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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Sean McCone, P.E., CCM



Politics. That's right, I said a dirty word, or is it. At the federal level, congress seems to be on the brink of complete disfunction. The popularity of the executive branch seems to be just as low as when the last leader was in office (or is he still in office?). At the state level, we are rapidly approaching January 12, 2022, when our legislature convenes, and there is much damage that can be done.

Here is my question to you: Are they dysfunctional, or are they dysfunctional because of you, because of us?

Do you know who your representatives are in the legislature or in the executive branch? Have you ever written them, called them, met with them in-person? Have you ever contributed to their campaigns or attended one of their fundraising events? Have you ever used your influence to have an impact on our government?

My ask throughout the year has been: **Help me, help us, help you.** Specifically, when it comes to politics that affect our industry:

- 1) Know who represents you. <https://mdelect.net/>
- 2) Educate yourself on issues that affect our industry.
- 3) Contact them and TELL THEM how to act.
- 4) Contribute to our political action committee 'Consulting Engineers Council MD PAC' (CEPAC).

If we don't speak up, our representatives in Washington DC and Annapolis will impart their will upon us without our voice being included.

**Infrastructure Funding:** It is refreshing to see infrastructure funding front and center in the news. As I write this message, the House of Representatives just passed the \$1.2 trillion 'H.R.3684 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act'. The final tally was 228-206, with 13 Republicans voting in favor of the bill and 6 Democrats opposing it. Maybe there is some hope of bipartisanship in DC. This is a huge deal for the industry, so thank you to all of you who contacted your representatives and senators. I can only hope the President has signed it by the time you read this.

**contact:**  
Jim Otradovec  
Executive Director  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES/  
MARYLAND  
8254 Bayside Drive  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
Tel. 410-539-1592



## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)*

**Legislative Agenda:** We are finalizing our legislative agenda to guide the Maryland General Assembly. We kickoff the season with our Legislative Breakfast on November 18th. We will be working to restart local county delegation breakfasts in December. Our annual Legislative Action Day and CEPAC luncheon at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis is scheduled for January 18, 2022.

**Get Involved:** So again, I will end with my ask to you. Show up and fully participate. Don't keep quiet. Provide input. Contribute to both our state PAC (CEPAC) and federal PAC (ACEC/PAC). Champion our issues. Promote our industry. Host a county delegation breakfast. Attend the Legislative Action Day.

Through our participation and thought leadership, help us achieve our vision of being the trusted resource for the industry and make a difference in our community.

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## *ACTING BALTIMORE COUNTY DPW&T DIRECTOR WALKER FEATURED SPEAKER AT GMM*

ACEC/MD representatives were pleased to welcome D'Andrea Walker, Baltimore County's DPW&T Acting Director to the organization's General Membership meeting on October 21st. A veteran of both state and local governments, Ms. Walker outlined some important initiatives as County Executive Johnny Olszewski prepares for a presumed second term in office. She opened the meeting by responding to three questions that had previously been presented to her including:

- Prism Compliance Management Software – To ensure compliance with payments to MBE and WBE subs, penalties have been in place since 2018.
- Disparity Study – The study released in March indicated that MBEs and WBEs have been under-utilized during the five-year period that occurred prior to the current administration. While acknowledging considerable progress in recent years, the study took into account specific types of contracts. It concluded that, if based on the number of available minority-owned business in the market, MWBE firms would have received 38% of these awards.
- Tiered Contracts – In an effort to increase prime contracting opportunities for subs at various contract levels, tiered contracts are under consideration and are expected to be implemented soon.



She also mentioned that subs are expected to be paid by the primes at least when they are paid. The PSSC, which is looking for two new members, is looking at adjusting the pre-qualification process. Former DGS official Lauren Buckler has been hired by the County. She was involved in streamlining the State's procurement process. It is envisioned that there will be expanded opportunities for SBEs under new processes that are under consideration.

