



## Engaging Faith Communities for Coastal Resilience

*A Collaborative Initiative of the Deal Island Peninsula Project*

### Key Government Employee Contacts

#### Dorchester County Contacts:

1. **Department of Emergency Services:** Provides emergency services to all residents and visitors to Dorchester County. It has three divisions: Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Emergency Management. **Remember to call 9-1-1 if you are experiencing a true emergency.** Contact regarding:

- Evacuation routes
- Reports of local flooding

Director: Anna Sierra (410-228-2222, [asierra@docogonet.com](mailto:asierra@docogonet.com))

Emergency Management Planner: Steve Garvin (410-228-1818, [sgarvin@docogonet.com](mailto:sgarvin@docogonet.com))

Website: <http://www.dorchestercountymd.com/emergency-services-main/>

2. **Planning & Zoning:** Implements a variety of regulatory and land-use planning functions at the local level. It is responsible for the enforcement of various regulations and codes, including: Zoning Ordinance, Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Program, and Floodplain Management Protection Program. Contact regarding:

- Permitting questions for activities near the shoreline and near tidal waters

Environmental Planner: Brian Soper (410-228-3234, [bsoper@docogonet.com](mailto:bsoper@docogonet.com))

Website: <http://www.dorchestercountymd.com/planning-zoning/>

3. **Department of Public Works:** Includes the Highways Division, Solid Waste Division, Recycling, Maintenance Division, and Engineering. The Highway Division handles road building, blacktopping, surface treatment, and roadside and outlet ditching, among other responsibilities. Contact regarding:

- Ditches
- Flooded roads

Director: Ryan White (410-228-2920, [Ryan.White@docogonet.com](mailto:Ryan.White@docogonet.com))

Website: <http://www.dorchestercountymd.com/departments/public-works-2/>

4. **Finance – Accounting Office:** Provides property tax collection and taxpayer assistance, financial management, and administration for the County. Contact regarding:

- Community grants

Assistant Director of Finance: Cindy Smith (410-228-7291 x1130,

[csmith@docogonet.com](mailto:csmith@docogonet.com))

Website: <http://www.dorchestercountymd.com/departments/finance-treasury/finance/>

5. **Economic Development Office:** Works to strengthen the county's business and employment climate to create a more prosperous, vibrant and sustainable communities. Contact regarding:
- Assistance for business owners and entrepreneurs to start, expand, or relocate to Maryland's Eastern Shore
- Director:* Jeff Trice (410-228-0155, [jtrice@choosedorchester.org](mailto:jtrice@choosedorchester.org))  
*Website:* <http://choosedorchester.org/>

#### **Other Key Contacts:**

1. **Maryland Sea Grant Extension:** Works with local governments, citizen groups, industries, and individuals to help them respond to environmental and social changes. They facilitate workshops and training seminars, produce publications, and conduct applied research to help solve practical problems. Contact regarding:
- Finding the right agency to address questions or concerns
  - Finding additional resources (information, grants, etc.) to address environmental change
- Watershed Restoration Specialist:* Jen Dindinger (240-393-7915, [jdinding@umd.edu](mailto:jdinding@umd.edu))  
*Website:* [extension.umd.edu/watershed](http://extension.umd.edu/watershed)
2. **Maryland DNR CoastSmart Communities:** Assists Maryland's coastal communities in addressing short- and long-term coastal hazards, such as coastal flooding, storm surge, and sea-level rise. CoastSmart provides financial assistance through the Community Resilience Grant Program, technical assistance to local communities, training opportunities, and supportive information, tools, and visualizations. Contact regarding:
- Guidance or assistance on issues related to flooding and erosion
  - Grant funding opportunities for communities
- Coastal Planner:* Sasha Land (410-260-8718, [sasha.land@maryland.gov](mailto:sasha.land@maryland.gov))  
*Resiliency Planner:* Nicole Carlozo (410-260-8726, [nicole.carlozo@maryland.gov](mailto:nicole.carlozo@maryland.gov))  
*Website:* <http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/coastsmart/Pages/default.aspx>
3. **Maryland Department of Environment – Tidal Wetlands Division:** MDE regulates all work proposed in, over, or under tidal wetlands including dredging, filling, constructing structures and shoreline stabilization projects. Contact regarding:
- Permits to drain or add fill materials to tidal wetlands
  - Pre-application meetings to address questions regarding regulation of wetlands
- Natural Resources Planner:* Mary Phipps-Dickerson (410-901-4033, [mary.phipps-dickerson@maryland.gov](mailto:mary.phipps-dickerson@maryland.gov))  
*Website:* <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/index.aspx>