

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Adaptation and Response Working Group

Recommendations for the MCCC 2016 Report

The ARWG is chaired by the Secretary of DNR and with administrative support provided by DNR. The ARWG is supported with active involvement and leadership from other work group members and agencies. Activities being advanced by ARWG members are already significantly guided by the Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG). For example, the sea level rise projections that the STWG issues and updates are used in a wide variety of vulnerability assessments and future planning activities. Additional engagement with the MWG would be welcome to better understand possible connections between adaptation/resilience and mitigation efforts. Additional resources may be needed directly or through leveraged means to more completely address some of the draft 2016 priorities.

- **Supporting Local Partners** – in order to continue to address the four adaptation challenge areas, it will require work not only among state partners and at the state level, but also across local towns, municipalities and counties to ensure that our people, economies and resources are positioned to thrive into the future in a changing climate. The ARWG has made it a priority to strengthen efforts in 2017 to place greater emphasis on supporting adaptation at the local level. This will be done by working or continuing to understand capacity needs, delivering assistance to communities, and highlighting local progress to foster advances across the state.
- **Broadening the Adaptation Scope** – as the focus of the ARWG, its members' work and the challenges of different climate impacts evolve, the work group is recommending that in 2017 additional emphasis be placed on meeting adaptation needs in non-coastal areas and on non-flooding issues.
- **Expand Partnerships** – climate adaptation requires work across sectors and stakeholder groups. The ARWG has identified the need to expand public and private partnerships and work group participation to include business and industry representatives and local, state and federal partners.