Ms. Walker helped close the meeting by assisting President McCone in drawing the winning raffle tickets in this year's raffle, which benefit ACEC/PAC.

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## *ACEC/MD ANNOUNCES FINALISTS IN THE 2022 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS COMPETITION*

The American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland's (ACEC/MD's) annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate a high degree of innovation, achievement, and value. Demonstrating the important contributions that engineering firms make to Society, in a two-step process, firms submit their outstanding projects for consideration. All finalists and their clients will be recognized at ACEC/MD's annual Awards Banquet, being held February 17, 2022 at the Engineering Society of Baltimore, Baltimore.

In addition to a presentation by D'Andrea Walker, Acting Director, Baltimore County DPW&T, one of the highlights of the October 21st General Membership Meeting was the announcement of the finalists in this year's Engineering Excellence Awards Competition. Eligible to move on to the final phase of the competition, out of 23 projects submitted, our distinguished panel of judges selected the following projects (in alphabetical order):

Back River WWTP Headworks Improvements - Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson  
 Brighton Dam Rehabilitation - AECOM  
 Emergency Reconstruction of the Moravia Road Ramp to I-95 Southbound - Hardesty & Hanover  
 Fullerton Reservoirs - Gannett Fleming  
 Howard County Compost Facility at Alpha Ridge Landfill - EA Engineering, Science & Tech, PBC  
 Lawyers Mall - Kibart  
 Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant Biosolids Addition - HDR  
 MD 30 Business (Main Street) Community Safety & Enhancement Project - McCormick Taylor  
 MDOT SHA 211 E. Madison Street HVAC Renovation - Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson  
 Mother Mary Lange Catholic School Stormwater Mgmt - Century Engineering  
 New Cut Road Slope Stabilization - Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson  
 Rehabilitation of the Arlington Memorial Bridge - AECOM  
 Replacement of Edmondson Avenue Bridge over Gwynns Falls & CSX Transportation - Stantec  
 Semans Griswold Environmental Hall at Washington College - Gipe Associates

This year's judges once again represent a cross section of the engineering industry, including:

Lauren Buckler, Baltimore County  
 Joey Sagal, MDOT Maryland State Highway Administration  
 Hedy Avai, Johns Hopkins University  
 Eric Marabello, MDOT Maryland State Highway Administration  
 Yosef Kebede, City of Baltimore  
 Michael Ollinger, MDOT  
 Tiffany Harrison, Gannett Fleming  
 Ray Streib, Development Facilitators, Inc.  
 Lauren Waesche, WSP  
 Roy Wang, CST Engineers  
 Ken Derrenbacher, Schnabel Engineering

The initial judging was based on an independent evaluation of an Executive Summary and Press Release for each project. The finalists will now be invited to submit a notebook, which will be evaluated by our panel of judges. To ensure that there is the traditional collaborative judging, this year's process will include a meeting where our judges will have the opportunity to discuss projects and share their expertise. All finalists are now eligible to compete in ACEC's national competition. Remember to mark your calendar for ACEC/MD's Awards Banquet, being held February 17, 2022, when the award winners will be announced.

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## ACEC/MD CLOSSES IN ON ACEC/PAC GOAL

ACEC/MD representatives have once again stepped up to the plate to assist ACEC/MD in achieving its \$22,000 annual ACEC/PAC federal fundraising goal. Your contributions will once again assist ACEC in carrying the profession’s message to members of Congress, whose decisions greatly impact the business environment. Many of these funds come back to the state of Maryland, allowing our representatives to attend events and discuss local issues of importance to your firm. Spearheaded by Maryland’s ACEC/PAC co-champions Alan Straus (AECOM) and Tony Frascarella (Century Engineering), ACEC/MD is within \$1,500 of achieving the ACEC established goal for the 17th straight year.

