

Maryland Planning Commissioners Association 2020 Conference

November 9, 2020 Program

Virtual Conference



8:30 am: GoToWebinar Session Opens

9 - 10 am Maryland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework

Megan Grenato Senior Program Director, Chesapeake and Coastal Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Jim George Policy Advisor, Water and Science Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment

Deborah Herr Cornwell Resource Conservation Planner, Maryland Department of Planning PLA, ASLA, CC-P®

Local communities are on the front line of preparing and responding to climate impacts. This session will introduce the state's new strategic adaptation initiative and seek planning board member views. The state is developing an adaptation framework to reduce vulnerability to climate impacts. Key information will be shared across the framework's sectors, including health, infrastructure, state & local partnerships, working lands, and water and natural resources. Diversity, environmental justice, climate jobs and training are being incorporated across all sectors and will also be presented.

10 - 12 pm Open Meetings Act Training

Frank M. Johnson Deputy City Attorney, City of Gaithersburg

April Ishak City Attorney, Havre de Grace

In the 2017 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation requiring at least one member of each public body to take a training class on the Open Meetings Act. Under current law, each public body must designate at least one individual who is an employee, officer, or member to take the training class. While employees or staff can continue to take the training class, at least one member of the public body must be also designated to take the class. This training satisfies the requirement.

12 - 1 pm MPCA Annual Meeting

Address: Maryland Department of Planning Secretary, Robert McCord

Business:

Treasurer's Report

Elections

Bylaws Update

Recognitions

2021 Initiatives

The planning committee strives to create a robust schedule of topics that will be valuable to attendees.

Rev: November 2, 2020

1 - 2 pm **Designing for a Pandemic**

J. Kirk Eby, AICP, GISP GIS Planner, City of Gaithersburg Planning & Code Administration

The Covid-19 pandemic has upended all our lives and will likely continue to do so for some time. In our rush to adapt to a world of social distancing and home-based work and learning, the resiliency of our public space and infrastructure has shown its cracks. This session will explore approaches that professional and citizen planners can use to design communities and communication networks for greater adaptability in times of stress.

2 - 3 pm **Continuity Planning for County and Local Boards**

Deepa Srinivasan, AICP, CFM President, Vision Planning and Consulting, LLC

Many governments plan for emergencies through their Hazard Mitigation (HMP), Emergency Operations (EOP), or Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans. While these plans provide excellent information, assumptions, procedures, checklists, and other tools for the jurisdiction at-large, they may not provide “frontline” actions or considerations for planning boards. This presentation will discuss the various steps, procedures, and technologies that planning departments, boards, and commissions can take to ensure that they can continue working both during, and in a post-disaster environment.

3 - 4 pm **Virtual Planning During a Pandemic**

Kathy Maher, AICP	Director of Planning and Code Administration, City of Hagerstown
Megan Flick	Planner, City of Hagerstown
Paul Fulk, MBA, MCEP	Neighborhood Services Manager, City of Hagerstown
Donnie Harckom, MBA	Neighborhood Services Inspector II, City of Hagerstown
Doug Wright	Chair, City of Hagerstown Planning Commission

The City of Hagerstown Planning and Code Administration staff and Planning Commission Chair will discuss how the city maintained a regular planning commission meeting schedule by conducting virtual meetings via Zoom software. Staff and planning commission members have proved their resiliency and dedication to service during this pandemic by quickly adapting to the new meeting format and maintaining consistent attendance. This session provides guidance for other municipalities, boards, and regional governments that are committed to conducting business as close to normal as possible during unprecedented times such as this one.

4:00 pm **Conference Adjourns**

Special Guest



Robert McCord, Esq is Secretary for the Maryland Department of Planning, providing comprehensive leadership of the Department's mission, objectives, and initiatives. With the Maryland Department of Planning since 2015, he has served as Assistant Secretary of Operations and Deputy Secretary. The secretary comes to the department with private sector and public experience. He worked in private practice in Bel Air, MD before joining the Harford County Law Department in 1998 as Deputy County Attorney, then County Attorney from 2004 -2014.

He has seen issues from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore as a trustee on the Local Government Insurance Trust. He is an Adjunct Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law, 1990 - present. He holds a degree from Loyola University Maryland, B.A. (Business Administration and Philosophy), 1983; M.B.A. (Marketing), 1985; University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D. cum laude, 1989.

