

Town of Leland  
Resilient Coastal Communities Program  
Public Meeting  
August 25, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

**Attendees**

Samantha Burdick	NCDCM	Dave C	Community Member
Adrianna Weber	Town of Leland	Debbie Willis	CAT Member
Dawn York	Moffatt & Nichol	F. Willis	Community Member
Mike Robinson	Moffatt & Nichol	Mike	Community Member
Rachel Baker	Moffatt & Nichol	Myrlena Lee	Community Member
Amanda Zullo	Moffatt & Nichol	Katie Quirk	Community Member
Veronica Carter	Town of Leland	19102648036 (unknown)	
Billy Christ	Community Member	19102794581 (unknown)	
Brannon Richards	CAT Member		

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**Word of welcome from Dawn – Public Meeting to discuss the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) in the Town of Leland and receive input from community members.**

- **RCCP Background (Samantha Burdick)**
  - Program is a continuation of coastal resilience efforts in DCM over past several years.
  - DCM received funding from the General Assembly and NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) to develop the RCCP with the goal of designing a more holistic, forward-looking approach to resiliency.
  - Program aim is to support under-resourced communities and to increase local capacity and capability for resilience planning, programming, and implementation.
- **Town of Leland Application and Need (Adrianna Weber)**
  - Heavy precipitation events
  - Riverine Flooding - Leland is in a vulnerable location, town boundaries lie along the Cape Fear River
  - Seeing rapid development - want to plan and prepare for future growth to ensure prosperity of community
- **Scope of Work (Dawn York)**
  - Moffatt & Nichol (M&N) have been working in North Carolina for several decades and have developed resilience designs for many communities across the state.
  - M&N is committed to improving resiliency design, which entails looking at towns individually but holistically.
  - Resiliency planning and design is about creating responsible and practical solutions for the community and residents to recover.
    - A resiliency design and a risk and vulnerability assessment include the needs and desires of the community.
    - Community input is important.

- M&N team members are currently working on reviewing local plans and efforts, as well as previous and ongoing work to understand community priorities and needs.
- Phase 1 and Phase 2 to be completed by end of 2021, finalized report to The Town of Leland to be turned in by early 2022.
- **Outreach Strategy (Amanda Zullo)**
  - Input from community residents and business owners is vital to outreach efforts. Project webpage holds link for public survey, contact information for public questions, a project information fact sheet for more information, and provides information on how the public can get involved. The public can subscribe on the project webpage, as well as follow Town of Leland social media channels to continue receiving updates and information.
- **Hazard Mitigation Planning (Mike Robinson)**
  - This program aims to build upon traditional hazard mitigation planning practices.
    - We can utilize existing plans and studies as resources and enhance those to be a more comprehensive and holistic resiliency effort.
    - Resiliency efforts in RCCP designed to be specific for the town, as opposed to broader regional plans (incorporate social aspects, economic aspects, underserved populations, etc.).
  - A risk and vulnerability assessment examine three elements: exposure, risk, and vulnerability.
  - The goal of a risk and vulnerability assessment is to show potential impacts to community assets and the built environment (financial, social, and physical impacts).
- **Preliminary Results of Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (Rachel Baker)**
  - Maps created to display current data and knowledge of community (flood zones, critical features, land parcels, storm surge).
  - Maps will be provided on webpage along with comment form to submit comments and feedback on community maps.
- **Next Steps:**
  - M&N will ensure that community values and priorities are considered during the entire process.
  - Practical nature-based solutions to improve resiliency will be identified following the completion of a risk and vulnerability assessment.
- **Question and Answer Session:**
  - Because of the incredibly rapid growth in Leland, does this effort address and identify the potential need for additional evacuation facilities in our local area? And is there federal funding available for any needed evacuation facilities in the infrastructure bill?
    - From Adrianna Weber: There are some evacuation shelters in the local area that we could add to our data analysis, and we can look into data for evacuation corridors.
    - From Dawn York: The M&N team has also put together a Community Action Team (CAT). The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is