Central to this effort was the tremendous response to the ACEC/MD–sponsored raffle, which sold out again with 150 tickets being purchased. Unfortunately, due to the cancellation of ACEC’s in-person meetings earlier in the year, where many ACEC/MD representatives traditionally contribute by purchasing tickets, there is still work to do. Your support continues to assist ACEC in its efforts to gain favorable legislation such as:

- A waiver to eliminate the FAR requirement to pay back approved PPP loans
- increasing long-term funding for infrastructure,
- tax and regulatory reform.

In addition to supporting efforts to educate elected officials, for their contribution, raffle participants also had the opportunity to win \$3,600 in cash prizes.

Mike Izzo (Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani) won this year’s first prize, stopping the unbelievable two-year winning streak of AMT’s Mike Wiercinski. Congratulations to Mike and the other winners that are assisting ACEC in carrying your message to our federal elected officials and for assisting in ensuring that pro-business legislators are returned to office. This year’s other ACEC/MD raffle winners included:



- SECOND PLACE – Richard Kimes (Kim Engineering) \$1,000
- THIRD PLACE – Ray Streib (Development Facilitators, Inc. \$400
- FOURTH PLACE – Tony Frascarella (Century Engineering) \$200

Thanks to everyone for helping ACEC support pro-business candidates in Congress, and assisting our representatives in carrying your message to Capitol Hill!

A special thanks to this year’s ACEC/MD raffle sponsors:

- |                           |                              |                      |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| A. Morton Thomas & Assoc. | Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson | RJM Engineering      |
| AECOM                     | KCI Technologies             | RK&K                 |
| Century Engineering       | Kim Engineering              | Schnabel Engineering |
| CES Consulting, LLC       | McCormick Taylor             | Wallace Montgomery   |
| EBL Engineers             | Mead & Hunt                  | Weston & Sampson     |
| Gannett Fleming           | Phoenix Engineering          | WSP                  |

There is still time for you to assist ACEC/MD in achieving its \$22,000 goal by purchasing tickets directly through ACEC, who will hold another raffle before the end of the year. Please consider purchasing these tickets. You never know if you will be the one who keeps ACEC/MD’s streak alive following Jack Moeller (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson), who won the grand prize in last year’s ACEC Summer Sweepstakes.

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## *CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ACEC/MD AWARDS*

### *DEADLINE IS JANUARY 5, 2022*

ACEC/MD is pleased to announce that nominees are being sought for the “2022 Community Service Award”, the “2022 Young Professional of the Year Award”, and the “2022 Engineer of the Year Award from a Small Firm & from a Mid-Large Firm”. As indicated by recent ACEC award winners Kunal Gangopadhyay (EBA) and Chuck Phillips (KCI) Community Service and Stephanie Kunkel (JMT) Young Professional of the Year, many of our firms’ employees are being recognized both locally and nationally for doing exciting and important work both for their companies and in the community. Look around your firm and be sure to get the recognition that is richly deserved for these individuals.

### 2022 ACEC/MD Community Service Award Nominees Wanted

ACEC/MD is once again looking for employees of member firms that have made significant contributions to their communities by volunteering their time and expertise. These individuals have enhanced the quality of life for all of us, and we would like to recognize their efforts.

Please note that only the official ACEC/MD representative of a member firm may submit candidates. However, a representative from one member firm may nominate a representative from another member firm.

The deadline for entries in the ACEC/MD competition is January 5, 2022. The entry must include the ACEC/MD Nomination Certification and ACEC Nomination Form, which can be found on the ACEC/MD website – [www.acecmd.org](http://www.acecmd.org). To be eligible for the competition, you must send your entry electronically to [acecmd@acecmd.org](mailto:acecmd@acecmd.org) by January 5, 2022. The winner in the ACEC/MD competition will be forwarded to ACEC for consideration in their competition later in the year.

### Call for Nominations for the 2022 ACEC/MD Young Professional of the Year Award Competition

The American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland is once again soliciting candidates for the 2022 ACEC Young Professional of the Year Award. This award recognizes the accomplishments of our young engineers by highlighting their interesting and unique work, and the resulting impact on society.

