

**North Carolina State Disaster Recovery Task Force  
Environmental Preservation Recovery Support Function (RSF 7) Meeting**

WebEx Teleconference

August 27, 2020

2:00pm – 4:00pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**In attendance (by teleconference)**

**Lead:** Toby Vinson, Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ)

**Staff:** Marlena Byrne and Ruseena Johnson, North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR)

Tom Anderson, NC League of Municipalities  
Tim Baumgartner, NCDEQ Division of Mitigation Services (DMS)  
Chris Canfield, Conservation Trust for North Carolina  
Kacy Cook, NC Wildlife Resource Commission (WRC)  
Chris Crew, NC Emergency Management  
Shannon Deaton, NCWRC  
Blakely Hildebrand, Southern Environmental Law center  
Jim Kjelgaard, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Keith Larick, NC Farm Bureau  
Grady McCallie, NC Conservation Network  
Will McDow, Environmental Defense Fund  
Todd Miller, NC Coastal Federation  
Will Robinson, The Nature Conservancy  
Periann Russell, NCDEQ DMS  
Rick Savage, Carolina Wetlands Association  
David Shouse, Carolina Wetlands Association  
Will Summer, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR)  
Jess Whitehead, NCORR  
Meredith Wojcik, NCDNCR  
Michael Yoder, NC State University Cooperative Extension

**Additional NCORR Staff in Attendance**

Cesar Castro, NCORR  
Lossie McClean, NCORR  
Amanda Martin, NCORR

**Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Agenda**

T. Vinson and M. Byrne provided a brief introduction and agenda overview.

**Presentation of Proposed Recommendation by DEQ Division of Mitigation Services**

T. Baumgartner and P. Russell presented a proposal for inclusion in the RSF's recommendations to NCORR.

- The proposed Division of Mitigation Services project, entitled "Inner Coastal Plain Flood Capacity Planning Project," involves funding planning efforts along the Middle Neuse River Basin to aid DMS in determining where to restore and utilize nature-based infrastructure to control or reduce flooding. The planning phase would help DMS quantify the amount and direction of

water flow so that DMS would better be able to identify types and location of nature-based infrastructure for issuing future requests for proposals (RFPs).

- NC Wildlife Resource Commission commented: WRC has research on the amount of water captured by reforestation and will share details with DMS, including information regarding a recent study in the Mississippi River Basin.
- NC Coastal Federation commented: In addition to the model in Mississippi, there is a local model at Lake Mattamuskeet featured on the Coastal Review Website. The engineer is Geosyntec. Additional information can be found on the NC Coastal Federation website.

### [Group Discussion of Recommendations, “Recommendations of the Environmental Preservation Recovery Support Function \(RSF\) for CDBG-DR and -MIT Planning Funds, Set 1 \(further recommendations to follow\), August 27, 2020”](#)

The RSF discussed a draft document entitled “Recommendations of the Environmental Preservation Recovery Support Function (RSF) for CDBG-DR and -MIT Planning Funds, Set 1 (further recommendations to follow), August 27, 2020.”

- The RSF stated they did not want to rank the proposals and that planning activities could easily use all of the funds currently allocated to planning under the CDBG programs. The RSF additionally found that these funds should be spent in a way that would show a long-term commitment to resilience. The RSF requested that language to this effect be added to the recommendations document.
- The RSF agreed that NCORR should develop a strategy or framework to help guide awarding planning funds.
- W. Robinson of TNC proposed adding a recommendation to provide additional funding to DEQ Division of Coastal Management for the Resilient Coastal Communities Program. The RSF agreed to add this recommendation and asked NCORR staff to seek input from DMS regarding an appropriate amount of additional funding. The RSF authorized NCORR to draft language for this recommendation for inclusion in the document without additional vote of the RSF.
- The RSF approved by consensus the recommendations with modifications as described here, with the understanding that the RSF would continue to work on additional recommendations.

### [Update on FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) program](#)

C. Crew, NCEM Hazard Mitigation, provided a brief update on the status of NCEM and NCORR’s roll out of the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program--a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.

- The application period has opened up for this program. The state is responsible for receiving and reviewing applications from local and regional applicants.
- NCEM and NCORR will host workshops/webinars to introduce the program to the public and potential local government applicants.
- The state is aware that some communities will need assistance with making the grant match. The RSF suggests that we identify which communities will need assistance instead of waiting for them to articulate their needs.

### [NEXT STEPS](#)

- M. Byrne and T. Vinson will finalize the “Recommendations of the Environmental Preservation Recovery Support Function (RSF) for CDBG-DR and -MIT Planning Funds, Set 1 (further recommendations to follow), August 27, 2020” according to the RSF’s amendments at this meeting. T. Vinson will submit the recommendations on behalf of the RSF to NCEM/NCORR

Director Michael Sprayberry and NCORR Chief Operating Officer Laura Hogshead. The RSF membership will be cc'd on the final submission.

**Next meeting:** September 24, 2020, 2pm-4pm via WebEx