Session Panelists



Megan Granato is a Senior Program Director at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, where she specializes on restoration and climate resilience financing programs. Megan provides grant management for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, which supports the implementation of innovative, cost-effective, and efficient restoration projects across the state. She also manages the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant funding provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, which supports progress towards achieving the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

goals and outcomes. Megan has a B.A. in Biology from Hamilton College and a M.S. in Natural Resource Management from North Carolina State University. Her previous experience includes working as a restoration ecologist for an environmental consulting firm in California and researching the plants and soils of restored stream corridors in North Carolina.



Dr. Jim George serves as the Water Resources Policy Advisor to the Director's Office of the Water and Science Administration at the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). His work at MDE, since 1992, has largely focused on water quality management; however, his current work involves water reuse and climate change adaptation. He teaches a course for Johns Hopkins University on Water Resources Management.



As a licensed landscape architect, **Debbie Herr Cornwell** has worked in the private, non-profit and government sectors over the past 30 years. Drawing on her experiences working in a multi-disciplinary design firm and as a sole practitioner, she has designed and constructed environmentally sensitive projects for private and government clients. Prior to coming to the Maryland Department of Planning in 2017, she worked for nine years at the county government level assisting citizens in navigating the development review and approval process, preserving agricultural lands, and developing local policies.

As a resource conservation planner at the Maryland Department of Planning, Debbie continues to be involved in agricultural land preservation, policy development, as well as climate change initiatives; including development of 'Maryland's Plan to Adapt to Saltwater Intrusion and Salinization'.



Frank Johnson has served local government as staff, an appointed official, and an elected official, and in those roles has worked on open meetings act issues in several contexts since 2000. He is certified by the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance as an Open Meetings Act trainer. After serving on several local boards and commissions, including the planning commission, he was elected in 2000 to the Mt. Airy Town Council, and Mayor in 2006. He has served as an appellate attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice and as Assistant Attorney for Carroll County and Montgomery

County, Maryland, and since 2014 for the City of Gaithersburg. There he serves as counsel to the Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, Historic District Commission, and several other city boards.



A graduate of Rutgers University and Rutgers School of Law-Camden, **April Ishak** began her legal career more than 25 years ago representing parties in class and derivative stockholder litigation in the Delaware Court of Chancery. She shifted her career to practice law with her husband in Bel Air, Maryland in 2009. Her interest in municipal law developed while working at the Bel Air law firm which represented municipalities in Harford County. In 2017, April was appointed City Attorney for the City of Havre de Grace. She

opened her solo practice in June 2018. The remainder of her legal practice is dedicated to estate planning, estate administration, business law, and civil litigation.

Governor Hogan appointed April in 2015 to serve on the three-member Open Meetings Compliance Board. She was re-appointed and served as Chair of the Board until her term expired in June 2020. She was recently appointed by Governor Hogan to serve on the State Advisory Council on Administrative Hearings. April is also a member of the Maryland Municipal Attorneys Association and is General Counsel to the MFRW. In 2020, April began teaching Open Meetings Act classes for the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance. April enjoys spending her spare time boating with her family on the Chesapeake Bay.



Kirk Eby has served as a planner with the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland for almost 20 years. He performs a wide variety of duties for the city's planning department, including master plan updates, general long-range planning activities, address assignment and management, subdivision plat review, GIS data management, map production, and preparation of the City's forecast for jobs, households, and population. Mr. Eby is currently the chair of the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). He earned

his bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Studies from Cornell University and holds a Master of Architecture from Morgan State University and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University. Mr. Eby is a member of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), the Cartographic and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS), and the D.C. Bar.



Deepa Srinivasan is the President and Founder of Vision Planning and Consulting, (VPC) a small, woman, and minority owned, firm located near Columbia, MD. Ms. Srinivasan has over 23 years of experience in policy consultation, project development/ implementation, community/land use planning, stakeholder engagement and public outreach, hazard mitigation, and disaster management. Ms. Srinivasan specializes in inter-

governmental coordination and consensus building between Federal, state, local, and tribal governments as well as academic institutions and the public, and in developing strategies for outreach, education, plan integration, comprehensive plans, economic development plans, etc., to reduce risk and promote resiliency. Ms. Srinivasan has served as Project/Program Manager for over 100 projects and is a Certified Planner (AICP) and Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). She obtained her Bachelor of Architecture degree from India and has a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Tennessee.



