



SERPPAS Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation Work Group Call Summary

April 11, 2022; 2pm ET

Theme and Speakers

Florida Coastal Resilience Efforts

- Wesley Brooks (wesley.brooks@eog.myflorida.com) – Chief Resilience Officer, State of Florida
- Diane Quigley (diane.quigley@floridadep.gov) – Resilient Florida Program Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Joanne Throwe (info@throwe-environmental.com) – Throwe Environmental, Field Liaison to National Coastal Resilience Fund

Materials

[Meeting Recording](#)

[Resilient Florida Presentation](#)

[Throwe Environmental/NFWF NCRF Presentation](#)

Discussion

- Welcome & Speaker Introduction – Michelle Covi, Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison/Work Group Lead
 - Next in CRRAWG's deep dive into resilience efforts across the states is Florida. The group heard from Wesley Brooks, Chief Resilience Officer for the State of Florida, and Diane Quigley, Resilient Florida Program Director for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- State of Florida – Wesley Brooks, Chief Resilience Officer
 - Wes Brooks is the Chief Resilience Officer for the State of Florida working to enhance agency coordination and bolster flood resilience and mitigation efforts in coastal and inland communities across the state.
 - The Florida Governor and legislature have shown tremendous support for resilience. Florida mostly thinks of resilience in terms of flood resilience and flood mitigation. A law passed this year codifies the statewide Office of Resilience; previously, the Chief Resilience Officer position existed within the governor's office.
 - Communication
 - Highlighting everything the state is doing such as grant awards opportunities and connecting people to the projects being done.
 - Visiting local communities to interact with county and city administrators so that they understand the full breadth of resources available to them to enhance resilience needs.
 - Resilience has to start local, and communities have to be able to envision a future for themselves.



- Coordination
 - Connecting local governments to appropriate state and federal programs.
 - Many state agencies were already practicing resilience, if not in name. Still identifying what all states agencies were doing prior.
 - Streamline efforts - certain jurisdictions have applied to multiple departments for similar project and we don't want to double up work.
- Innovation
 - Lots of interest from governor and legislature; resilience was a big priority for speaker of the house. Focused on implementing newly passed laws and standing up new programs.
 - FL DEP's Resilient Florida Program passed last year and implementing it is a big priority for the Governor and resilience office.
 - Established Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation housed at University of South Florida.
 - New legislation calls on Department of Transportation to establish a resilience action plan, ensuring maintenance of emergency evacuation routes.
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Diane Quigley, Resilient Florida Program Director
 - FL DEP's Resilient Florida Program (RF) was established as part of landmark legislation designed to provide a comprehensive coordinated approach to resilience in addressing the impacts of resilience around the state.
 - The four main components of the new legislation are: 1) Resilient Florida Grant Program and Regional Resilience Entity Funding; 2) Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan; 3) Statewide Data Set and Assessment; and 4) Florida Flood Hub.
 - RF received \$100 million in state funding for 2022-2023 RF Plan Implementation Grants. RF proposed funding 76 projects totaling \$270 million this year; these projects must have 50% match unless they are a financially disadvantaged community.
 - Projects must be identified as a critical asset through a Vulnerability Assessment. Critical assets to be funded are 1) transportation assets and evacuation routes; 2) wastewater, stormwater, and other utility infrastructure; 3) critical and community and emergency facilities; and 4) natural, cultural, and historical resources.
 - Projects have to come from local governments addressing flooding or sea level rise; water management or flood control districts to mitigate flooding or sea level rise; and have a 50% match.
 - Projects are evaluated based on existing statute; RF is developing a Rule on criteria with a public workshop on March 17th and public comment period.
 - Statewide plan projects include topics on stormwater management, living shoreline/nature-based solutions, new or retrofit critical facility, seawall, and structure elevation.
 - This year, RF received \$404 million through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for resilience implementation projects. RF was able to supplement statewide plan projects using these funds since they didn't need a vulnerability assessment or 50% local match.
 - 133 implementation projects were funded, and of the federally funded projects, half were stormwater management. Many were in South Florida, along the coasts. RF is now working with the inland communities.



- The Regional Resilience Entity Grants funded 9 grants for \$1.9 million. Planning Grants received 191 applications totaling \$90 million but only had \$20 million to distribute.
- The Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set and Assessment deadline was extended by a year to 2023/2024. After the statewide assessment is developed, all of the critical assets identified will be eligible for funding by the statewide plan. RF is currently working with the Flood Hub to ID data gaps.
- In FY22/23, RF is hoping to receive another \$200 million from federal ARPA funds, with \$20 million identified for Planning Grants and pre-constructions activities for eligible communities. The Flood Hub funding would increase to \$5.5 million.
- Q&A and Discussion
 - How have you been reaching out to smaller communities that may not have been reached in the past?
 - Using direct outreach and emails; have a large mailing list and a forum that meets monthly.
 - Giving presentations such as this one and will be making them a higher priority.
 - Reaching out to counties that don't have vulnerability assessments
 - Putting together tools (SOWs, guidebook)
 - Going forward, is there a chance Resilient Florida could evolve to include federal critical assets or should the contact be with local governments?
 - Nothing prevents a federal asset as being labeled as critical or not, but it does need to be sponsored by a local government.
 - Local governments will primarily focus on local assets, but the 50% match can come from federal match.
 - Funding can only go to local but can include federal assets; it helps if the local governments label federal assets as critical assets.
 - Resilient Florida is coordinating with installations where it can and recently sat on a vulnerability assessment for Eglin AFB (Tyndall AFB is also looking at doing one).
- [NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund \(NCRF\)](#) – Joanne Throwe
 - Throwe Environmental has been brought in as a field liaison by NFWF for NCRF to help bring in proposals.
 - NCRF supports nature-based solutions that help enhance resilience to coastal communities and also enhance habitat for fish and wildlife. The geographic focus is all U.S. coastal states.
 - Federal agencies are not able to apply but can be partners. Competitive applications must invest in nature-based solutions, clearly benefit community resilience, and clearly benefit fish, wildlife, and habitat.
 - NCRF pre-proposals are due 4/21/22.

The next work group meeting will be Monday, May 9, 2022, at 2pm EST.