



Contact:

Karen Lukacs, 443-614-6697
WET Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Maryland Secretary of Planning Richard Hall to speak at Salisbury University

Salisbury, Md. -- The Wicomico Environmental Trust and Salisbury University Smart Growth Club are pleased to invite the public to hear Maryland Secretary of Planning Richard Hall present "PlanMaryland and The Eastern Shore."

The free event will be at 7 p.m. on October 20 at the Henson Building Room 243 on campus.

Secretary Hall, a native of Salisbury, has served as the state's secretary of planning since 2007. Secretary Hall has more than 20 years of professional planning experience. Communicating to and informing organizations and citizens who have an investment in and the ability to contribute to smart growth in Maryland has always been a part of Secretary Hall's objective at the Maryland Department of Planning.

Smart growth concentrates new development and redevelopment in areas that have existing or planned infrastructure to avoid sprawl, according to MDP. Smart growth is sustainable and is characterized by compact development with neighborhood schools, walkable streets, mixed-use development and a wide range of housing choices. Its purpose is to conserve valuable natural resources through the efficient use of land, water and air; create a sense of community and place; expand transportation, employment, and housing choices; distribute the costs and benefits of development in an equitable manner; and promote public health. For more information about the Department of Planning, smart growth and Secretary Hall, please visit www.planning.maryland.gov.

Smart growth is a critical element in the state's planning document, PlanMaryland. Over the next 20 years, there will be nearly 1,000,000 more people, more than 400,000 additional households and more than 600,000 new jobs in Maryland. In the presentation about PlanMaryland, Secretary Hall will discuss how PlanMaryland addresses the anticipated growth and what it means for the future of the Eastern Shore. He'll also discuss how residents of the Shore can use the guidance of the plan to make their hopes for the future of the region a reality.

Wicomico Environmental Trust is a local nonprofit and advocacy organization that works to protect and preserve the natural resources of Wicomico County.

The SU Smart Growth Club seeks to promote smart growth principles on the Eastern Shore through education and actions. It is housed in the Geography Department at Salisbury University. Club members are students from different disciplines who are interested in sustainability and conservation of natural resources.

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