



The kick-off meeting was held on April 27, 2021 via Zoom videoconference with the Coastal Lakeshore Economy and Resiliency (CLEAR) initiative Steering Committee members, NYS Department of State (DOS) and Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Consultant Team (Ramboll and Elan). The Agenda included an overview of the CLEAR program by DOS, the project scope and schedule, a discussion with the Steering Committee regarding their roles and responsibilities, and critical project tasks that the Consultant Team is seeking feedback on.

## Attendees:

Mr.	Bruce	Newell	Town of Kendall
Ms.	Katie	Sommerfeldt	Orleans County Soil & Water
Mr.	James	Bensley	Orleans County Planning Dep
Mr.	Jason	Haremza	Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Mr.	Michael	Casale	Niagara County Center for Economic Development
Mr.	Ben	Bidell	Niagara County Center for Economic Development
Ms.	Kerrie	Gallo	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Mr.	Steve	Broderick	Town of Lewiston
Mr.	Jeffrey	Dewart	Town of Somerset
Mr.	James	Bragg	City of Niagara Falls
Mr.	Jerome	Nagy	Neighbor Works Community Partners Niagara Falls
Ms.	Amanda	Henning	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County Farm and Home Center
Mr.	David	Reckahn	Niagara County Soil and Water
Mr.	Timothy	Horanburg	Town of Newfane
Mr.	Chris	Bauer	NYS Department of State (DOS)
Ms.	Nancy	Martel	DOS
Ms.	Karen	Catcher	DOS
Mr.	Tim	Walsh	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Ms.	Karris	Manning	DEC
Ms.	Lisa	Nagle	Elan
Ms.	Laura	Lourenco	Elan
Ms.	Julie	Conroy	Ramboll
Ms.	Jen	Olivo	Ramboll
Mr.	Paul	Romano	Ramboll

## Meeting Summary

1. Introductions - round table - lead by Chris Bauer, DOS
  - a. Committee attendees
  - b. DOS: Nancy, Karen
  - c. Consultants: Elan, Ramboll
2. Chris: CLEAR Intro: strategies, vision, goals
3. Chris: Roles and responsibilities of steering committee, DOS, consultant team. Meetings will be virtual until we hear otherwise regarding COVID limitations. Steering Committee (SC) role: looking for ideas, project guidance, support engagement & attend events. Monthly meetings - regularly scheduled.
4. Scope and Schedule overview – Julie Conroy, Ramboll. The CLEAR project is slightly different than the Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) project. REDI was introduced as a platform for engaging municipalities in identifying and addressing their priority infrastructure needs; while CLEAR



will focus on broader community engagement and long-term visioning for resilience. The scope of the project includes the following key tasks:

- a. Preparing Community profiles for each region to ensure the CLEAR plans build from existing planning and implementation processes;
  - b. Presentation of Projections, Discussion of Precedents and Development of Community Vision for each region to identify the major anticipated future changes, forces, and stressors;
  - c. Identification of Long-Term Goals, Strategies, Projects to direct resilient future development and investment along the areas impacted by flood and erosion;
  - d. Asset Inventory and Risk Assessment via a rigorous analysis of identified community assets to determine the greatest vulnerabilities and opportunities for improved resiliency;
  - e. Needs and Opportunities Assessment that profiles opportunities for resilience and economic growth over the short, medium, and long-term projected changes;
  - f. Project Descriptions that are recommended for resilience purposes, which summarize all the pertinent information needed for shoreline protection; and
  - g. A CLEAR plan for each region that includes information from each task and provides municipal and regional leaders with a plan of action for implementing recommended projects and regulatory changes.
5. Public Engagement Plan (PEP) overview – Laura Lourenco, Elan. Public engagement is critical to the success of the program. The PEP includes a description of project tasks, public events/activities, and identified needs for stakeholder feedback. The Consultant Team (the Team) is looking for feedback on included engagement activities and outreach materials. An online survey has been established to solicit SC feedback.
6. Look & Listen Tour – Jennifer Olivo, Ramboll
- a. Ideally, we would do the Look and Listen Tour (the Tour) in person and view risk areas with the SC. However, this one will have to be virtual due to COVID limitations. The Team has been looking for ways to ensure that the Tour will include active participation – mirroring what would be done in person. Jen presented an online poll question to the SC: how many were involved in, or are knowledgeable about, the previous REDI project. Results: 10 participated, 7 did not, 3 were unaware of the project.
  - b. What is the Team looking for during this Tour?
    - i. Information on all regional and community-based "assets" in the risk area = built or natural environment (e.g. barrier bars), socio-economic functions, critical infrastructure (e.g. pump stations); as well as and/or cultural/historic or other assets that would adversely affect social, econ, or environmental functions if they were impacted by high water levels and flooding.
    - ii. Knowledge about your communities to ensure that the community profiles developed for each Region and municipality are accurate and truly provide a wholistic reference point for resilience planning (e.g., all topics: environ, socio-econ, development).
  - c. The Tour format: Look = viewing the region and risk areas via online mapping tools and imagery; Listen = the Team will hear from the SC regarding key assets at risk.
  - d. Follow-up: The Team is planning a workshop to be held shortly afterward to discuss identified risks in depth with the SC.
  - e. **Note:** Please feel free to send any information ahead of time. However, we do hope to have several SC members participate in the Tour.



