

Town of Leland
Resilient Coastal Communities Program
Community Action Team Meeting #2
September 28, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Mackenzie Todd	NCDCM	John Grimes	Town of Leland
Tancred Miller	NCDCM	Bob Walker	H2GO
Adrianna Weber	Town of Leland	Kemp Burdette	Cape Fear River Watch
Debbie Willis	Town of Leland	Cayla Cothron	NC Sea Grant
Dawn Friedman	Town of Leland	Abby Lorenzo	Wilmington MPO
Veronica Carter	Town of Leland	Mike Robinson	Moffatt & Nichol
Lauren Kolodij	NC Coastal Federation	Rachel Baker	Moffatt & Nichol
Pat Batleman	Town of Leland	Ayse Karanci	Moffatt & Nichol
Matthew Kirkland	Town of Leland	Dawn York	Moffatt & Nichol
Brannon Richards	Town of Leland	Amanda Zullo	Moffatt & Nichol

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

- **Roll Call**
 - Participants listed above.
- **RCCP Overview and Objectives (Dawn York)**
 - This program aims to address the Town of Leland’s coastal resilience efforts and expand upon them. The Moffatt & Nichol (M&N) team is here to offer technical support throughout this process.
 - The Community Action Team (CAT) is a collection of stakeholders that have been hand selected by the town to offer their input and drive the process.
- **Significant Occurrences (Rachel Baker)**
 - Resiliency efforts have been ongoing in the Town of Leland prior to its involvement with RCCP.
 - RCCP aims to expand upon and advance ongoing efforts.
 - Previous storm events highlighted the need for resiliency efforts.
- **Scope of Work (Dawn York)**
 - The M&N team continues to use the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management’s (NCDCM) RCCP Handbook closely and abiding by its action items, schedule, and deliverables.
 - Today’s main focus points are brainstorming a vision statement, aligning goal statements, and sharing progress on the Risk & Vulnerability Assessment that is underway. It will be ready for CAT members’ review by the end of October.
 - Phase 2 of RCCP will begin around mid-November.
 - Dawn requested the CAT to please check their calendars for availability the week before Thanksgiving.
 - The M&N team aims to complete all deliverables by end of January 2022 and will involve CAT members in the process of reviewing and providing feedback of these materials.

- **Public Survey Results (Amanda Zullo)**
 - The public survey and all other outreach materials were a result of the collaboration between the Town of Leland and the M&N team.
 - The public survey ran from mid-July to mid-September with the public meeting being held in the middle of that time frame in August.
 - A high-level overview of the public survey was shown, displaying results from 145 participants. The material that was presented in the survey was used to inform the planning team where to position efforts moving forward and how to think through the Risk & Vulnerability Assessment based on the communities' priorities, preferences, and concerns.
 - When considering vision and goals, something that stuck out from the survey was that residents displayed interest in enhanced communication and public outreach and education.
 - Debbie Willis asked if any consideration has been given to reaching out to individual HOAs to send to their residents to complete the survey because there has been turnover among the HOA management companies. Adrianna Weber responded that HOA management companies had been given the survey. Adrianna will take note of this idea moving forward.
- **Development of Vision and Goal Statements (Mike Robinson)**
 - A vision statement is an overarching, high-level, aspirational statement of where the community wants to be in the future.
 - Goal statements aim to help break down the vision statement into manageable statements.
 - Action items highlight neighborhoods or specific populations to focus on for each goal statement.
 - Mike Robinson asked the CAT members two questions to think about to start brainstorming goal statements that will help form a vision statement:
 - What two things would you do to improve community resilience?
 - If you had \$50,000 to spend on projects, what project(s) would you implement and how would you use that money?
 - CAT Members offered input and brainstormed goal statements both virtually and in person, and responses were collected by the M&N team. These responses are collated in a separate document (to be provided to CAT).
- **Risk, Vulnerability, and Exposure (Mike Robinson)**
 - Exposure: is a structure/property in a floodplain?
 - Vulnerability: How vulnerable this structure is (i.e. is the structure elevated? Is it flood proof? Is there a berm around the structure? Has it been mitigated in some way?)
 - Risks: Social or financial impact of a flood on that property or structure.
 - All three factors are considered to better understand total risk.
 - Primary focus is natural hazards.
 - The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan looks at multiple counties at one time, and doesn't necessarily contain the detail necessary for a better understanding at a local level.
 - The Risk and Vulnerability Assessment being created by the M&N team aims to build upon this plan and add more specialized data for the Town of Leland.

- **How is Social Vulnerability Addressed?**
 - The social vulnerability index by the CDC focuses on four factors:
 - Socioeconomic Status
 - Household Composition & Disability
 - Minority Status & Language
 - Housing Type & Transportation
 - All of these will be looked at individually, as well as together, as an overall vulnerability index.
 - Cayla Cothron asked: Regarding the CDC social vulnerability index, will there be an effort to ground truth the findings from this analysis, such as gathering community information or using knowledge from outreach to supplement what is not offered at a high level?
 - Answer: Yes, some of the public survey questions help to provide material to supplement these findings.
- **Risk and Vulnerability Assessment: Preliminary Results (Rachel Baker)**
 - Maps were shown displaying the current GIS data collection.
 - Veronica Carter asked: I wonder if it would be beneficial and help the general public understand the risks and vulnerabilities if these hazards were shown outside of the Leland town limits? Collaborating with Brunswick County and with the Town of Belville to look at risks such as stormwater could be very beneficial for the future.
 - Answer from Dawn York: Building those partnerships could be very beneficial and it is never too late to be having those conversations.
 - Kemp Burdette asked: The sea level rise map was very surprising to me that it went up to a ten-foot change in sea level and you don't see many areas impacted by that much of a change in sea level.
 - Veronica Carter noted that during Hurricane Florence, flooding was primarily from creeks and smaller tributaries, and she agreed that she thinks there would be more inundated areas with significant changes in sea level.
 - Dawn York: Rachel, can you talk a little more about the source of this data?
 - Rachel Baker: This data is SLOSH data from NOAA. I remember from previous discussions with the Town, hearing that the SLOSH model was preferred so that data was used for creating this map but we can check the accuracy of it.
- **Meeting Conclusion and Take-Aways (Dawn York):**
 - A compilation of the goals will be provided and a small homework assignment can be expected for the CAT members over the next week or two.
 - Request for CAT members to check their schedules for the week before Thanksgiving for scheduling our next meeting. A placeholder will be sent out.