

MEETING SUMMARY

Niagara Orleans CLEAR Steering Committee Meeting #5

November 9, 2021 11:00-12:30



Attendees:

SC Members & Representatives

- Ben Bidell, Niagara County Center for Economic Development
- Bruce Newell, Town Board, Town of Kendall
- Duffy Johnson, Supervisor, Town of Porter
- Eric Cooper, Director of Planning, City of Niagara Falls
- Joshua Greene, Environmental Planner, City of Niagara Falls
- Jerome Nagy, Chief Executive Officer, Neighbor Works Community Partners Niagara Falls
- Katie Sommerfeld, Manager, Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Kerrie Gallo, Deputy Executive Director, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Steve Broderick, Supervisor, Town of Lewiston

State Partners

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

Consultant Team

- Paul Romano, Ramboll
- Kadir Goz, Ramboll
- Laura Lourenco, Elan
- Lisa Nagle, Elan

Partners & Observers

- Roy Widrig, NY Sea Grant
- Ryan Thomas, Cornell
- Rewa Phansalkar, Cornell

Meeting Summary (see accompanying slides)

Discussion on Proposed Actions for top 3 Resilience Scenarios

Resilience Scenario #1: Protect and restore ecosystem services and cultural resources

Strategy 1.1: Develop resilience-based restoration funding program(s)

- support for both fund ideas for 1.1

Strategy 1.2: Incorporate nature-based solutions for shoreline protection

- **USACE - Engineering with Nature program** as well
- **NYS parks** would like to be involved
- could include more than 1 profile for EBA (since wide-range of styles)

Strategy 1.3: Improve stormwater management systems (to reduce flooding, improve water quality)

- develop model ordinance for stormwater mgmt. – severe rain events GI also
- **DEC stormwater mgmt. program** includes MS4 program, is a local law that is required to be a part of the MS4 local law as a model.

- **Stormwater mgmt. design manual GI practices** (ESC helps fund) - this manual is a living document, DEC managed, lots of research on water volume and retention capabilities for each solution. Also worksheets associated with practices to help with capacity building, identifying which solution is best.
- Good overlap with training / technical assistance action
- **Lake Ontario state parkway study on repurposing portions of the parkway** – ask Orleans Co planning dept for most recent.
- is there an opportunity to do a stormwater mgmt. master plan, e.g. out of LWRP?, then do an ordinance? - sort of

Strategy 1.4: Preserve historic and cultural assets for future generations

- **NYS parks has projects from concept to full design** for both of these demo projects. not sure if have greener elements incorporated, but there is a history and momentum for these. Need coordination on these projects

Resilience Scenario #2: Enhance existing structures and build new to withstand flooding

no comments

Resilience Scenario #3: Include Climate Resilience in all Regional and Local Planning Initiatives

Strategy 3.1: Develop building guidelines and land development regulations that address lakeshore changes and flooding

- Comment: all communities should already have a floodplain ordinance, so this would be more of an update, not a new thing

Strategy 3.3: Create a regional climate resilience committee

- possibility to add **regional circuit riders** (e.g. funded with grants) specific to the resilience recommendations for model ordinance adoptions, overlay districts, prevention ordinances, GIGP practices? This is a successful model to build capacity used in other states (e.g. Chesapeake Bay region in MD through their Dept. of Planning)

Strategy 3.2 & 3.4:

No comments

Demonstration Profile selection

- very broad list, like what is included
- prefer some more time to process and get feedback from local officials before selecting actions to profile

Next Steps

1. Will send around materials and survey to select demonstration profiles – deadline Nov 17th
2. Next SC meeting: December 14th – Draft CLEAR plan
3. Next Public event: November 16th 5:00pm