



# SERPPAS Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation Work Group Call Summary

**January 10, 2022; 2pm ET**

## Theme

North Carolina Coastal Resilience Efforts

## Helpful Materials

[Meeting Recording](#)

[Amanda Martin Presentation](#)

[Tancred Miller Presentation](#)

## Discussion

- Welcome & Speaker Introduction – Michelle Covi, Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison/Work Group Lead
  - The CRRAWG has been doing a deep dive into resilience efforts across the states. Today is focused on North Carolina. The group head from Amanda Martin, Chief Resilience Officer at the NC Office of Recovery & Resiliency (NCORR), and Tancred Miller, Policy & Planning Section Chief at the NC DEQ Division of Coastal Management.
- NC Office of Recovery & Resiliency – Amanda Martin, Chief Resilience Officer ([amanda.martin@ncdps.gov](mailto:amanda.martin@ncdps.gov))
  - In the last 6 years, North Carolina has experienced multiple natural disasters, starting with Hurricane Michael in 2016. Executive Order 80: North Carolina’s Commitment to Address Climate Change and Transition to a Clean Energy Economy was issued in 2018, establishing NCORR. NC Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan call for in EO 80 was submitted in 2020.
  - NC Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan highlights:
    - The NC Climate Science Report gives climate change projections in NC in clear language and provides the science background for efforts.
    - The North Carolina Resilient Communities Program provides local and regional technical assistance for planning and project identification, lead design and engineering, and to bring communities to the starting line for implementation funding.
    - NCORR’s Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Environment (RISE) program is a regional portfolio of projects to increase regional resilience. The emphasis of the RISE program is to coach stakeholders to think regionally beyond individual jurisdictions.
  - NCORR was established after Hurricane Florence to distribute disaster recovery funds (over \$1 billion). NCORR supports interagency coordination on resilience, not disaster recovery programs.
  - State budget passed in November 2021 has several major investments in resilience including funding NC DEQ Resilience Communities Program, codifying NCORR role in statewide resilience



coordination, a statewide flood resilience blueprint, drinking water/wastewater infrastructure, and many more.

- NC DEQ Division of Coastal Management – Tancred Miller, Policy & Planning Section Chief ([tancred.miller@ncdenr.gov](mailto:tancred.miller@ncdenr.gov))
  - The NC DEQ Division of Coastal Management (DCM) established the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) under the umbrella of EO 80’s Climate Risk Assessment & Resilience Plan. The RCCP’s work is restricted to the 20 coastal counties, which is where DCM operates. DCM built resources that would benefit those local governments.
  - The RCCP addresses barriers to coastal resilience at the local level; assists communities with risk and vulnerability assessments; helps communities develop projects; advances priority projects to “shovel-ready” status; and links communities to funding streams for project implementation.
  - The RCCP is an incentive program that seeks to increase local capacity; incentives a data and community-driven process; provide tools to support vulnerable populations; reduce community costs; and meet communities where they are.
  - There are four program phases: 1) Community Engagement & Risk/Vulnerability Assessment, 2) Planning, Project Selection, and Prioritization, 3) Engineering and Design, and 4) Implementation. Currently, RCCP is in Phase 1 and 2; there are currently 26 local government participating for 2021 (8 counties and 18 municipalities).
  - RCCP developed a [Planning Handbook](#) to provide assistance at a consistent level across communities.
  - DCM does not directly provide technical assistance but contracts out to 10 external vendors.
  - 2021 Timeline and Next Steps
    - Phases 1 and 2 will wrap by March 2022
    - Phase 3 application period in early 2022
- Q&A and Discussion
  - Is there a list or brief description of the individual flood mitigation projects? The National Refuge System is interested in employing nature-based solutions and would like to work with particular communities of interest.
    - Yes, there is a list in the actual state budget and the legislation. Amanda can send that list.
  - What sort of communities were the first to sign up for the program? What were the characteristics?
    - NCORR used the Council of Governments to find participants.
    - RCCP used an application process and had a wide range of participants.
  - Will all of the mentioned funding come through NCORR or through different offices?
    - Most funding doesn’t come through NCORR but through the more traditional agencies.
  - What are the greatest barriers to the RCCP?
    - Applying to funds and capacity
    - RCCP trying to simplify the process by having a short application and no matching requirement.
    - A remaining barrier is getting the applicants to apply for implementation funding through NFWF after the planning is completed, i.e. grant writing capacity.



- SERPPAS Updates – Addie Thornton
  - Spring 2022 Steering Committee Meeting in March 2022 in Atlanta, GA
  - 2022 Principals Meeting in May 2022 in Beaufort, NC, with a coastal resilience focus

***The next work group meeting will be Monday, February 14, 2022, at 2pm EST.***