- represented on the team and brings in the regional transportation planning knowledge.
- From Mike Robinson: Identifying project ideas does not mean only looking at brick and mortar ideas, it can be activities or looking into funding sources. Identifying actions for obtaining funding can be included as well for infrastructure ideas.
- Are there any parts of our building code that could be bolstered so that our citizens could shelter in place in their homes for lower level hurricanes instead of having to evacuate?
    - From Adrianna: I can reach out to the building officer to learn more about the building codes and see if there is anything that can help us in our analysis that tells us how we can increase the shelter capacity of our town.
  - Are you evaluating connector and collector roads for evacuation needs? Are we identifying vulnerable residents that may be less able to evacuate?
    - From Dawn York: In regard to connector and collector roads, this program evaluates the entire town limits and we understand that there are potential expansions looking into the future, so those will be evaluated as well. Some of the localized flooding, including around smaller tributaries, is something that we will be evaluating more closely. If there are certain roads or locations that you think we should look more closely at, feel free to email us addresses or locations that we can look further into and understand better. We also want to be sure that this program is inclusive for all residents, so please let us know what the vulnerable communities are that we should reach out to. We are seeking to understand the risks and vulnerabilities of the community as a whole, so information on these specific areas or particular neighborhoods that we should focus on is important.
    - From Mike Robinson: In the past, we have been able to look at Census data that does have some attributes that are useful for identifying that; for example, households that do not have a vehicle, or do not have a phone, or have a language barrier. This data helps us to identify vulnerable communities, but community input is important as well.
  - Have we reached out to business partners? Harris Teeter had a generator during Florence, but it was knocked out during the storm. What can we do to protect key business partners that provide goods and services that are critical post storms?
    - From Adrianna Weber: One of the things that we need to analyze throughout this program is residential and commercial facilities throughout the town and their capabilities. We want to identify what some of the larger commercial facilities in the area are capable of in terms of providing shelter or other support for residents of Leland during a storm event. The Town of Leland is interested in both commercial and residential facilities and identifying what resources they need from the Town moving forward to prepare for storm events.

- From Dawn York: In Phase 2, when identifying potential solutions for improving resiliency, this may not come in the form of moving dirt and building infrastructure, it may come in the form of collaborating with business partners to ensure they have the services and utilities to stay open or provide goods to residents during emergencies. Ongoing communications and partnerships are important to the action plan.
- Because FEMA flood maps assume that all bridges and drains are clear and flowing freely, will you be evaluating the impact when these facilities are blocked or occluded (i.e. a 100-year flood becoming a 500-year flood event)?
  - From Mike Robinson: This goes along with what we were talking about earlier with future conditions and anticipating for flooding to increase over time, but FEMA does tend to show current conditions, or more or less a static boundary. There are limitations to this basic data set, and one of our actions can be looking into creating new data and conducting more detailed studies over time to look at flooding and shoreline change in more extensive detail.
- The Senior Center did not have a generator during Florence and provides meals-on-wheels that many of our seniors depend on for nutrition. So many of our key non-profit partners also need to be part of this discussion, since they provide services to our residents.
  - From Adrianna Weber: The Brunswick Senior Center has been identified as a critical feature in the town for the analysis and I will also reach out to Brunswick County to get a point of contact for that facility so that we can make sure to include them and identify their specific concerns and include them in our program.
- Many developers are stripping the land for houses. This seems to be a problem for future floods, how do we change this approach?
  - From Adrianna Weber: We have received a few comments regarding this concern. Yes, through new development, the land is being disturbed, but there are permits and regulations in place that developers must abide by (for example, stormwater controls). Improving resiliency in the Town of Leland includes looking at growth and future developments, and as we develop more, we will look at these regulations and requirements and see how we can adapt those requirements to maintain resiliency moving forward.
  - From Dawn York: As part of our Community Action Team, we are discussing programs with the Parks and Rec Department and identifying open space and Town-owned parcels to see what can be conserved. These can be potential resiliency solutions that can be evaluated in the next phase.
- Looking to the year 2045, flood and sea level rise models indicate that the approaches across the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge will periodically flood during

extreme weather events. Will leaders have to consider resilient improvements on the causeway? This is also an important evacuation route as well.

- From Adrianna Weber: The Town of Leland is currently conducting a 2045 Comprehensive Land Use Plan and we are also using the data and resources from this program as preliminary results. If this is a specific concern among the community, we can work with local leaders to include resiliency efforts for this bridge in this plan.
- At one point during Florence, Leland was an island. We could not get out. Are we looking at those evacuation routes that the Town has no control over?
  - From Adrianna Weber: Yes, we provided this information to Moffatt & Nichol and have these areas mapped out, so they are addressed in this program. With this program, we have a good start to identifying causes of stress and concern among community members to communicate with other municipalities and NCDOT to identify solutions.
- Will there be more snag and drag programs involved to clear up creeks, streams, rivers?
  - Technical difficulties occurred and an answer from the Town could not be given, but it was recorded to be addressed at a later date.