

Press Release for Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Community Input Meetings

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) will host two community meetings for area watershed residents to discuss the issues around the program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and future climate change impacts. All are encouraged to participate in this important conversation that will help shape the future of the watershed plan at the heart of the Maryland's Coastal Bays Program.

The CCMP is a 10-year plan of goals and actions that now include emerging issues such as climate change, and the challenges those risks bring to the management of our surrounding bays' natural resources. This plan can be found at <http://www.mdcoastalbays.org/pdf/ccmp.pdf>.

The science and technical experts have weighed in on their view of likely climate change impacts to the goals of the CCMP. Now it's time to hear from community residents who may speak first hand of changes locally, and share observations with the MCBP and University of Maryland Sea Grant staff. Citizen stakeholder participation is critical to helping the science community better understand likely climate change risks to the goals of the CCMP. The result of these meetings will inform the plan moving forward, to include important action and mitigation steps for the management of our watershed and its tremendous natural resources.

As part of this strategy, two community meetings will take place. On Thursday, May 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. a meeting will be held at the Girdletree Volunteer Fire Company at 2739 Snow Hill Rd, Girdletree, MD 21829. On Tuesday, May 23, a meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Library at 11107 Cathell Rd, Berlin, MD 21811. Light snacks will be offered at both. Questions and comments are welcome, and to RSVP please contact Katherine Phillips at 410-213-2297 ext. 109 or mcbp@mdcoastalbays.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and your participation in this important process. We look forward to working with you.