



CSO Coastal Hazards Planning & Adaptation Work Group

Call Notes

December 14, 2021

Call Topic:2022 CHPA Work Plan and State Roundtable Updates

Attendees:

Adelaine McCloe (CT)	Joseph Bauer (FL)	Matthew Baumgardner (NJ)
Barbara Neale (SC)	Joshua Oyer (TX)	Nathalie DiGeronimo (NH)
Becky Hill (NJ)	Julia Knisel (MA)	Patricia Bowie (MA)
David Green (TX)	Kathleen Angel (WI)	Peter Slovinsky (ME)
Jennifer Kline (GA)	Laura Mensch (DE)	Sara Krupa (LA)
Jenny Orsburn (IN)	Mark Hogan (LA)	Vidya Balasubramanyam (IL)
Joe Exl (IN)	Matt Walderon (PA)	Yusraa Tadj (HI)

Notes

1. Welcome and Staff Updates

- a. **NFIP Minimum Standard RFI:** FEMA sets minimum floodplain management standards which communities must institute through ordinance and/or planning in order to participate in the NFIP. On January 6, the Association of State Floodplain Managers and the Natural Resources Defense Council delivered a petition to FEMA requesting that FEMA update the agency's rules for building and land-use in the nation's floodplains, and to develop and make available flood maps that project future flood risk. FEMA has posted a [Request for Information](#) to gather public feedback on the National Flood Insurance Program's minimum floodplain management standards and endangered species and habitat requirements. Comments can be submitted through the [Federal Regulations.gov Portal](#) until January 27, 2022
 - i. CSO has drafted [high-level comments](#) for the NFIP RFI and request members feedback by **January 7, 2022** to ensure comments are reflective of state's position on the NFIP minimum floodplain management standards and endangered species and habitat requirements.
- b. **FEMA Coastal Guide:** Tentative Title: Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Coastal Management. The Guides to Expanding Mitigation is a series that originated from FEMA Region 2 and is now being elevated at the national level. The nationally focused GEMs can be found [here](#). Region 2 Guides (all the topics can be found [here](#)). The goal with this guide is to provide a high-level introduction and conversation starter for emergency managers and other local officials. It is meant to spark conversations among organizations and people in coastal communities with different goals (economic development, environmental protection, public safety, etc.).
 - i. Major Topics Covered: What is Coastal Management? Collaborative Approach to Coastal Management and Resiliency, Where to Begin: Partners

and Risk Identification & Community Engagement, Collaborative Solutions: Nature-Based Solutions, Managed Retreat, Plan Alignment, & Examples of Multi-Benefit Projects

- ii. Current Status: FEMA Mitigation Planning met with members/staff from NOAA, USACE, EPA, Coastal States Organization, Georgetown Climate Center, USVI, National Academy of Sciences, The Nature Conservancy, East West Center, University of Michigan, University of Virgin Islands, etc.. Interviewees are providing feedback. Next steps will include addressing the comments received and having the final content go through the FEMA concurrence process.
- c. **State and local Hazard Mitigation Plan Renewals:** 18 coastal states have a hazard mitigation plan renewal in 2023. If support is needed from CSO or OCM, please contact John Ryan-Henry at jryan-henry@coastalstates.org.
 - i. Will your coastal program coordinate with your state's emergency management office to participate in the state planning process?
 - ii. Does your coastal program need support from OCM or CSO with this effort?
- d. **FEMA Plan Alignment:** This document describes the similarities and differences between FEMA's hazard mitigation planning process and NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Act, Section 309 Enhancement Program. It is designed to help state officials integrate mitigation planning and CZMA, Section 309 Enhancement planning to produce more effective mitigation actions and to meet the criteria of both programs more efficiently. The concepts presented in this document may also be applicable to the other eight enhancement areas. The primary audience for this document is states and territories with both NOAA-approved coastal management programs and FEMA hazard mitigation plans. In particular, this document targets state hazard mitigation officers (SHMOs) and coastal management programs (CMPs). Local governments may also be able to use concepts presented in this document, as appropriate.
 - i. FEMA HMP is seeking case studies, practitioner perspectives and recommendations on how to make this resource support the work that coastal programs are doing including coordination with state EMAs. Feedback requested by **January 10, 2022**.
- e. **FEMA 2022 Hazard Mitigation (HM) Partners Workshop:** The HM Partners Workshop is the annual gathering of hazard mitigation stakeholders with the purpose of informing and updating them about mitigation grants and floodplain management, strengthening those relationships, and providing knowledge transfer between FEMA and invited attendees. The event is scheduled for May 2-5, 2022 and will be held virtually again. This year's theme is: *Building Whole Community Resilience: Partnerships, Capability, & Capacity*. The conversations at the 2022 HM Partnership Workshop are designed around building mitigation champions, driving community resiliency, providing technical assistance for grant programs, and supporting overall mitigation.
 - i. **Areas for discussion at the Workshop include:** Future Conditions and/or Climate Change and Adaptation, Nature-Based Solutions, Equity in Hazard

