

## North Carolina State Disaster Recovery Task Force Agriculture Recovery Support Function (RSF 9) Meeting

WebEx Teleconference

June 21, 2021

1:30pm - 3:00pm

### Meeting Minutes

#### In attendance (by teleconference)

**Lead:** Kelly Nilsson, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS)

**Staff:** Marlena Byrne, NC Officer of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR)

Ruseena Johnson, NCORR

Laurie Barnhart, Conservatives for Clean Energy

Danielle Costantini, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ)

David Cox, NC State University

Vernon Cox, NCDA&CS

Kathie Dello, NC State Climate Office

Michelle Granger, NC Sweet Potatoes

Jimmy Gentry, NC State Grange

Kevin Hardison, NCDA&CS

John Hatcher, NC Forestry Association

Greg Hicks, Forestry Service, NCDA&CS

Joy Hicks, NCDEQ

John Howard, NCDA&CS

Jim Kjelgaard, US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA – NRCS)

Sherri Krueger, NCDA&CS

Keith Larick, NC Farm Bureau (NCFB)

Milo Lewis, NCFB

Roy Lee Lindsey, NC Pork Council

Michelle Lovejoy, Environmental Defense Fund

Amanda Martin, NCORR

Weston McCorkle, NCDA&CS

Tommy McLamb, NCDA&CS

Roland McReynolds, Carolina Farm Stewardship

Todd Miller, NC Coastal Federation

Kaleb Rathbone, NCDA&CS

Amanda Sand, NC Foundation for Soil and Water

Rob Satterfield, Farm Service Agency, NCDA&CS

David Smith, NCDA&CS

Katherine Stowe, NC Soybean Producers Association

Toby Vinson, NCDEQ

Steve Wall, University of North Carolina (UNC) Policy Collaboratory

Dee Webb, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS)

David Williams, Soil and Water, NCDA&CS

### [Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Agenda](#)

M. Byrne and K. Nilsson welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the agenda. Each member present introduced themselves and their organization.

### [RSF Mission and Scope](#)

M. Byrne gave a brief overview of purpose and role of NCORR, the State Disaster Recovery Task Force, and this Agriculture RSF.

### [Presentation by Toby Vinson, NCDEQ and Lead for RSF 7 Environmental Preservation](#)

T. Vinson gave a presentation on the work of the Environmental Preservation RSF. He discussed the description of the SDRTF and RSFs in the State Disaster Recovery Framework, and emphasized the importance of collaboration between organizations, agencies, and NGOs within the RSF.

Examples of strategies recommended by the Environmental RSF include: Resilient Coastal Communities Program running through Dept of Coastal Mgt; updating the North Carolina Probable Maximum Precipitation study; funding natural attenuation of flooding through Division of Mitigation Services; evaluating potential of statewide buffers to mitigate against the effects of extreme storm events.

- Q: please expound on how the interaction between agencies within the RSFs has helped with collaborations and funding?
- T. Vinson: lots of hot topics spurred by NC 2020 Climate Risk and Resilience Plan and State Agency Annual Strategy reports due each March. Having that ongoing communication allows for freer discussion.
- M. Byrne: In regards to funding, due to the mix of agencies, there are diverse perspectives so the benefit is when the group agrees unanimously that can be powerful in getting the word out for what is needed. This has happened in three primary ways: 1) the RSF's identifying funding needs has enabled NCORR to provide that advice to the Governor's Office as part of the state budget process; 2) the RSF has become a bully pulpit for these ideas—e.g. the recommendation for a statewide flood resilience framework was forwarded not only to the GO, but also to the state legislature by members of the RSF and is now included in pending legislation; and 3) NCORR is administering over \$1 billion in CDBG money from Hurricane and mitigation funds, including, \$17 million of planning funds, which can be spent toward RSF recommendations (such as DEQ's PMP study).
- T. Vinson: also has helped build relationships between the different state agencies and organizations.
- M. Byrne: NCORR has approved funding of \$2 million to DEQ, DOT and NC State for modeling and data collection. i.e.: updating statistics in NOAA

### [Update on NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Recovery and Resiliency Efforts](#)

Presentation by K. Nilsson, NCDA&CS, on NCDA&CS past and ongoing recovery and resilience efforts, including the 2015 NC ADAPT planning process and the 2021 Agriculture and Consumer Services Resiliency Strategy Report.

K. Nilsson described the June 2015 report, Keeping North Carolina's Farms and Forests Vibrant and Resilience: An Adaptive Management Planning Strategy, by the NC Agriculture and Forestry Adaptation Work Group (NC-ADAPT)

- Question: what was the recommendation process for NC-ADAPT? Have these things been enacted? What was the process to enact these recommendations?
- K. Larick (Farm Bureau): the difference between this NC ADAPT and other efforts like the 2020 Risk and Resilience Plan is that NC-ADAPT was done by the SFL group based out of DC. Issue is there was no one in NC government to take the ball and run with it once the report was done. The report sat on the shelf, laid the groundwork for ideas moving forward but not much has happened since the report was drafted.
- K. Nilsson: if this is still a priority for the sector, let us see what we can do to move it forward
- T. Miller: \$100 million going to local government for resilience just approved by legislature. May be a topic for this group to discuss at a future meeting.

### NEXT Steps

- J. Howard: probably looking at having an in-person meeting. Initial meeting was at Farm Bureau in Raleigh. Understand that this meeting may be a hybrid forum.
- K. Nilsson: if you believe other agencies may provide meaningful input to this group please recommend them, we will add them.
- Review NC-ADAPT report in future meeting
- Identifying challenges, barriers and unmet needs in Agriculture
- Send agenda suggestions to K. Nilsson or M. Byrne
- Frequency of meetings: meet every 6-8 weeks starting off, frequency may change based on work involved in and if set up subgroups. Will plan to have next meeting in August, date TBD.