

Town of Leland  
Resilient Coastal Communities Program  
Community Action Team Meeting #1  
July 7, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Mackenzie Todd	<a href="mailto:mackenzie.todd@ncdenr.gov">mackenzie.todd@ncdenr.gov</a>	NC Division of Coastal Management
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Lauren Kolodij	<a href="mailto:laurenk@nccoast.org">laurenk@nccoast.org</a>	NC Coastal Federation
Kemp Burdette	<a href="mailto:kemp@cfwr.us">kemp@cfwr.us</a>	Cape Fear River Watch
Bob Walker	<a href="mailto:bwalker@h2goonline.com">bwalker@h2goonline.com</a>	H2GO
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Debbie Willis	Ddoodles@ec.rr.com	Planning Board Member
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Rachel Baker	<a href="mailto:rbaker@moffattnichol.com">rbaker@moffattnichol.com</a>	Moffatt & Nichol
<b>Not in Attendance</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Matthew Kirkland	<a href="mailto:mkirkland@townofleland.com">mkirkland@townofleland.com</a>	Town of Leland
Ed Weihs	Weihs@bellsouth.net	Brunswick County VOAD

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**Word of welcome from Dawn York – Community Action Team (CAT) meeting to discuss the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) for the Town of Leland.**

**Roll Call**

- Participants listed above.

The Resilient Coastal Communities Program team, led by Moffatt & Nichol, with technical support from the NC Division of Coastal Management, presented an overview of the scope of the program and next steps. Presentation is provided with the meeting summary.

### **RCCP Background (Mackenzie Todd)**

- Program is a continuation of coastal resilience efforts in DCM over past several years
- Hurricane Florence noted as the “ultimate motivator” for resiliency efforts to ramp up
- DCM received funding from the General Assembly and NFWF to develop the RCCP with the goal of designing a more holistic, forward-looking approach to resiliency
- Program designed using feedback from previous workshops, webinars, surveys, and planning efforts
- Program aim is to support under-resourced communities, minimize burden on local governments, and to increase local capacity and capability for resilience planning, programming, and implementation
- Phase 3 – Engineering and Design is anticipated to provide \$50k – 60k for each community awarded.

### **Town of Leland Application and Need (Adrianna Weber)**

- Heavy precipitation events
- Riverine Flooding- Leland in 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
- Town of Leland’s last risk and vulnerability assessment was completed over 10 years ago, time to update based on assessment of critical infrastructure

### **Scope of Work (Dawn York)**

- Moffatt & Nichol committed to improving resiliency design, which entails looking at towns individually but holistically
- A true resiliency plan includes community needs and community desires
  - Entails working closely with the CAT
- Community Engagement
  - M&N currently working on reviewing local plans and efforts, previous and ongoing work to understand community priorities and needs
  - Next step is to work together to establish vision and goals
  - CAT acts as baseline and framework to establish threshold for evaluating risks and vulnerabilities
  - Input and feedback needed from CAT members to identify suite of potential solutions
  - Deliverables
    - Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report
    - Project Portfolio
    - GIS Products (map package)
  - Schedule
    - Phase 2 to begin in fall
    - Phases 1 & 2 finalized by end of year
    - Contract for project terminates January 2022

### **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 town as opposed to broader regional plans (incorporate social aspects, economic aspects, underserved populations, etc.)
- STAPLEE Method
  - Recognized by state and federal agencies and used to evaluate multiple categories with series of questions
  - Helps to rank project ideas and develop scoring system used to prioritize projects
  - Pat Batleman asked how transportation and mobility resiliency improvements could be integrated into STAPLEE? Mike responded that transportation resiliency could be a goal and evaluated against each criteria of the STAPLEE method.

### **Outreach Strategy (Amanda Zullo)**

- Relies heavily on CAT's expertise, byproduct of group's collaboration
- The CAT is considered "translators of a community's desires"
- Aims to engage groups across entire social spectrum
- Conducive to hybrid solution so outreach efforts are inclusive
- CAT's roles and responsibilities:
  - Develop community-specific vision and goals
  - Review existing plans, policies, and programs
  - Select critical assets and natural infrastructure
  - Determine levels of risk and calls for action
  - Work with consultants and community to identify and prioritize solutions
- Public Survey coming soon
- Public Meeting scheduled for August

### **GIS Data Collection (Annie Welch)**

- Maps created to display current data and knowledge of community (critical assets, community assets, natural infrastructure, hazards) for use when discussing project plans and priorities
- Bob Walker, Executive Director of H<sub>2</sub>GO, indicated new partnership exists with Town of Leland and it will be critical to include below ground infrastructure including water lines/sewer lines/wells.
- Ben Andrea, Planning and Inspections Director discussed Town of Leland's planning horizon as it relates to sea level rise scenarios.
- Discussion regarding engagement with HOA's and relationship with the Town and issued stormwater permits. Focus on HOA engagement/education on stormwater compliance and resiliency
- Bob Walker made a recommendation of the creation of a comprehensive stormwater utility to support implementation of resiliency efforts
- Discussion of how to prevent another Stoney Creek flooding disaster in the future

### **Vision and Goals (Mike Robinson)**

- Needed to prioritize steps moving forward
- Vision: what comes to mind when you hear “resilience?” Using one word.
- CAT members: please provide thoughts on greatest needs and priorities for the community
- Vision statement to include input from the broader public- introduce vision idea at public meeting in August to receive feedback
- Goals should be specific and measurable so we know when they have been achieved and we know if our actions are in line with our vision

## Discussion

- Kemp Burdette: Will the RCCP be used as mitigation to offset impacts from current development?
  - Mike – acknowledgement of potential for FEMA buyout/acquisition process that can be identified as a resiliency effort and included as an action item in Phase 2
  - Question: how you prevent development in areas that are vulnerable using green infrastructure
  - Use of policy + ordinance/local regulations + planning tools
- Bob Walker: critical features include structures above ground and below
  - Other critical features include emergency fuel supply
  - Transportation corridors
  - Water supply within Brunswick County (CFPUA)
  - Noted that it was determined beaver dams may have had an impact on the extent of flooding for Stoney Creek
- Need for realistic use of sea level rise projections and ensure we estimate beyond current flood zone designations
- Noted the Town is currently in the process of updating its Land Use Plan – a 25-year planning horizon
  - LUP establishes land use policy
  - Framework for growth and evaluates environmental constraints
  - Town of Leland has agreed to avoid using SLR projects and prefers use of NOAA’s SLOSH model
- Public spaces and creation of parks is a priority and potential vehicle for community engagement through signage adjacent to green infrastructure such as bioswales/protected wetlands
- Wilmington MPO is a data source for demographic information
- Two transportation corridors (NC133/Town Creek) have been identified as priorities for alleviating flooding
- Critical facilities include power transmission/natural gas lines and communication infrastructure
- Discussion of Old Fayetteville Road and cutoff from community shelter during past storms due to localized flooding
- Resiliency needs to be described in a common voice from departments
- MOTSU railroad – contact emergency manager for input on RCCP?
- NCCF – Lauren indicated she would be able to provide cost efficiency language on non-conventional green infrastructure projects such as living shorelines.

**Action Items and Next Steps for CAT Members by July 19:**

- Review webpage and provide feedback to Adrianna Weber
- Coordinate with Annie Welch on additional map layers, features to include, and/or data sources to look into if applicable
- Provide Moffatt & Nichol Team your thoughts on vision and goals
  - i.e. what do you see as greatest risks, vulnerabilities, and priorities?
  - M&N can also provide examples to ACT for reference
- Provide Moffatt & Nichol team any recent or historical information and/or data sources for library of resources for community