To be eligible to participate in the national competition, your nominee must enter the ACEC/MD competition. The 2022 ACEC/MD award will be honored at ACEC/MD’s Awards Banquet February 17, 2022.

The 2022 ACEC Young Professional of the Year award information is posted on ACEC/MD’s website ([www.acecmd.org](http://www.acecmd.org)) as well as ACEC’s website. You can download the application from ACEC’s website ([www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org)).

### ACEC/MD Engineer of the Year Award from a Small Firm and from a Mid-Large Firm

After being launched last year, ACEC/MD is excited to once again present awards recognizing the important contributions by engineers from both a small firm and a mid-large size firm. Recognizing engineering achievements and community service, these awards are designed to spotlight the well-rounded attributes of our member firms’ team members.

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**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ACEC/MD AWARD**  
**DEADLINE IS JANUARY 5, 2022 (CONTINUED)**

ACEC/MD Engineer of the Year Award from a Small Firm and from a Mid-Large Firm (continued)

Criteria for Engineer of the Year Awards (must meet all criteria for each award):

**Small Firm-**

- a. The nominees shall be employees of ACEC/MD Member Firms and not a branch office.
- b. The architectural and engineering operations of the business did not employ more than 100 persons
- c. The nominees shall be a registered Professional Engineer.

**Mid-Large Firm-**

- a. The nominees shall be employees of ACEC/MD Member Firms.
- b. The nominees shall be an engineer from a Mid to Large firm
  - The firm must qualify as a prime for projects submitted
- c. The nominees shall be a registered Professional Engineer.

As a reminder, please note that a 100-person firm is the delineation point separating the two Engineer of the Year awards. You must send your entry electronically to [acecmd@acecmd.org](mailto:acecmd@acecmd.org), by Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Additional information can be found on the ACEC/MD website – [www.acecmd.org](http://www.acecmd.org)

All award nominations must be submitted electronically directly to the ACEC/MD office ([acecmd@acecmd.org](mailto:acecmd@acecmd.org)) no later than January 5, 2022. Please note that nominations will not be accepted directly by ACEC from member firms. Contact the ACEC/MD office if you have any questions.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND . . . . .**

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|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>By special invitation only . . . .</p> <p>The American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland (ACEC/MD) is pleased to invite you to a <b>complimentary</b> Legislative Kick-off to the Legislative Session</p> <p><b>Thursday, November 18, 2021</b></p> <p><b>Garrett-Jacobs Mansion</b><br/>                 11 West Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore<br/>                 Registration—8:00 AM; Program 8:30-10:00 AM</p> <p>Featuring . . . . .</p> <p><b>Mary D. Kane,</b><br/>                 President &amp; CEO, Maryland Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Be our guest, and gain valuable political insight, along with a unique perspective on the upcoming General Assembly Session.</p> |
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Registration available at [acecmd@acecmd.org](mailto:acecmd@acecmd.org).

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## *HOLIDAY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY*

The American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland (ACEC/MD) would like to once again offer its member firms the opportunity to cosponsor the organization's Holiday Party by selecting one of our expanded sponsorship opportunities.

This gala party will provide a tremendous opportunity to get your name in front of our member firm representatives and guests, while networking with them in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere. The event, to be held Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at the always popular Baltimore Museum of Industry, from 6:00 – 9:00 PM, will feature an open bar, and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

As an **Elite Sponsor** (\$1,000) (only two available at this level, and *exclusively for our Affiliate Member Firms*), your firm would have the opportunity to sponsor the bar at this year's Holiday Party, and receive:

- Inclusion of your firm's name on a signboard posted at the event.
- Acknowledgement in the January/February, 2022 ACEC/MD newsletter.
- Four complimentary registrations for the event.

As a **Diamond Sponsor** (\$500) of this year's Holiday Party, receive:

- Inclusion of your firm's name on a signboard posted at the event.
- Acknowledgement in the January/February, 2022 ACEC/MD newsletter.
- Two complimentary registrations for the event.

