

## **“Living Shorelines Summit”**

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Ms. Erdle recounted the highlights of the Living Shorelines Summit held in Virginia last year – which focused on shoreline protection alternatives – and the recommendations that came out of it.

Recommendations included:

- Initiate efforts to use social marketing concepts to promote “living shorelines” in the Chesapeake Bay. Target realtors, homeowners, and others.
- Incorporate living shorelines into the NEMO curriculum.
- Identify existing and new financial incentives opportunities to promote the implementation of living shorelines over hard stabilization options.
- Promote research on the design of living shorelines, large-scale sediment issues, sea level rise on living shorelines, and the impacts of living shorelines on property values.
- Determine sediment budgets for the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and coastal bays.

Other recommendations, specific to:

- Data and tools: use existing monitoring and effectiveness studies to validate GIS-based suitability models and planning tools.
- Design and effectiveness: improve existing project selection and design criteria to reflect recent science-based assessments and modeling.
- Planning, policy and regulation: develop a regulatory framework to allow for regional shoreline management, and be more proactive by using shoreline management plans to guide future development activities.

In conclusion, the summit brought together a diverse group of people: contractors, NGOs, scientists, and policymakers. The groups shared their work from the break-out sessions. Some hurdles still exist, and these groups need to continue to work together and coordinate among neighboring states and the region.