

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

WebEx Teleconference

May 28, 2020

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Meeting Minutes

In attendance (by teleconference)

Lead: Toby Vinson, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

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

Tom Anderson, NC League of Municipalities

John Blanchard, NC State Parks

Chris Canfield, Conservation Trust for North Carolina

Walter Clark – NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Kacy Cook, NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)

Chris Crew, NC Emergency Management (NCEM)

Karen Gilbert – NC Conservation Network

Bill Holman, The Conservation Fund

John Landry – Natural Resources State Parks

Keith Larick – NC Farm Bureau

Michelle Lovejoy, NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation

Grady McCallie, NC Conservation Network

Will McDow, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

Todd Miller – NC Coastal Federation

Rick Savage, Carolina Wetlands Association

David Shouse, Carolina Wetlands Association

Katherine Skinner, The Nature Conservancy

Will Summer, NCDNCR

Mary Waligora, USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Melissa Whaling – Southern Environmental Law Center

Jess Whitehead, NCORR

Meredith Wojcik, NCDNCR, Natural Heritage Program

Todd Wright – NCEM

Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Agenda

T. Vinson and M. Byrne provided a brief introduction and agenda overview. Meeting to discuss recommendations for “Increasing Effectiveness and Implementation of Nature-Based Infrastructure and Restoration.”

Group Discussion of Recommendations Regarding “Increasing Effectiveness and Implementation of Nature-Based Infrastructure and Restoration

The RSF discussed the proposed recommendations submitted by members of the RSF prior to the meeting. The following summarizes key points in the discussion:

- Data collection and modeling. Benefits include: helping to prioritize options, identifying potential partners, building support for nature-based infrastructure and restoration. There are already many sources, so an inventory of existing data and modeling would be helpful. Need state-level modeling that can drill down to the local level and identify existing conditions.
- Identify Priority Actions by looking at areas of repetitive loss. In addition, this RSF will benefit from looking at potential partners to assist in carrying out these recommendations.
- Build Partnerships/Stakeholder Engagement/Local Capacity Building: Identified need for state to prepare before reaching out to local communities/stakeholders so as not to duplicate prior work, including crosschecking data previously collected from stakeholders and gathering case studies. Recommendation made to create a GIS storyboard where partners can show where they have already done research/focus groups so that work is not duplicated. Recommendation made to use NCWRC's Green Growth Toolbox outreach as a model comparing communities that adopted nature-based planning versus those that did not.
- Identify Goals/Using Resilience as the Goal/Funding Issues: Issue that green infrastructure is often held to same economic standard as grey. Need to create a cost benefit analysis that provides a way to view the return on investment over a longer-term period (20-30 years) to include funds saved on maintenance. Also need to factor in the value of sustainability. This will aid in making the recommendations relatable/tangible to those that are not as familiar with climate/environmental work. This ties back to modeling because can not determine value of risk reduction over time without that.
- Planning: Communities need funds and technical assistance. Idea proposed to form teams that could travel and provide technical assistance to local communities. Need for a "One Water" approach to watershed planning—quantity and quality and integrating stormwater management with flood prevention.
- Regulatory Actions: Support legislation allowing local governments to make use of transferable development rights (TDR) agreements enabling private landowners to sell development rights to maintain openspace and/or agricultural use of the seller's land. Regulate a better connection between flood plain and storm water management. In areas that have aquatic passage include terrestrial passage on each side. Need to incentivize more people to use low impact stormwater management practices? State could be a good role model for this.

Questions and Updates

The Risk and Resiliency plan will be released June 1, 2020. The group will be notified when this document is made available to the public.

NEXT STEPS

Please send additional recommendations regarding "Increasing Effectiveness and Implementation of Nature-Based Infrastructure and Restoration to M. Byrne. M. Byrne and T. Vinson will create a running document with today's discussion incorporated. They will develop a next level document for discussion this June.

C. Crew and R. Savage will join M. Byrne and T. Vinson in creating the next level document that considers all recommendations and comments from today's discussion.

SharePoint sites will be used to assist with additional discussions about recommendations between now and the June 25, 2020 meeting.

Next meeting: June 25, 2020 2pm-4pm via Webex