



2024 CSO Spring Member Meeting

Digital Coast Connects 2024

What is Digital Coast Connects?

NOAA OCM is providing funding (\$100,000) through CSO to two coastal states for projects that:

- Provide direct benefits to underserved communities
- Have a flood resilience component
- Bolster a preexisting effort and provides long term value
- Utilize the skillsets of Digital Coast partners

Funding Source: NOAA OCM – Digital Coast

Timeline: February 2024 – January 2025

Selection Process

During Summer 2023, CSO employed a semi – competitive selection process utilizing criteria such as connection potential of the project and compatibility with Digital Coast partner skillsets and capacity.

We received a total of six project pitches. The Coastal Hazards Planning & Adaptation Workgroup and Digital Coast Partners helped us evaluate the projects.

As a result, the following two projects recently kicked off to support local communities working on resilience. Due to delays in NOAA funding, we only started work in February 2024.

Project 1: Delaware Resilience Hubs

What: Delaware is receiving \$50,000 to fund the sustainability of the Delaware Resilience Hub, a community facility augmented to sustainably meet the needs of the community before, during and after an emergency or disaster event.

Who: This work will benefit residents in Wilmington Delaware who are marginalized based on income, race, housing status, transportation access, and flooding vulnerability.

How: The amount will be put towards the acquisition of a mobile solar unit to serve as a power back up, training programs around disaster preparedness, and preparing and distributing emergency kits.

Local Partners: will include community organizer Stacey Henry and her team, Delaware Coastal Management Program, and other local community-based organizations in and around Wilmington Delaware

Digital Coast Partners: we will leverage input and expertise from the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and Urban Land Institute (ULI) to inform the evolution of this project.

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Project 2: Wisconsin East River Collaborative

What: Wisconsin is receiving \$50,000 to empower municipalities along the East River to address flooding issues and better respond to flood events by providing additional capacity support to The East River Collaborative, a community of practice that works along this area.

Who: This work will benefit neighborhoods along the East River in NE Wisconsin that have higher populations of Spanish or Hmong speakers, elderly residents, and those experiencing poverty.

How: The amount will be put towards planning and coordination of technology transfer workshops to facilitate information sharing with “sister cities”, followed by technical assistance and outreach to these neighborhoods.

Local Partners: will include the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and The Nature Conservancy Wisconsin

Digital Coast Partners: we will leverage input and expertise from the Wisconsin chapters of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), American Planning Association (APA), and National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) to inform the evolution of this project.

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