As a **Patron Sponsor** (\$250) of this year's Holiday Party, receive:

- Inclusion of your firm's name on a signboard posted at the event.
- Acknowledgement in the January/February, 2022 ACEC/MD newsletter.
- One complimentary registration for the event.

To participate in this festive evening as a sponsor, please contact the ACEC/MD office no later than November 19, 2021, and forward your check, payable to the American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland, in the amount of \$1,000 for Elite Sponsorship, \$500 for Diamond Sponsorship, or \$250 for Patron Sponsorship for your firm, to 8254 Bayside Drive, Pasadena, MD 21122; or advise the ACEC/MD office of your level of sponsorship and that you prefer to be billed.

Thank you very much for considering this request, and for your continued support of ACEC/MD!

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## *MEMBER NEWS*

**BRUDIS & ASSOCIATES, INC.** recently announced that they have relocated their office to:

11000 Broken Land Parkway, Suite 450  
Columbia, MD 21044  
(410) 884-3607

**STOKES CREATIVE GROUP, an Affiliate Member Firm**, has appointed *Marly Cardona Moz* as their new representative for the firm.

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## *HOGAN SIGNS REGIONAL CLIMATE PACT, PRESSES MD. LAWMAKERS ON HIS ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES*

By Josh Kurtz - October 4, 2021

(Center Maryland <https://centermaryland.org>)

(Article source Maryland Matters <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/10/04/hogan-signs-regional-climate-pact-presSES-md-lawmakers-on-his-environmental-priorities/>)

Gov. Lawrence J. Hogan Jr. (R) traveled to Virginia Beach on Friday for the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council, a regional policymaking body consisting of the governors of the six Bay watershed states, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

During the meeting, at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center, Hogan, Virginia Gov. Ralph S. Northam (D) and other leaders signed a "Collective Action for Climate Change" directive that commits the states and federal government to utilize scientific, modeling, monitoring and planning capabilities to prioritize the communities, working lands and habitats that are most vulnerable to the risks that climate change is bringing to the region. The pact specifically commits the parties to helping marginalized communities by providing them with resources to adapt to climate change and mitigate the impact, with a particular focus on wetlands, tree canopies and environmental literacy.

"The Climate Directive we are signing today is the latest example of why this partnership is so important," said David L. Bulova, a Democratic member of the Virginia House of Delegates who is chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, which consists of lawmakers from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. "Collective action allows us to apply the best science possible so that we can understand and mitigate the impacts of a changing climate and prioritize resources toward our most vulnerable communities. We need to do to this if we want a more resilient landscape and watershed."

But even though his organization served as host for the meeting, William C. Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said the document the stakeholders signed amounted to "taking small steps at a time when bold action is needed." Baker was especially critical because he said the other parties are not holding Pennsylvania accountable for failing to meet Chesapeake Bay pollution reduction goals that each state agreed to as part of a national directive several years ago.

"For Bay restoration to succeed, each of the jurisdictions must meet their promised pollution reductions," he said in a statement. "EPA agreed to hold them accountable if they slip. Once again, the Council ignored the failure of Pennsylvania to meet its commitments. Worse yet, EPA failed to hold the Commonwealth accountable, even as CBF, its partners, and the Attorneys General of Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia are suing EPA in federal court to do just that. If the Council and EPA refuse to exert leadership, Bay restoration efforts are doomed to fail."

On the same day Hogan went to Virginia Beach to sign the climate change initiative, he also wrote to House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones (D-Baltimore County) and Senate President Bill Ferguson (D-Baltimore City) outlining his goals for environmental legislation he'd like to see enacted in the 2022 General Assembly session.

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## *HOGAN SIGNS REGIONAL CLIMATE PACT (CONTINUED)*

"We are leading the way when it comes to safeguarding our environment, but there is more work to be done that requires legislative action," Hogan wrote.

