeing / impacts and listening to their perspective
- Figuring out what community-specific groups
- Size / where listening **clarify?**
- Keep showing up and listening
- Don't come with needs - come to listen and help
- Don't judge the socio-political views of the community
- Pay them to come to you
- Speak their language
- Work on what they care about
- Know your audience
- Make in convenient (location, time, day of week)
- Set aside the time, it takes a long time
- Listen, and make sure stakeholders know you are listening
- Be humble
- Power per se goes to them
- Develop communication strategy with community leaders so you know what techniques will resonate or work well
- Give communities responsibility in the project so as to create buy-in and to develop future "trusted messengers" or leaders
- Engagement needs to happen on multiple platforms
  - web, social media, in-person, group discussion, workshops
  - using one form won't do it all
- Do your homework with partners about what work is being done in a community, or past work / issues have come up before you engage with them

**I want to talk more about** (those marked with 1 and 2 highlighted by participants)

- **(1)** Adapting in-place (i.e. living with water) -- [planning for relevant timeframes](#)
- Project implementation and funding for it
- Nature-based solutions and marsh migration
- How to attract foundations and their funding
- Financing options
- How to have difficult questions, discussions about retreat
- **(2)** [science translation/use of data – messaging to elected officials](#)