7. Next Steps – Lisa Nagle, Elan:
  - a. SC members to complete the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLEAR-NOSC-kickoff> to collect feedback on the draft PEP and at-risk assets. **Note:** There may be other channels the Team could use for engagement (e.g. community group posts) and networks we should reach out to, so please provide that feedback for your communities. We also would really like to know whether there are underserved members of the community and how to reach (e.g. agricultural groups). Please also let us know if there are other key stakeholders that we should reach-out to (e.g., additions provided by Michael Casale: John "Duffy" Johnston, Supervisor, Town of Porter; Kory Schuler, Director, Niagara USA Chamber; Jennifer Pauly, President, Niagara River Region Chamber).
  - b. Please participate in the virtual L&L Tour on **May 18 from 10:00-11:00 am**, which all SC members will be invited to by the Team soon.
  - c. Please participate in the next virtual SC Meeting on **May 25 from 10:00-11:00 am** and note that we intend to schedule other SC meetings at this time each month.
  - d. The Team is also planning a public engagement event in June, so stay tuned for that information to come.
8. SC Discussion & Q/A:
  - a. Can we include representatives from state parks on the SC? They have been involved in county-level hazard mitigation planning. Chris: DOS will reach-out to state park representatives to find appropriate members.
  - b. Can the LL Tour be in person, given that the tour would be largely outdoors? Chris: The logistics would be very challenging across the regions (e.g., we cannot accomplish group transportation under COVID restrictions and coordinating private transportation for all SC members would not be feasible. Lisa: Consultants would likely conduct a summer field tour together and can connect with SC members then if desired.
  - c. Who will be responsible for regulatory change and implementation: counties, municipalities, both? Will DOS provide funding? Chris: It is DOS's hope that localities will adopt the resulting CLEAR plan. The program intent is to provide resources for localities to adopt actions at the local level, in coordination w/ regional entities. While DOS does not have funding for implementation, we hope to provide support to seek funding for prioritized projects, whether it is by other state or federal entities or otherwise.
  - d. How will the SC interact with other regions (if at all)? Chris: DOS and all regional consultant teams are coordinating throughout the project to find efficiencies and share resources. Laura: there are also some SC members that are liaisons to other regional committees.
  - e. Will this effort coordinate with recommendations from other state and regional resilience initiatives? Chris: if the recommended actions from other initiatives dovetail with the intention of this project then yes; we will incorporate them. Please feel free to share these resources/information. Lisa: The community profiles will include planning efforts across regions and localities to ensure that we are reinforcing existing and upcoming work.
  - f. Adopting local laws/templates in rural communities will be difficult with limited capacities therefore the Team should address capacity issues in this planning effort.

Presentations & meeting summaries will be posted on the CLEAR website after all regions have had their committee meetings (URL will be distributed as soon as the site is "live").