Mitigation Planning and Projects, Building Codes and Standards, & Capacity & Capability Building

- ii. **Abstract Submission Process**: Please plan 60 minutes for your session. Send an email to fema-2022hmworkshop@fema.dhs.gov . In the Subject Line put: 2022 HM Partners Workshop Abstract Submission. In your email, provide a title for your abstract and a paragraph of what your abstract is about. *The abstract submissions period closes January 14, 2022.* For insight into the topics covered during the 2021 workshop, view the [full HM Partners Workshop Program](#).

- f. **CHPA Data Needs List Request from OCM**: In a regular coordination call with OCM, they requested notes from the August CHPA call on Data and Vulnerability Assessment call. Notes were compiled into a summary and included in the meeting material.
- g. **FEMA 2022-2026 Strategic Plan**: The 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan outlines a bold vision and three ambitious goals designed to address key challenges the agency faces during a pivotal moment in the field of emergency management.
- h. **FEMA Resources for Climate Resilience**: Developed to assist FEMA's state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners in navigating the FEMA resources that are available to support communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change and build resilience. The document offers a description of available FEMA resources communities can use to plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the adverse impacts of climate change.
- i. **FEMA Nature-Based Solutions**: FEMA's new website on NBS.

2. CHPA 2022 Work Plan Update

- a. Thank you to the participants that were able to complete the evaluation survey. The results were used to inform the draft work plan for 2022. We received great feedback on the structure of the calls and ways to improve. Based on the information in the survey, a list of proposed topics was created. Please review the proposed topics and descriptions. We are seeking information on the order of the topics, specific questions that could be answered, and possible speakers or presentations. If possible, please send feedback by **January 10, 2022**.

3. State Roundtable updates

- a. **Joseph Bauer (FL)**: Currently evaluating applications for [Coastal Partnership Initiative](#) grants. These are grants to be offered to local governments for four different categories: Resilient Communities, Coastal Resource Stewardship, Access to Coastal Resources, and Working Waterfronts. Also, received applications from partner state agencies for a different funding opportunity. Wesley Brooks is Florida's new Chief resilience officer, appointed in November 2021.
- b. **Joshua Oyer (TX)**: Works with GLO and this is his first CHPA meeting. Moving forward he will be the new contact. They are using the state led [Coastal Resiliency Master Plan](#), different studies completed with USACE, and TX coastal studies to look at the possibility of the incoming funds to be applied to projects in the plan. Coordinating with EMA to include comprehensive risk assessments and making sure that coastal hazards, such as erosion, are included. A year out from writing a new master plan and working with stakeholder to capture new projects. Seen a lot of success with projects moving forward in the last couple of years.

