

Resilience Authority of Charles County, Inc.
Annual Report

Pursuant to Maryland Annotated Code, Local
Government Article §22-113

Submitted December 22, 2022

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History

The 2020 Maryland General Assembly passed enabling legislation that authorized a local government to create a Resilience Authority that would mitigate the impacts of climate change through infrastructure investment and the legislation was codified in Title 22 of the Local Government Article of the Maryland Annotated Code. In December 2020, the Board of Charles County Commissioners enacted a local law establishing the Resilience Authority of Charles County, Inc. that was subsequently codified in Chapter 299 of the Charles County Code.

Mission

The mission of the Authority is to undertake and support resilience infrastructure projects that mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change by offering a range of financing structures, forms, and techniques that leverage public and private investment as well as outreach efforts. The Authority also encourages the demand for resilience infrastructure projects throughout Charles County.

Board Members

The Authority Board Members were appointed by the Charles County Board of Commissioners and reflect the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of Charles County. The composition of the Board includes members of the Charles County Government Executive Leadership Team, members who represent a Charles County municipality and the business community, a Charles County citizen, a member from the banking and finance industry and Ex-officio members including a representative of a Maryland State Government entity focused on the environment and infrastructure issues and a member from the climate change science community.

Membership

Term Expires

Craig Beyroudy	Until June 25, 2023
Bonnie Norman	Until June 25, 2024
Dr. Charles C. Glass, P.E.	Until June 25, 2023
Ryan Hicks	Until June 25, 2025
Patrice Kelly	Until June 25, 2024
Tom Schueler	Until June 25, 2024
Jenifer Ellin	Until June 25, 2023
Dave Nemazie	Until June 25, 2023
Daniel Donohue	Until June 25, 2024
Teresa Ball	Until June 25, 2025
Deborah Carpenter	Until June 25, 2025

Meetings

The Board of Directors met virtually each quarter throughout the year.

Briefings

Stormwater Prioritization Project – Rebecca Winer & Meghan Gloyd

- The County on behalf of the Authority entered into a contract with Biohabitats for the private stormwater improvement prioritization project. The project includes three phases including exploratory, predictive and prioritization. Biohabitats is in the exploratory phase of this project and are in the process of completing the storm drain system characterization by field reconnaissance. This feeds into the predictive phase to develop a suitability model and ranking system. This all leads to a neighborhood prioritization dashboard where residents can see where their property may fall on the prioritization list.
- Biohabitats will be assessing the age, design, and capability of drain systems and categorizing the systems as failed, predicted to fail within 5 years, or predicted to fail within 5-10 years.
- Site conditions are currently being documented and evaluated identifying opportunities for drainage improvements or green infrastructure retrofits. Biohabitats observed that the age of infrastructure is a good analog for the condition and finding that the industry standard of 20-25 years is an appropriate. The presenters indicated that some issues they have encountered are failed joints, corroded pipe, uncontrolled runoff, and inappropriate drainage patterns.
- Solutions include identifying neighborhood scale and site solutions. Neighborhood solutions include pipe replacement, installation of new stormwater infrastructure, and modification of existing networks. Site scale remedies may include outfall stabilization, repairs of specific pieces of infrastructure, modification of existing networks, and installation of new storm drain network or repair of current network.

Chesapeake Conservancy– Susan Minnemeyer, Chesapeake Conservancy

- Presented on the Conservancy’s pollution abatement best management project and the possibility of doing similar work in Charles County. Shared new high-resolution datasets and demonstrated the LEARN Tool, a map-based interface developed by the Chesapeake Conservancy in partnership with the U.S. Geological Service and the University of Vermont, using Charles County land as an example of the tree canopy data available. This high-resolution land cover/land use and change mapping is a major innovation over the typical 30-meter monitoring data and can be seen down to the parcel scale showing where tree canopy is gained/lost. This is workable data that can be used for local decision making.
- Shared how many jurisdictions have net-zero goals and tree planting and protecting trees are a primary way of removing carbon dioxide from the hemisphere to achieve these goals.
- Discussed how this new technology could prove to be useful specifically as tree canopy, especially in urban areas such as Waldorf, can make a big difference and could essentially be an equity issue.

Gilbert Run Watershed Dams, Stephanie Lowery, Frances Sherman and Elizabeth

- In an effort to meet the Board of County Commissioners priorities, Infrastructure Improvements, Charles County staff presented information regarding dams in the County and their current status. The Commissioners asked the Authority to make a recommendation on funding these infrastructure improvements.

UMCES Coastal Adaptation Report Card - Katie May Laumann, Science Integrator

- Provided a presentation on the Maryland state [Coastal Adaptation Report Card](https://ian.umces.edu/publications/2021-maryland-coastal-adaptation-report-card/): <https://ian.umces.edu/publications/2021-maryland-coastal-adaptation-report-card/>. The goal of the report is to identify state coastal adaptation needs, develop and clarify goals, and track

progress. The priorities for the state of Maryland might differ from those of specific localities and similarly, measures for the state might not be as aggressive as goals needed for local governments. The development of the Report Card was stakeholder driven as these they work and live in the affected communities and know what is most important in terms of adapting and preparing for climate change.

- Factors noted in the Report Card specifically relevant to Charles County included water quality restoration, equity, repetitive property loss, streams, stormwater management, affordable/safe housing, historic properties, and carbon footprint.

Charles County Climate Resilience and Sustainability Officer Update, Beth Groth

- Responsible for facilitating different initiatives within county departments to increase resiliency and sustainability and overseeing training. This position is also responsible for working on the County's Climate Action Plan.
- Managing project for a resiliency grant offered by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation Grant, for the Naval Systems Facility Indian Head and the Town of Indian Head. University of Maryland is a subrecipient of this grant and are helping do a resilience analysis of the town and the base.
- Coordinating with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on a Climate Action Plan for Charles County that includes training modules developed along with the Maryland Commission of Climate Change Officers to enhance climate change competency requirements for staff members.
- Reviewed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report with the Authority and gave a demonstration of the NOAA online Sea Level Rise Viewer.
- Demonstrated for the Authority, a draft of the interactive web page for the public which displays a description of the Community Drainage and Stormwater Management Program, funding sources, and eligibility.

Morgantown Power Plant, Mark Belton

- Morgantown closed coal fire burning operations in June 2022. The Charles County Economic Development Department is working with the State of Maryland to mitigate job losses.

Partnerships and Collaboration

- Mark Belton introduced to the Authority, Dan Nees a Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Sustainability at the University of Maryland and the Interim Executive Director of the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.
- Resilience efforts around the State of Maryland discussed by the Authority
 - Discussion regarding a resilience authority in the City of Salisbury.
 - Montgomery County has been having discussions about giving Green Bank the powers of a Resilience Authority.
 - Mark Conway has introduced legislation in Baltimore City to establish a Resilience Authority, perhaps with Baltimore County.

Personnel Updates

➤ Executive Director Position

The Authority partnered with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the Department of Natural Resources in developing an Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement (IPA) for an Executive Director position for the Authority.

Outreach

- The following groups and organizations have expressed an interest in learning more about the structure and activities of the Authority.
 - Citizens in the Port Tobacco area
 - Charles County Government Citizens Academy
 - Mid-Atlantic Planners Association webinar
 - Environmental Summit of the MD Chapter American Council of Engineering Companies. Chairperson Carpenter will be speaking alongside MDOT and MDE (May).
 - Chairperson Carpenter and the County Climate Sustainability Officer gave presentations at the American Council of Engineering Companies, the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission, Blue Water Baltimore, and the Transportation Planning Board (TPB).

Compliance

The Authority remains in good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation.