



SERPPAS Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation Work Group Call Summary

March 14, 2022; 2pm ET

Theme and Speakers

Georgia Coastal Resilience Efforts

- Jennifer Kline (Jennifer.Kline@dnr.ga.gov) – Coastal Hazards and Disaster Resiliency, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Program
- Ashby Worley (ashby.worley@tnc.org) – Coastal Climate Adaptation Director, The Nature Conservancy in Georgia

Materials

[Meeting Recording](#)

[TNC Presentation](#)

Discussion

- Welcome & Speaker Introduction – Michelle Covi, Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison/Work Group Lead
 - Next in CRAWG's deep dive into resilience efforts across the states is Georgia. The group heard from Jennifer Kline, Coastal Hazards Specialist for Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Program, and Ashby Worley, Coastal Climate Adaptation Director of The Nature Conservancy.
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Program – Jennifer Kline, Coastal Hazards Specialist
 - The GA DNR Coastal Resources Division's Coastal Management Program (GCMP) has jurisdiction of the marsh and shoreline. It is their goal to make GA's coast more resilient to hazards...
 - The GCMP receives about \$2.5 million per year from NOAA to administer the program. While GA does not have a resilience office, the state agencies have been working diligently to include resilience in project planning and efforts.
 - Disaster recovery and redevelopment planning has occurred over the last 10 years, focusing on long-term, holistic, community-level planning. After completing this project, GA is the first state in the U.S. to have a completely resilient coast based on FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework. Resiliency planning will now turn to southwest GA and the 20 counties impacted by Hurricane Michael. [Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Planning Guide](#)
 - The [Enhancing Coastal Resilience with Green Infrastructure](#) project looked at how GA could be more resilient to freshwater and stormwater flooding with green infrastructure. Based on this project, a legal workshop will be kicking off for attorneys on March 23rd. To register: <https://cvio.g.uga.edu/protecting-georgia-coast-agenda.html>
 - New project will package up the different resiliency work over the last few years



- Learned from the different resiliency projects and now moving into advising private landowners
 - In 2016, the first Georgia Climate Conference was held on Jekyll Island. The most recent conference had over 300 in person participants and 132 GA projects were presented.
 - The [Flood Literacy Project](#) is an effort to unite professionals of various sectors of the field to see what flood terms are being used and how they are being used. The Flood Literacy Taskforce created a glossary of flood terms to provide consistency.
 - Coastal Land Conservation provides funding to assist in land conservation.
 - The GA Coastal Hazards Community of Practice is made up of 53 members that have been meeting quarterly for 12 years to share projects and ideas to help prevent duplication and combine efforts where possible.
- The Nature Conservancy in Georgia – Ashby Worley, Coastal Climate Adaptation Director
 - TNC is tackling climate in GA by promoting climate-responsive policy; supporting renewable energy expansion; enhancing natural solutions for carbon mitigation; and helping communities adapt to climate change. Ms. Worley specifically focus on helping communities adapt to climate change, especially by using nature-based solutions.
 - TNC fosters smart adaptation to climate change in GA by providing specialized tools and trainings to coastal communities; helping communities bolster their shorelines and enhance resilience through nature-based solutions; collaborating with partners on beneficial uses of dredges sand and sediment; engaging local communities in resiliency planning; and furthering climate adaptation scientific research.
 - Camden County (the southeastern most county in GA) had been impacted by recent storms (Hurricane Matthew and Irma most recently) and stormwater flooding. There was much interest by this community to become engaged in coastal resilience, particularly to flooding. TNC worked with the county to create “Rise Ready” online decision support tools to build flood resiliency, including flood risk awareness, community planning, and a community rating system open space explorer to help the community identify flood-prone areas.
 - Camden County partners have also become interested in working with NSB Kings Bay to become more resilient. NSB Kings Bay is within the Georgia Sentinel Landscape and partners both on and around the base are working on coastal resilience.
 - The Developing a Resiliency Implementation Workplan for Camden County (GA) project received a NFWF grant to create a resiliency implementation workplan (RIW). The RIW will reflect stakeholder engagement, be informed by technical expertise, build upon existing successes, and result in a “pipeline” of projects eligible for future design and implementation funding. A steering committee, including SERPPAS, guided the project.
 - The project looked at all of the existing plans of the county to create a comprehensive plan for disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, etc. A vulnerability assessment was conducted bringing in all of the data layers to look at issue areas might be.
 - A public survey engaged the public on questions of vulnerability. Local representatives from the cities, county, and NSB Kings Bay were engaged in targeted conversations about flooding issue areas, concerns, current efforts, and current plans. Thanks to this, a robust data set was collected to identify flooding and potential project locations. A list of priority projects and potential partners/funding sources was included as a result of efforts.



- The NSB Kings Bay REPI Challenge project looks to design and implement adaptive management strategies that leverage natural infrastructure to build resilience capacity and protect the base from sea level rise, flooding, and erosion. Benefits to the base's operations and capabilities include preventing the loss of Navy lands, stewardship of wildlife habitat, and improved sediment management. Adaptive management actions will include stabilizing the shoreline through a living shoreline, increasing marsh elevation, and enabling upward migration through removal or discouragement of hard surfaces, land conservation, and land use management.
- Q&A and Discussion
 - To Ms. Worley, have there been any challenges when working with NSB Kings Bay and the surrounding community?
 - It's been a challenge reaching the right people and having to rely on the community planning person to connect with the right people.
 - Are you looking at opportunities for putting in purple pipe for water reuse in preparation of the next natural disaster?
 - Conversations were had; some communities allow it and others don't.
 - Planning for more resilient infrastructure now where we can but realizing some things can't be done until after a disaster.
 - It's been a challenge in GA since GA hasn't been hit directly with a natural disaster, making conversations difficult.
 - The Kings Bay commander was very excited about the new \$5 million gopher tortoise resilience center just funded through Buddy Carter/Congress, so there may be more opportunity to do sustainability projects on/near Base.
 - While not technically on the coast, the southwest GA counties are very close to the coast. Has there been any coordination with Florida and Tyndall AFB?
 - GCMC has reached out to the southwest GA weather service but have not reach out to the military services in the area yet.
- SERPPAS Updates – Addie Thornton
 - Spring 2022 Steering Committee Meeting in March 24-25, 2022, in Atlanta, GA
 - 2022 Principals Meeting on May 3-4, 2022, in Beaufort, NC, with a coastal resilience focus
 - The Sentinel Landscape Partnership designated three new landscapes, including the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape in the SERPPAS region. A focus on climate risk and adaptation was pushed in the applications.
- South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative
 - The SASMI workshop will be held virtually on March 28th-April 1st. There will be a plenary session and many smaller breakout group discussions to begin the process of crafting the conservation plan.
 - A writing team lead was assembled to pull together information received at the workshop and develop the first draft of the conservation plan.

The next work group meeting will be Monday, April 11, 2022, at 2pm EST.