- c. **Jennifer Kline (GA):** Working on preparing the state for the incoming funding. Partnered with state EMA, Georgia Sea Grant, OCM liaison, and other partners to host a webinar for the entire state on the funding programs and what is some of the resources that can be offered at the state level. Currently focused on a second webinar (January) that is focused on coastal resilience and then an in-person training later in the year. Working to make sure local communities are prepared to work with state or non-governmental opportunities. Submitted a PSM for evaluating GI/NBS as it relates to current and future flooding. This would include modeling for the coastal area. Not on the list of HMP renewals, but was able to assist GA EMA in 2019 by including results from a previous PSM that looked at sea level rise and climate change impacts to the coasts.
- d. **Barbara Neale (SC):** There is a new [Office of Resilience](#) that absorbed some of the state's EMD. Had a request from the Governor's office for information on the [South Atlantic Coastal Study](#) (SACS) and hazard mitigation efforts for storm surge in Charleston peninsula. Currently working on coordinating the coastal program and office of resilience and learning the structure of the office. Looking into the different studies that are being done and the CMP future role.
- e. **Becky Hill (NJ):** Does not have a formal agency process, but are having discussions and is trying to gather information. The HMP was updated in 2019 and they coordinated with EMA and hoping to include climate change in the next update. Submitted a project for PSM to get high accuracy elevation measurements through wetland monitoring network sites. The network is made up of organizations that all collect data in similar methods. Focusing on high resolution data in overburdened communities. Then will create a tool to identify the best areas for restoration projects. The program is developing a Resilience coordinator program. The Chief Resilience Officer is retiring at the end of the year and Nick Angarone will be replacing him and he will be coordinating efforts on climate interagency efforts.
- f. **Laura Mensch (DE):** Delaware just held its annual RASCL summit ([Resilient and Sustainable Communities League](#)) - focus was on "Funding and Designing the Resilient Infrastructure" - focus on funding programs available to communities, how collaboration and networks build momentum, and green infrastructure projects that are improving local community resilience and sustainability. <https://www.derascl.org/summit>.
- g. **Julia Knisel (MA):** The governor and legislature are working through a spending plan for \$4 billion, mostly focused on healthcare, housing, and new job security. Currently has a \$100 million allocated to culvert, dams, and other flood control infrastructure and \$90 million for port infrastructure. There may be opportunities to include coastal hazard topic into the work. Looking forward to hearing NOAA guidance with the infrastructure funding. FEMA grants move pretty smoothly due to constant coordination with EMA. Did not submit a PSM project this year. The current HMP and climate adaptation plan was approved in 2018 and the process for updating has already begun (update in 2023). Consultants are on board for standards for hazard characterization and climate projection. Continuing to offer state grants to coastal communities on coastal resilience projects. The grant program launched

in 2014 and this year offered \$4 million for 19 local projects. In the future, hoping to get NBS and living shoreline projects implemented.

