

MEETING SUMMARY

Niagara Orleans CLEAR Steering Committee Meeting #4

August 31, 2021 11:00-12:30 (ended early 12:01)



Attendees:

SC Members

- Katie Sommerfeldt, Orleans County Soil & Water
- Ben Bidell, Niagara County Center for Economic Development
- Corey Winters for Jim Bensley, Orleans County Planning
- Mark Seider, Niagara County Soil and Water
- Bruce Newell, Town Board, Town of Kendall

State Partners

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

Consultant Team

- Julie Conroy, Ramboll
- Paul Romano, Ramboll
- Shaun Gannon, Ramboll
- Sophia Ertel, Ramboll
- Laura Lourenco, Elan

Meeting Summary (see accompanying slides)

Meeting Goals:

- Risk Assessment outcomes review
- Collect SC needs/goals & opportunities/strategies

Risk Assessment

- Completed risk assessment with quantitative and qualitative inputs including those received from Steering Committee members and from the public via survey #1
- Set to risk level of severe events with 1% chance of occurrence each year
- Color ramp shows relative risk facing each asset
 - Red = severe
 - Green = High
 - yellow = moderate
 - Gray = residual
- Sample outcome shown on slides. Full list will be shared with the committee

Needs and Opportunities Activity

- will inform the project team about the potential for resiliency in the face of changing lake conditions
- Need = a goal for resilience in the near-, mid-, and long-term – what changes would you like to see, generally?
- Opportunity = an objective or a measure that will aid in accomplishing an identified need – how do you think needs (goals) can be accomplished?
- Identified needs, and associated opportunities for change, should address one or more of these core community functions:

1) “Fishing” Poll - Select Top 3 needs:



2) Opportunities

- Prioritize the repair of degraded infrastructure and proactively relocate key utility and services (e.g., piers, roadways, etc.) (6 member selected)
- Work with public and private partners to design and secure funding for resilience-focused restoration projects (6)
- Revise local comp plans to include climate resilience needs and opportunities and revise/create associated policies (4)
- Work with public and private partners to find ways to reduce Carbon emissions that also bolster business (3)
- Improve storm sewers to eliminate flooding to dwellings and water contamination (3)
- Protect and/or relocate critical tourism destinations and high revenue economic industries (3)
- Create regulation and/or zoning changes to allow historic relocation and enhanced preservation (2)
- Incorporate resilient best practices (e.g., blue-green infrastructure) within developed areas (2)
- Create a resilience fund (e.g. via a revolving fund or municipal tax or “betterment fee”) for repair/ relocation and construction of resilient infrastructure (1)

Others:

- Create a regional climate resilience working group/ committee via legislation to have decision-making authorities
- Create and implement educational and assistance programs to empower vulnerable populations

What word do you think of most after going through this resilience needs and opportunities exercise?

Mentimeter



11

- Several have mentioned collaboration.
- are complex challenges, fortunately have expertise and examples to build on
- will collect input from other members not in attendance today, then get into potential solutions next meeting.

Next Steps

1. Documents forthcoming (undergoing QA/QC)
 - a. Risk assessment documents – so can review for full list of assets. Inputs from SC and public were included in the assessment
 - b. Public Survey #1 outcomes – summary document to be shared
 - i. 42 respondents
 - ii. Impacts - High water and erosion were the primary concerns, most had experienced this on their property, which led to costly repairs, lost property value, and higher property taxes per acre for some. Storms and wind were also a concern, particularly when they compounded high water and erosion. Some areas were concerned with low water, and inability to launch boats (esp Wilson).
 - iii. Assets / Community Value / Resilience - Several harbors, parks, beaches, & historic sites were listed by individuals as highly important with limited

resilience. Local homes, piers, docks, marinas, yacht clubs, and other businesses were listed as highly important and somewhat resilient. Fishing businesses and infrastructure were listed by individuals as having medium to high importance and being somewhat to fairly resilient.

- iv. Comments - Some respondents proposed preventative measures - for example better long term planning, better preventative maintenance of shoreline protections and water bodies (lake, tributaries), and revising policies to remove perverse incentives that might lead homeowners to build in vulnerable locations or forgo resiliency improvements.

2. Public Event #2 - Sept 21st 5:00pm

- opportunity to share risk assessment outcomes and discuss resilience needs & opportunities with the public.
- please help us spread the word! Flyers have been shared, also available on the website

3. Steering Committee Meeting #5 - October 19 11:00

- Agenda: Scenario Planning
- with understanding of risks, needs/goals and opportunities (from committee and public, next step is to explore future scenarios and solutions)