



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2013

Present: See attached Sign-in Sheet. NEFRC or RCI Staff: Brian Teeple, Margo Moehring, Eric Anderson, Michael Epstein, Carolyn Bissonnette

Next meeting: February 20, 2013, 2:30 pm, NEFRC

Future meetings, if required: March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18

I. Announcements

A. None

II. Meeting Summary

- A. Work Program: The Committee discussed the work program including deciding if we are vulnerable, deciding on assumptions for level of rise and planning timeframe, community resiliency assessments, and policy recommendations.
- B. Meeting Schedule: Meetings are to be the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm.
- C. Presentation: Glenn Landers, P.E., USACE. Presentation will be provided by Mr. Landers for posting.
- D. Committee Discussion: The region is vulnerable. There are three things that impact sea level: water temperature, addition of water (polar melting), and withdrawal of water (groundwater). Predictions vary and can be impacted by rules and laws. FEMA cannot take into account predictions more than one year out when determining real estate values. The December 2012 National Climate Assessment is 6.5' of rise by 2100, while the USACE is using 5.5' for that time frame. Current USACE assumptions are based on the National Academy of Science, National Research Council. New guidance is expected in October, 2013. USACE has watershed planning authority, although it is currently unfunded, and can cost share work with local sponsors, if a federal interest can be shown. USACE is currently modeling for dredging for JaxPort, and will have results by May. They are currently using the following approximate assumptions (to be refined for our region and as to start date, but not anticipated to vary greatly):
- i. By 2030, 2"-7" of rise
 - ii. By 2060, 4"-24" of rise
 - iii. By 2100, 8"-57" of rise

Mr. Landers included a list of ideas for the Committee to consider, including focus on both the short and long term and shifting planning from a cost/benefit test to a "robust and adaptive" test. Mr. Landers reviewed the committee discussion section of the first draft of the minutes, and provided the following clarifications:

1. *Global sea level rise is caused by three things – thermal expansion of ocean waters as part of overall global warming, melting of ice and snow currently*

on land, and modern groundwater withdrawals around the globe for agriculture and other uses. (The last item has a small influence and 99% of SLR is caused by the first two items.)

2. *SLR projections vary depending on the assumptions of different authors, but rules and laws do not impact SLR projections. Different communities may pass different rules and laws regarding SLR adaptation planning and building requirements.*

3. *Building on guidance from the National Research Council of the National Academies of Science, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers considers three plausible future sea level rise scenarios. These scenarios are (1) a historic rate of sea level change, (2) an intermediate rate of SLC (based on NRC Curve 1), and (3) a high rate of SLC (based on NRC Curve 3). All USACE SLC projections include adjustments for local uplift or land subsidence, if needed.*

4. *The St. Johns River has a very flat water surface slope to the ocean, and may be highly vulnerable to salinity changes due to the combined impacts of SLR, droughts, increasing water withdrawals, navigation projects, pollution and other factors. Need to consider the value of the river as a freshwater body versus a brackish to saltwater body, and what might be done to slow or minimize this change.*

5. *Adaptation planning needs short and long range goals. Consider existing developments, and how to provide appropriate exit strategies as needed. Need long range risk reduction plans to help encourage development in lower risk areas.*

III. Action Items

- A. The Committee expressed that the following information should be provided and considered in order to complete their work:
 - i. What are other communities doing?
 - ii. What are communities in our region doing?
 - iii. What can we learn about population and the potential for movement to less vulnerable parts of the state and region?
 - iv. What does the insurance industry think about sea level rise in Northeast Florida?
 - v. What are the potential impacts on drinking water?
 - vi. What are the impacts on regional assets: JTA/BRT routes, Ports and Airports, Roads, Railroads, St. Johns River, etc.
 - vii. What options are there for "exit" strategies, i.e., for public investments in vulnerable areas, homes in 100 year flood zones, etc.
- B. Next meeting Presentations and Discussion Items
 - i. Presentation from GTM NERR re: Sea Level Rise in Matanzas Basin
 - ii. Agreement on the form and content of the Committee Deliverable