- h. **Peter Slovinsky (ME):** Through ARPA, DOT got an influx of money and in early January will put out an RFP for hydrodynamic modeling for sea level rise and storm inundation for the entire ME coastline (modeled after MA project. Seeking to understand the impacts sea level rise and storm surge has on critical infrastructure and natural environments. Working with USACE on [WRDA Section 204 - Beneficial Use of Dredged Material](#) to reconstruct a small area of a barrier beach habitat that is vital to threaten and endangered migrating birds and water fowls. First of its project in ME. 2 Regional service provider received NFWF NCRF grants focusing on community resiliency, including NBS for 20 coastal communities (120 coastal communities in ME). Currently working on a regulatory change to adopt sea level rise standards from [Maine Won't Wait Report](#) and Climate Council work. Only has one regulation that mentions sea level rise and the agency is understanding if other regulations will have to change based on the new changes. State money is going towards community resilience efforts through governor's Office for Policy Innovation and Future. New grant program (~\$5 million) will be available to municipalities and regional service providers to support local and regional resilience project.
- i. **Nathalie DiGeronimo (NH):** NH put out a RFP for consultants to develop a hydrodynamic model for the coastal region. Currently, finishing the development of the contract with the selected consultant. Also, awarded a NFWF NCRF grant to leverage the model by conducting alternative assessments using the modeling outputs for transportation and land use development. This project will start following the completion of the model. NH was able to secure ARPA funding (\$6 million) for coastal stormwater and coastal resilience projects. Hired a new staff person to managing the solicitation process (former CMP fellow, now watershed management specialist). Will provide an update once the projects are selected. Submitted a PSM that had two focus areas: conduct DEIJA assessment of the CMP and the NERR program and practices. Seeking recommendations to improve Section 309 assessments and strategies and reserves management plans. Also, to establish Coastal Resilience Coordinator position in Hampton, NH, first of its kind.
- j. **Matt Walderon (PA):** Started discussion about federal funding and also waiting on guidance from NOAA. Seeking to understand what are they getting, any stipulations, whether there will be competitive grants, etc.. Currently, dealing with issues with capacity and have been unable to fill positions for 1.5 yrs. Hopefully the funding will lead to increased capacity, but is unsure how the funding will help fill positions. Currently, working with agency executive staff and governor office to get a new executive ordered that would include FEMA has a new member program. Efforts include FEMA attending coastal resilience advisory board meetings as a non-voting member. Will be coordinating with them on the next HMP update. Section 309 strategy identified stormwater impacts along Lake Erie as one of the focus areas. There is stormwater modeling and analysis that will develop county level action plans that can be translated at the state level. Did not submit a PSM proposal this year.

- k. Kate Angel (WI):** Waiting to hear guidance from NOAA and what it would mean for the CMP. There is not a priority list for projects, but have discussed agency wide a possibility of one. Waiting to see how the federal funding coming in will impact the state. WI did not submit this year, but has two ongoing: The older one is wrapping up in March and focuses on culvert inventory in the Lake Superior Region and looking at how to mitigate flooding issues. The newer one is on collaborative action for Lake Michigan. Trying to bridge several resilience projects together and establish a big community of practice and develop coordination. State HMP is due at the end of 2021. They coordinated over the summer with EMA. EM is understaffed and currently without a SHMO. Building on a resilience project, the Southeast Wisconsin has extension on the project till October 2022. Modeled off of Gulf of Mexico climate community of practice and building on some of the work that was developed.
- l. Vidya Balasubramanyam (IL):** For prioritization of projects, they are utilizing existing Great Lake Regional mechanism, such as the Lake Michigan Coastal Resilience Initiative and Great Lake Near Shore Habitat Assessment. If projects do not make it into the funding efforts, they can be funneled into other funding request that comes in. Did not submit a PSM this year. Local EMA is understaffed, but IL CMP has a stronger and more trusted relationship with county level EMA. Will likely use County EMA as an opportunity to get on the state EMA radar. "You cannot manage what you cannot measure"- Great lakes coastal zone managers meeting. They are looking at all projects and developing clear metrics for DEIJ. Would like to incorporate the metrics to measure success of projects. Seeking example metrics that other CMPs are using.
- m. Yusraa Tadj (HI):** HI does not have a process in place, but has priorities focusing on NBS that needs funding to implement. Waiting to hear how the process will shape out with federal funding. HI is prioritizing two main projects. They issued a RFP for a regional shoreline scoping study to implement a regional approach to shoreline management that would facilitate itself for NBS. Hoping to identify opportunities and barriers. Also, tasked by the legislature to coordinate with other state agencies to identify critical infrastructure through Act 178. Wrapping up a report where the critical infrastructure lies within the coastal areas. PSM: Submitted a PSM to look into policy and legal analyses that would identify existing policy and regulations that allow for or develop new programs and policy that would create new opportunities for managed retreat. Developed a 2019 feasibility assessment that looked at managed retreat conceptually and wants to move forward with identifying policies that would allow implementation of retreat statewide. HMP is underway and they sit on the state mitigation forum and provides feedback that way and takes priorities from the update to implement projects, such as tsunamis mapping projects (in the last phase)
- i. Barbara Neale:** Would be interested in following what HI is doing on that policy/legal project on managed retreat.