Kathy Maher was hired by Hagerstown as a Senior Planner in 1995 and became the Planning Director in 2002. Previously, Kathy was a planner for the City of Williamsburg, Virginia. Kathy has a master's degree in planning from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Connecticut. In 2012 Kathy became the manager of the consolidated Planning and Code Administration Division of the Department of Community & Economic Development. In 2015 Kathy became the director

of the Planning and Code Administration Department. In addition to directing the department, Kathy continues to manage the City's planning operations and assist with comprehensive planning.



Prior to becoming Neighborhood Services Manager on November 20, 2017, **Paul Fulk** was Inspection Manager for five years and Hagerstown's Code Compliance Technology Specialist and an Inspector for the prior 10 years. As Neighborhood Services Manager, Paul's focus became supervision of the office and field staff for rental and vacant licensing and code enforcement. Paul continues to provide technology assistance for the department and leadership for our social media activities. Paul has a master's degree in business administration from the Frostburg State University and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Catawba College. Paul holds 11 ICC Inspector certifications and achieved Master Code Enforcement Professional from AACE in 2020. Paul and Pam Harris are the only two in the State and two of 23 in the country with the Master Code Enforcement Professional distinction.



Megan Flick joined Hagerstown on January 2, 2018 as a Planner I. Previously, Megan interned with Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects and was a research associate for Recity. Megan graduated from Ohio State University in May 2016 with a bachelor of science in City & Regional Planning. Megan assists with development review and provides long range planning assistance to the department, as well as GIS mapping, statistical studies, and grant writing. Megan also assists with administration of the department's social media platforms.



Donnie Harkcom joined Hagerstown in January 2017 as a Neighborhood Services Inspector. Donnie has a MBA and bachelor's degree in Business Management from UMUC. Prior to working for the city, Donnie served in the Air Force and worked for Verizon in customer service. Donnie holds two certifications with ICC, a Property Maintenance Inspector and Zoning Inspector. Donnie also assists with administration of the department's social media platforms and co-hosts our Hub Bub podcast.

MPCA Board



Danny Winborne currently serves as the President of the MPCA. Danny is a Planning Commissioner for the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland, serving since 2001 and is currently Vice-Chair. He helps to direct the growth and development of the City by reviewing all annexation requests, zoning applications, subdivision plats, development review plans, applications, and plans for municipal improvements. Many of these processes are done in conjunction with the Mayor and City Council. Planning Commissioners frequently

attend joint public hearings and work sessions with the Mayor and City Council on current development and long-range planning issues. The Commission is supported by the City Planning Division of the Department of Planning & Code Administration.

Danny has worked in the Information Technology field in both the Public and Private Sector for the past 35 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics (with a concentration in Systems Analysis and Design) from Morgan State University, a Master of Science in Business Information Technology Management from Johns Hopkins University, and an MBA from John Hopkins University.



Bill Butts currently serves as the Vice-President of the MPCA. Bill has been a member of the Mt. Airy Planning Commission since 2010, and its chair from 2011-16. During that time, he directed an update of the Town Master Plan. In his professional capacity as a Registered Financial Advisor & Licensed Insurance Broker, Bill designs and develops financial programs and plans for individuals and small companies responsive to their financial goals and needs. Bill is very active in civic and youth programs in his community. He joined the MPCA Board in early 2018.



Roxanne Hemphill has been a Planning Commission Member in the town of Mount Airy since 2015 and before that was a member of the Board of Appeals for 12 years with the last 9 years as the chair person.

She holds a Master's in Education from McDaniel College and is a licensed real estate agent since 1990 serving Maryland and Northern Virginia. She is certified by the National Association of Realtors as a Short Sale and Foreclosure Specialist.

She is also active in her church by singing in various choirs and committees within her church.



Doug Wright was born and raised in Hagerstown. He is a graduate of North Hagerstown High School and Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. After serving in the US Army for two years he worked for Virginia Electric and Power Company for ten years before returning to Hagerstown to work in his family business, Advertising, Inc., a regional outdoor advertising and sign company.

Since returning to Hagerstown Doug has been active with a number of non-profit, community-based organizations such as Jaycees, Boys and Girls Club, Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Economic Development Commission, Goodwill Industries, Kiwanis Club and his church, Haven Lutheran Church.

Since 1988 he has served on the City of Hagerstown's Planning Commission, where he has had the honor to serve as it's Chairperson since 1990. Doug has also been a member of the MPCA Board for three years and currently serves as its Treasurer.

Doug is most proud of his family where he and his wife, Kathy raised two daughters who have blessed them with three wonderful grandchildren.