



What is a “Whole of Community” approach to planning for adaptation?

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The Citizen Engagement Working Group



Who is missing?



The Citizen Engagement Working Group

- Michelle Covi, Old Dominion University, Virginia Sea Grant, Co-chair
- Chris Bonney, Hampton Roads Center for Engagement, Co-chair
- Carolyn Caywood, League of Women Voters
- Tim Cole, Virginia Beach School System
- Joe Cook, The Sierra Club
- Christina Deconcini, World Resources Institute
- Angela Harris, Southeast Care Coalition
- Julia Hillegas, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Erica Holloman, Southeast Care Coalition
- Mike Kuhns, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
- Cathy Lewis, CIVIC Leadership
- Barbara Mann, Tidewater Community College
- Susan Maples, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary
- Dawud Muhammad, Southeast Care Coalition
- Gail Nicula, Old Dominion University
- Pam Northam, Lynnhaven River Now
- Suzanne Puryear, The Planning Council
- Duncan Pitchford, Office of the Attorney General
- Lynn Rhode, Office of the Attorney General
- Burton Saint John, Old Dominion University
- Bert Schmidt, WHRO
- Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch
- Todd Solomon, Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement
- Jack Tynch – consultant
- Denise Thompson, City of Norfolk
- Raymond Wazeerud Din. Southeast Care Coalition
- Lesa Yeatts, City of Hampton
- Wie Yusef, Old Dominion University



Objectives

- Create a partnership between the “whole of community” and the “whole of government.”
- Develop information and communications strategies that enhance the capacity of HR communities to:
 - Respond to flooding emergencies.
 - Prepare for sea level rise contingencies.
 - Strengthen social capital and resilience.
- Create a flexible and scalable template that can be customized for different communities.



Process

- Expert opinion approach
- Briefings
- Case studies





Briefings

- Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Authority
- City of Hampton
- NGOs
 - Wetlands watch
 - Lynnhaven River Now
 - Mom's Out Front



Resilient Region Reality Check

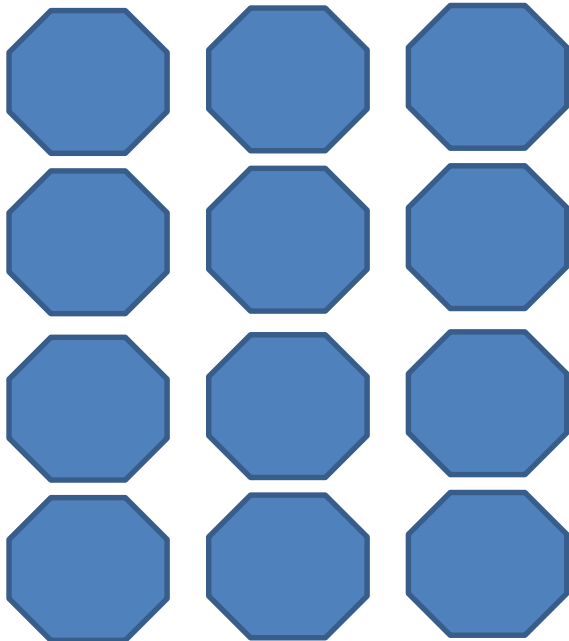
March 17, 2015



Program

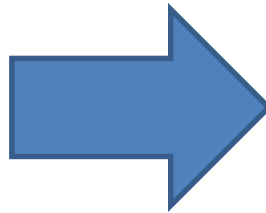
Step 1

Facilitated Table Discussions
on the key questions to
tables of like interest



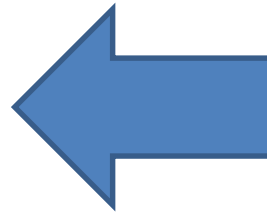
Step 2

Scribed results
uploaded to
collecting
presentation



Step 3

Tables report
out to room



Step 4

Participants
prioritize
actions





Three Questions

- How does flooding affect you?
- What should we do about flooding?
- What are the resources needed to address flooding?



Key Themes



- Sea level rise and flooding need to be part of planning and decisions;
- Land use planning critical;
- Regional collaboration needed;
- Financial and non-financial resources needed;
- Civic engagement important.

Individual Priorities for Actions to Address Flooding and SLR	Votes (%)
Management	
Regional collaboration to attract funding	56 (15%)
Public education/outreach	48 (13%)
Improve emergency planning	19 (5%)
Pursue federal funding	2 (1%)
Land Use and Zoning	
Revise zoning and land use	51 (13%)
Regional building standards	31 (8%)
Elevate building and utilities	6 (2%)
Harden infrastructure	6 (2%)
Strategic	
Strategic managed retreat	19 (5%)
Create competitive economic strategy for flooding and sea level rise	15 (4%)
Technical Solutions	
Natural solutions (e.g. coastal engineering, wetlands preservation)	41 (11%)
Living with water designs	37 (10%)
Improved mapping/models	8 (2%)
Other	
Reduce carbon emission	42 (11%)
Non-flood priorities	1 (0%)
FEMA buyouts	1 (0%)



Little Creek Base Neighborhoods Study



Participatory GIS



Group discussion



Electronic
polling

Action-Oriented Stakeholder Engagement for a Resilient Tomorrow (ASERT) Framework

Results- Methodology

- 90% satisfied with the overall process
- 87% rated the mapping exercise as easy to use
- 82% rated the discussion as useful
- 81% likely to take adaptation action
- 71% likely to support their community's adaptation efforts





Discussion

- Vulnerabilities
 - Not personal, more systematic
 - Sense of place threatened
 - Flood insurance?
- Concerns
 - More information/education/awareness needed
 - Building resiliency- better jobs, food, housing
 - Improved drainage needed
- Actions
 - Individual actions are limited- need collective solutions
 - Engineered solutions vs. natural and policy
- Barriers
 - \$\$
 - Leadership
 - Lack of information/education/awareness



Findings

- Engaged methods allowed residents to share knowledge, perceptions and preferences
- Lack of personal efficacy, concern about community as a system
- When prioritizing adaptation actions, there was a slight preference for natural solutions
- When asked what they would need to take action- more information



Final Recommendations

- A healthy region requires engagement on the part of all of its members.
- Non-governmental stakeholders must remain included and involved in discussion and deliberation over mitigation strategies and tactics.
- Non-governmental citizenry must be given an equal place at the table and adequate funding and staff for civic engagement.





Recommendations

- The day-to-day civic engagement process management should be housed in a regional agency, where a knowledgeable and adequately funded staff can maintain an ongoing civic engagement initiative as the region's exploration of sea level rise adaptation and mitigation strategies continues over time.
- Civic engagement initiatives must begin with clear goals and expectations.
- Citizen engagement committees and group members must understand that their role is to contribute to the process.





Thank you

