

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Niagara Orleans CLEAR Steering Committee Meeting #5

October 19, 2021 11:00-12:30



#### Attendees:

##### SC Members

- Ben Bidell, Niagara County Center for Economic Development
- Mark Seider, District Engineer, Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Bruce Newell, Town Board, Town of Kendall
- Duffy Johnson, Supervisor, Town of Porter
- Kerrie Gallo, Deputy Executive Director, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Katie Sommerfeld, Manager, Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District

##### State Partners

- Chris Bauer, DOS
- Nancy Martel, DOS
- Karen Catcher, DOS
- Karis Manning, DEC
- Tom Haley, DEC
- David Spiering, NYS Parks

##### Consultant Team

- Julie Conroy, Ramboll
- Paul Romano, Ramboll
- Kadir Goz, Ramboll
- Shaun Gannon, Ramboll
- Marie Harris, Ramboll
- Laura Lourenco, Elan

##### Observer

- Ryan Thomas, Cornell

#### Meeting Summary (see accompanying slides)

##### Introduction

###### Impact Scenarios:

- Impacts we are expecting. Risk map depicts the current FEMA base flood elevation (BFE), FEMA BFE + 2, and also Lake Ontario levels (average level +2 feet).
- Low water also a consideration (not mapped)

###### Resilient Scenarios

- Responding to / planning for impacts

##### Discussion on Resilience Scenarios

- **Top 3 Resilience Scenarios** - based on feedback from the committee on priority needs. Plan would include more, will discuss these top 3 today for feedback.
- Resilience Scenario #1: Protect and restore ecosystem services and cultural resources
- Resilience Scenario #2: Enhance existing structures and build new to withstand flooding
  - spectrum of actions: protect (e.g. breakwall) ... accommodate (e.g. stilts) ... managed retreat (e.g. move structures inland)

- Not mutually exclusive, complementary, can all be used together.
- Consider co-benefits, how different strategies could work together to reduce / adapt to / prevent hazard impacts
- Resilience Scenario #3: Include Climate Resilience in all Regional and Local Planning Initiatives
  - Coordinating resilience efforts across the region; across agencies/governments; including enabling policies and legislation; completing necessary assessments; integrating resilience principles into relevant plans, etc.

#### Q&A

- These are not mutually significant, could all be pursued in tandem
- Scenario numbers do not indicate any rank or priority
- Note: many of these values and scenarios are reflected in the floodplain management system, maps, forthcoming FEMA risk rating 2.0 etc being updated across the state, these have ramifications on the building code,— so regional resilience planning would be impacted by this; these scenarios would align with this.

#### **Draft Vision Statement**

- Crafted based on feedback from steering committee and public throughout the process so far, especially visioning and needs & opportunities exercises at SC4 and Public Event #2
- Much of the feedback was concerned with the process of resilience-building, as much or more than the outcome.
- So have included a vision statement (focuses on destination – where we want to go), as well as accompanying guiding principles that focus on the process (how we get there).
- Will finalize the vision statement this month
- Have a draft of guiding principles, can add to as CLEAR plan is drafted, if desired
- Draft Vision statement:

*The region will adapt to variable lake levels and climate change through a dynamic and multi-pronged approach that is implemented through numerous partnerships to increase the long-term resilience of people, investments, and ecosystems while enhancing quality of life for all shoreline users.*

#### Feedback

- Have “investments,” but would like to incorporate the word “Economy” – for example “ ... enhancing the economy and quality of life of for all shoreline users.”
- add in some examples of dynamic, multi-pronged approach - what is it? e.g. from the guiding principles “involving mitigation, adaptation, and managed retreat implemented through numerous partnerships...” –
- likewise, add some examples of partnerships – e.g. “federal, state, and local.”

#### **Next Steps**

1. Will update and share new draft of the vision statement

2. Next SC meeting: November 9<sup>th</sup> 11:00
  - Will build on this discussion to discuss specific actions, recommendations, projects
3. Next Public event: November 16<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm
  - Will discuss resilience scenarios (similar to this meeting) and give a preview of potential resilience actions (topic of Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting)
  - Registration opens in November. Please look out for promotional emails to share with your networks.
4. Note: Summary of Public Survey #1 now available in SC Area