In the letter, the governor said his four top legislative priorities are:

- Passing a bill that got through the Senate this year but did not make it out of the House that would have created a public-private financing mechanism for certain conservation measures.
- Passing his legislation, the Clean and Renewable Energy Standard, which lawmakers have largely ignored over the past two legislative sessions.
- Removing funding restrictions in Maryland law that Hogan said limit the ability of the state to expand land conservation programs and create more public recreation spaces.
- Following through on recommendations from Hogan's Renewable Energy Development and Siting task force on where to place large renewable energy installations in the state.

"Our administration looks forward to working with you and your colleagues to continue our progress on growing our green economy, restoring the Chesapeake Bay, and addressing climate change," Hogan concluded in his letter to the legislature's presiding officers. "These concerns are too important to lose this opportunity to act now."

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## *MARYLAND IS SEEING AN INCREASE IN PRECIPITATION, SEA LEVEL & FLOODING*

*By Devon Milley and Clara Niel - October 13, 2021*

*(Article source – The Baltimore Sun)*

*Capital News Service* — Over the past 20 years, rainfall, flooding and sea level have increased across Maryland, according to data collected from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

From 2000 to 2020, precipitation in Maryland increased by 2.63 inches per decade, according to NOAA. The administration also found the Northeast Atlantic region saw 100 to 150 percent more flood days in 2020 than in 2000. The Maryland Sea Grant College at the University of Maryland projected sea level in the Chesapeake Bay will rise up to 2.1 feet by 2050 in a 2013 report.

Increased precipitation

Across the northeast United States, precipitation has become more frequent and heavier, a trend that is projected to continue throughout the 21st century, according to the 2017 Climate Science Special Report.

Typically, summer months — June, July and August — appear to have higher numbers of thunderstorms and tropical storm activity that can account for much of the Northeast's annual precipitation levels, Greg Carbin, the chief of forecast operations at the

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## *MARYLAND IS SEEING AN INCREASE IN PRECIPITATION, SEA LEVEL & FLOODING (CONTINUED)*

National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center, said. This makes sense, he said, because warmer global temperatures and a more moist atmosphere are supporting larger amounts of rain over larger areas.

"There's a lot of moving parts to this," Carbin said. "The stage is set to support very heavy precip[itation]. Similar to what we saw ... in the New York City area with the remains of Hurricane Ida, rainfall rates of three, four inches an hour, there's very few cities that can sustain an event like that without having some impact."

Hurricane Isabel in 2003 — the second wettest year in Maryland since 1895 — hit North Carolina primarily, but Maryland and other states were heavily affected as well. In the upper Chesapeake Bay, water surged six to eight feet above normal levels. Rainfall ranged from four to seven inches across the state. The Category 5 hurricane killed 17 people in total — one in Maryland — and racked up \$410 million dollars of damage in the state, \$1.685 billion total.

Since 1980, flooding, severe storms, tropical cyclones and winter storms have made up 78 percent of the cost of Maryland's billion-dollar extreme weather events, according to NOAA. These events have cost Maryland between \$9.1 billion and \$20.25 billion.

### Rising sea levels and flooding

But severe weather events aren't always so dramatic. Rising sea levels have increased the number of "nuisance floods," or tidal floods that cause minor impacts, by five to 10 times since the 1960s in numerous U.S. coastal cities, according to the 2017 Climate Science Special Report.

Annapolis, located on the Chesapeake Bay, is a city that is regularly affected by flooding.

Being right on the Bay and containing several peninsulas, flooding is something that the city's Deputy Director of Emergency Management Dave Mandell is always prepared for. Still, the flood of the 2019 Annapolis Boat Shows caught him unaware.

Though the day started sunny, a coastal flood soon hit. When the dock floods downtown, the water level is typically around 3.1 feet, Mandell said. That day it hit about 4.1 feet. Deputy City Manager Jaqueline Guild said she was wading through knee-deep water. It was the worst coastal flood the city had seen in almost five years, although flooding is a regular occurrence.

