



**Critical Area Commission
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays**

**September 21, 2011
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

This training is designed for the following audience: Individuals who are involved in local Critical Area project review process in county and municipal government. This could include planners; permit officials; inspectors; planning commission members; consultants.

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Registration—Coffee and Light Breakfast will be provided**
- 9:00 – 9:10** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:10 – 10:10** **General Project Review Procedures**
Kate Charbonneau, Amber Widmayer, Nick Kelly, and Julie Roberts
This session will provide practical knowledge and a basic methodology for reviewing projects in the Critical Area. Projects in the Critical Area often involve complex density and land use issues, as well as sensitive environmental resources that need to be conserved and protected. Case studies will be used to show real-world applications.
Learning Objective 1: To learn to use the site plan and subdivision checklist for plan review.
Learning Objective 2: Understand how to use performance standards and how they are applied to specific projects
- 10:10-10:30** **Small Group Exercise:** Complete the Site Plan and Subdivision Checklist for project given to your small group & present your findings
- 10:30-10:45** **Break**
- 10:45 – 11:30** **Using the Variance Process Effectively**
Mary Owens
The variance process in the Critical Area is used to provide relief to property owners that have lost reasonable and significant use of their property because of the strict application of the Critical Area regulations.
Learning Objective 1: Basic understanding of variance standards and how they are applied
Learning Objective 2: Explore alternative approaches to traditional Board of Appeals variance process which are being utilized by local jurisdictions

- 11:30-11:45** **Questions/Answers from the Morning Sessions**
- 11:45-12:15** **Lunch**
- 12:15 – 1:15** **Washed Up – Stormwater Problems and Solutions**
Tom Schueler – Chesapeake Stormwater Network
Recent changes to MDE’s stormwater regulations and the approach to stormwater management in the Critical Area require that project reviewers have a basic understanding of stormwater management principles and strategies. This session will cover several stormwater design scenarios and assist planners in determining whether the selected management strategies are appropriate for the site.
Learning Objective 1: Gain basic understanding of managing stormwater in the Critical Area
Learning Objective 2: Understand the different design options and how they might be applied and how to use the spreadsheet (?)
- 1:15– 2:15** **Getting Connected – Using On-line Resources for Project Review**
Mary Owens and Lisa Hoerger
This session will identify the best sources of electronic information to facilitate and expedite project review and provide basic instruction on how to use interactive tools to obtain accurate data about the Critical Area, soils, wetlands, and Habitat Protection Area
Learning Objective 1: Participants will become more familiar with NRCS Soil Survey; MD Merlin & Coastal Atlas.
Learning Objective 2: Participants will understand what questions the above mentioned tools can answer and how to access that information through those online resources.
- 2:15-2:30** **Wrap up & Questions/Answers from afternoon sessions**