

MEETING SUMMARY

Niagara Orleans CLEAR Steering Committee Meeting #7

December 14, 2021 11:00-12:30



Attendees:

SC Members

- Ben Bidell, Niagara County Center for Economic Development
- Joshua Greene, City of Niagara Falls (filling in for Eric Cooper)
- Jerome Nagy, Chief Executive Officer, Neighbor Works Community Partners Niagara Falls
- Katie Sommerfeld, Manager, Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District
- John Duffy Johnston, Supervisor, Town of Porter
- Mark Seider, District Engineer, Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District

State Partners

- Chris Bauer, DOS
- Nancy Martel, DOS
- Karen Catcher, DOS
- Tom Haley, DEC
- David Spiering, NYS Parks
- Beth Geldard, NYS Parks
- Roy Widrig, NY Sea Grant

Consultant Team

- Jennifer Olivo, Ramboll
- Paul Romano, Ramboll
- Julie Conroy, Ramboll
- Sophia Ertel, Ramboll
- Lisa Nagle, Elan
- Laura Lourenco, Elan

Observer

- Rewa Phansalkar, Cornell

Meeting Summary (see accompanying slides)

Welcome

- Chris Bauer welcomes attendees to final steering committee meeting.

CLEAR Action Table

- Previous steering committee meetings and assignments developed needs, opportunities, scenarios, and strategies for the region.
- (30) CLEAR Actions were identified from previous discussion; a few additional actions identified by the consultant team.
- See attached Niagara-Orleans Region Priority Action Matrix.

Steering Committee Feedback:

- NY Sea Grant is willing to serve as a potential partner and mentor for Blue Green Infrastructure, Shoreline Study, and Living Shorelines actions. See Great Lakes Commission [resources](#) and Cornell [resources](#) for Blue Green Infrastructure action.
- Clarify action time frame – show year span.
- Protecting existing wetlands should be prioritized over raingardens and bioretention basins. Update action to high priority.

- Add NYS Parks as a partner for all of the actions including Shoreline Study, Living Shorelines, Blue-Green Infrastructure, Vegetated Buffers/Terraces, Roadway Reduction/Permeable Pavement, Rain Gardens/Bioretenion, Wetland Protection and Restoration, and Natural and Nature-based Solutions. NYS Parks doesn't use those resiliency actions everywhere but can give an example in a State Park for almost every one of those actions.
- Add NYWEA as a potential partner for Stormwater Guidance Manual development action.
- Add "counties" as potential partners for Participate in the Climate Smart Communities Program action. For brevity, municipal elected officials, mayors, etc. can be summarized as Municipalities.
- Repeat headers on all pages of Action Table.

Demonstration Profiles

- Consultant team shared an overview of each of the demonstration profile projects.

Natural and Nature-Based Project Profiles

- Wilson-Tuscarora, Fort Niagara, and Golden Hill projects [Niagara County] incorporated into one profile. Integrated/hybrid approach incorporates both hardened and nature-based features into shoreline solutions (ie. vegetated embankment and slope stabilization) for these high energy areas.
 - Four-mile creek state park and campground facing significant erosion. Potential demonstration profile?
 - check acronyms and use NNBF rather than NNBS
 - concept plan graphic on slope stabilization – Gabion baskets are not appropriate for high wave energy sites and likely wouldn't work in this site. Suggest replacing graphic.
- Lake Ontario Parkway [Orleans County] has (2) sections within 200 ft of shoreline. Potential to treat corridors as demonstration Blue Green Infrastructure and Resilience areas.

Planning Project Profiles

- Regional Resiliency Coordinator position to support coordination of these actions including grant writing, securing funding, finance mechanisms, developing resources, administering resilience ordinances, and organizing workshops.
Support Administration of Resilience Ordinances is included twice. Remove.
 - NYS WRI has been working on a Governance Network of actors affecting resilience planning for the shoreline. Could be a useful database to inform the scope of the Regional Coordinator position.
- Regional Resilience Funding profile includes review of existing funds and programs, federal and state grants, private foundation funding, Public Private Partnerships, Shared Cost Agreements, Tax Increment Financing District, Direct User Fees and Taxes Revolving Loan Funds, rebates, and Environmental Impact Funds.

CLEAR Draft Plans

- Intended as a guidebook of suggested ideas for your use moving forward and seeking funding.

Next Steps

- Comments of Draft Plan due 12/17/21
- Email Llourenco@elanpd.com, call as needed
- Final Plan to DOS due 12/23/21
- NiagaraOrleansClear.com will remain live for additional information on the region and on the CLEAR initiative.