"That's what surprises a lot of people that aren't exposed to a lot of what we do in Annapolis is the daylight today, it's sunny out, it's not raining and ... there'll be water and they'll think 'Oh, did it rain?'" Mandell said. "It didn't rain at all. It's just the winds and the tides and the combination can cause it."

According to NOAA, high-tide flooding in the U.S. happens more than twice as often today as in 2000. By 2030, the U.S. will likely see an increase in annual floods from seven to 15 times a year and by 2050, certain areas could experience up to 75 high tide floods per year.

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## *MARYLAND IS SEEING AN INCREASE IN PRECIPITATION, SEA LEVEL & FLOODING (CONTINUED)*

Rising sea levels are also a concern. In Annapolis, subsidence — the gradual sinking of land — exacerbates the increasing sea level. Between January 2000 and December 2020, data from NOAA showed that the sea level rose 0.33 millimeters.

Baltimore's sea level has also been steadily on the rise. In Jan. 2000, the average sea level was -0.12 millimeters. In December 2020, it increased to 0.16 millimeters, establishing a 0.28 millimeter difference. Looking at the linear trend — a comprehensible average of all the values — we see a steady increase of 0.07 millimeters over the past 20 years.

But that isn't the only cause for concern.

Sea level gauge measurements at Fort McHenry have risen 12 inches since 1900, according to Lisa McNeilly, the director of sustainability in Baltimore City. Tidal gauges are one way scientists measure rising sea level by using sensors to measure the water level around the world.

"We have a lot of concern around a range of different locations and causes of flooding," McNeilly said.

Scientists have been measuring sea level with tide gauges since 1851, and satellite altimeters since the 1990's. According to NOAA, satellite altimeters measure sea level "by measuring the time it takes a radar pulse to make a round-trip from the satellite to the sea surface and back."

In 2019, sea level had risen 87.6 millimeters since satellite recording began in 1993. However, Maryland state climatologist Dr. Alfredo Ruiz-Barradas cautioned that it's important to consider how natural phenomena also have the ability to affect the earth's climate over the course of millenia.

"Any decadal change we may be tempted to label as man-made has to be placed in context of these natural phenomena that have the capability to induce changes in these [time] scales," Ruiz-Barradas said in an email.

To combat the more extreme precipitation and flooding of recent years, people need to think about building more resilient, robust systems that can mitigate the damage, according to the National Weather Service's Greg Carbin. New Orleans, with its major storms, and the Netherlands, where elevation is low, are just two examples of areas that deal with significant flooding. However, they've spent the money to successfully keep the water damage at bay, he said.

"If you build back better, or you build for resilience in your systems to try to account for some of these extremes, you're most likely gonna save a little bit of money in the long run, as opposed to thinking that the climate is static," Carbin said.

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## *NEW MEMBERS*

The following firms have been elected to membership in ACEC/MD:

### **EXP U.S. Services, Inc.**

Principal: Dan Williams, PE (dan.williams@exp.com)

Address: 502 Washington Avenue, Suite 501, Towson, MD 21204

Telephone: 410-427-7463

Size of Firm: 12

Website: www.exp.com

Brief History and Activities provided by the Firm: EXP U.S. Services, Inc, founded in 1944, has provided engineering and architectural design services for private and public entities throughout the United States. The company heritage dates back to 1906 when it started its engineering infrastructure practice. The firm is known for delivering large award-winning heavy civil transportation, rail, and aviation projects. This privately owned company grows organically within new regions. The Maryland office, located in Towson, has been in operation since 2019 delivering transportation design and construction management & inspection services. The local office provides civil, utility design and permitting, heavy highway structural and roadway design and condition inspection, pavement design, light & commuter rail, and construction management & inspection.

