North Carolina State Disaster Recovery Task Force
Environmental Preservation Recovery Support Function (RSF 7) Meeting
WebEx Teleconference
July 23, 2020
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Meeting Minutes

In attendance (by teleconference)
Lead: Toby Vinson, Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ)
Staff: Marlena Byrne and Ruseena Johnson, North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR)

Matthew Arlyn, NCORR
Tira Beckham, NC DEQ
Chris Canfield, Conservation Trust for North Carolina
Cesar Castro, NCORR
Kasey Cook, NC Wildlife Resource Commission
Chris Crew, NC Emergency Management
Haley Pfeiffer Haynes, NCORR
Bill Holman, The Conservation Fund
Jim Kjelgaard, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Keith Larick, NC Farm Bureau
Michelle Lovejoy, NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation
Grady McCallie, NC Conservation Network
Will McDow, Environmental Defense Fund
Amanda Martin, NCORR
Todd Miller, NC Coastal Federation
Bridget Munger, NCORR
Will Robinson, The Nature Conservancy
Rick Savage, Carolina Wetlands Association
David Shouse, Carolina Wetlands Association
Katherine Skinner, The Nature Conservancy
Will Summer, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR)
Jess Whitehead, NCORR
Meredith Wojcik, NCDNCR

Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Agenda
T. Vinson and M. Byrne provided a welcome and agenda overview. Meeting to discuss recommendations for uses of CDBG-DR and MIT planning funds. RSF members introduced themselves and organizations.

Group Discussion of Recommendations Regarding "DRAFT Recommendations from Environmental Preservation RSF RE CDBG-DR and -MIT Planning Funds" document
The RSF discussed the proposed recommendations submitted by members of the RSF prior to the meeting. The following summarizes key points in the discussion:

Near-Term and Long-Term Priorities

- Each member who submitted a recommendation summarized the recommendations, gave background and answered questions.
- The RSF agreed that near term solutions should tie into long-term solutions so that the proposals build on each other.
- The RSF also agreed that there are a few stand-alone tasks:
  - Identifying state and local capacity needs and linking it to an overall strategy
  - Creating a flood resilience masterplan (USCA and Friends of Soil and Water may be able to assist with gathering data)
  - Providing technical assistance to understaffed local governments
- Key policy points discussed included:
  - Importance of moving toward a system that integrates stormwater management and flood reduction
  - Proposed idea to use this funding to leverage BRIC funding under FEMA's new program
  - Modeling and data gathering are necessary precursors to many other projects and funding these will support the rest down the road (eg. NOAA Atlas 14 updates, etc)
  - Both a statewide buyout masterplan and local government planning technical support and planning grants for buyout lands should be prioritized
  - General consensus regarding the need for a statewide flood resilience master plan (as called for under 2020 NC Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan)
  - Consensus on need to build local capacity and provide engineering and other technical expertise to local governments

M. Arlyn stated that there is not a specific amount of funds to be spent on near-term versus long-term planning nor is there a requirement to how many of the recommendations need to fall in either category. Ultimately, the recommendations should link in some way to housing, given that the funds originate with HUD. M. Arlyn also emphasized that NCORR is very interested in leveraging CDBG-DR and -Mitigation funds to build local capacity.

NEXT STEPS
- M. Byrne will have a follow-up conversation with NCORR leadership to ensure RSF is on track to providing helpful recommendations.
- M. Byrne and T. Vinson will consolidate recommendations then bring back a list of the near-term recommendations for review and selection. The RSF will discuss a long-term strategy at the following meeting in September.

Next meeting: August 27, 2020 2pm-4pm via WebEx