### **CDM Smith, Inc.**

Principal: Manuch Amir, PE#45034 (amirm@cdmsmith.com)

Address: 1 Olympic Place, #900, Towson, MD 21204

Telephone: 804-377-2293

Size of Firm: 3

Website: www.cdmsmith.com

Brief History and Activities provided by the Firm: CDM Smith, Inc., founded in 1947, is a global employee-owned engineering and construction firm providing legendary client service and smart solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy, and facilities.

We welcome these firms as members of ACEC/MD. Be sure to add their information to your records. The next time you see one of their representatives, please take the time to let them know we're glad that they have joined the Council!

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## *PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT*

### **November 16, 2021 - Maryland Municipalities Luncheon (HYBRID Event)**

Being held at Maggiano's Little Italy - Chevy Chase. For more information or to register, contact ACEC/MW's Anna Seekins at [staff@acecmw.org](mailto:staff@acecmw.org) or call (202) 644-8260.

### **November 17-18, 2021 - 2021 WDCSITE Virtual Annual Meeting**

Washington DC Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (WDCSITE) will be holding its 2021 Annual Meeting virtually over two half-days on Wednesday and Thursday, November 17 and 18. Please reach out to Adam Greenstein, Vice President, Washington DC Section of ITE (WDCSITE) [adam.greenstein@wsp.com](mailto:adam.greenstein@wsp.com) for additional information.

### **January 25-27, 2022 - 2022 National ResilienceEXCH Virtual Summit**

To register for this complimentary event contact the All Hazards Consortium at <https://resilienceexch.org>

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American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland

# 33rd Annual Conference

June 22-24, 2022\*



# NOELLE

# Save The Date!

The Noelle Nashville, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel

200 4th Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee 37219

[www.noelle-nashville.com](http://www.noelle-nashville.com)

With Printers Alley at her back and the glow of Broadway a block away, our conference hotel has long been at the center of the hustle and bustle that fuels the eclectic city of Nashville, TN. A Marriott property, this one-of-a-kind hotel is designed specifically to bring guests face-to-face with the warmth, talent and delightful unpredictability that make Nashville unique. Built in 1930, Noelle came of age at a time when downtown Nashville was experiencing a boom of new hotels, department stores and local characters aplenty. Now in its second act, the famed Noelle hotel has risen once again to take on its role in Nashville's rich narrative. Here is a link to make your reservation:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1629205187566&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

If you have questions or need help, copy & paste the link into your browser. Or call 1-888-874-2883 by May 18, 2022 for room reservations. ACEC/MD's attractive room rates start at \$259.00/night plus all applicable taxes & fees, single/double occupancy. Reference the ACEC/MD Annual Conference.

\*Please note that in addition to the room block for the conference (6/22-6/24), by popular demand, a limited number of Saturday night (6/25) rooms have been secured that ACEC/MD is financially committed to use. Even if you previously committed to stay over Saturday night, you must make the room reservation. Once the rooms are gone, if you are fortunate to get a room, you will be subject to paying the going rate, which could be substantially higher.

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*UPCOMING EVENTS*

**Please Note:** All dates, times, and locations are tentative and subject to change.

**Legislative Breakfast**

November 18, 2021

The Engineering Society of Baltimore  
8:00am

**ACEC/MD Holiday Party**

December 7, 2021

Baltimore Museum of Industry  
6:00pm

**ACEC/MD General Membership Luncheon**

December 16, 2021

The Engineering Society of Baltimore  
11:30am - 2:00pm

**Legislative Action Day - A Day In Annapolis  
Legislative Luncheon**

January 18, 2022

Governor Calvert House, Annapolis  
Watch for complete details!

For more information on these, and other events, please contact the ACEC/MD office at 410-539-1592, [acecmd@acecmd.org](mailto:acecmd@acecmd.org), or go to [www.acecmd.org](http://www.acecmd.org). Mark your calendar and to plan to participate!

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**contact:**  
**Jim Otradovec**  
**Executive Director**  
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**MARYLAND**  
**8254 Bayside Drive**  
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