

**State Disaster Recovery Task Force
Environmental Preservation Recovery Support Function Meeting**

Archdale Building, Raleigh

October 22, 2019

2:00pm – 4:00pm

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Lead: Toby Vinson, DEQ

Staff: Marlena Byrne, NCORR

[In attendance](#)

Tira Beckham, DEQ

Marlena Byrne, NCORR

Walter Clark, DNCR

Chris Crew, NCEM, Hazard Mitigation

T.J. DeLuca, League of Municipality

Blakely Hildebrand, SELC

Bill Holman, The Conservation Fund

Jim Kilgaard, NRCS

Keith Larick, Farm Bureau

Mikey Little, NC Wildlife/Land Management Law Enforcement

Amanda Martin (taking notes), NCORR, Recovery

Grady McCallie, North Carolina Conservation Network

Will McDow, EDF

Mike Peveler, State Parks

Rebecca Sadosky, DEQ

Katherine Skinner, TNC

Will Summer, CWMTF

Jeremy Tarr, Governor's Office

Toby Vinson, DEQ

Jess Whitehead, NCORR

Meredith Wojcik, Natural Heritage Program

Todd Wright, NCEM

Mike Yoder, NC Coop Extension

[Welcome, Short Intros, and Overview of Agenda](#)

T. Vinson welcomed attendees. Reviewed meeting goal/objectives and process. Attendees introduced themselves.

[Brief Update on EO80](#)

T. Vinson gave update on EO80 Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan process. Report due March 1. DEQ is working with agencies and universities to do a climate science report due Dec. 1. Series of workshops held to solicit input: two on coast, two in western region, and three more to come in Piedmont. Will be a series of cabinet agency workshops to identify hazards and issues related to their

agencies, services, assets, etc. and climate change, identify recommendations. RSF will have a role in shaping plan, implementing, and refining.

Discussion of Challenges and Opportunities

Open discussion by RSF members to identify the major challenges of the existing recovery efforts, the barriers to better resiliency practices, and what opportunities should be expanded upon/created. The following topics were discussed and topics were summarized on flip charts:

- Natural heritage surveys for all 100 counties - need a baseline understanding of our resources
 - Post-disaster surveys of plants and animals
- Outdated solutions that do not take into account current changing conditions (sea level rise, climate change). Long-term horizon not being incorporated
- Lack of statewide coordination or effort in addressing climate change
- Need to assisting communities to understand their risk and vulnerabilities
- Prioritize multi-benefit solutions like natural infrastructure
- Prioritize areas for restoration backed by modeling to articulate overall impact
- Assess the prospective flood risk over the life of a project
- Understand impacts to floodplains from development
 - Current constraint – the 100-year flood is out of date
- Updated science for the IDF curves
- Consider cost-effectiveness of different mitigation scenarios
- Integration of stormwater management and flood reduction
- Regional and local hazard mitigation plans are due for update, outreach to increase public participation in this process, and awareness and participation of local leadership
- Need a better understanding of what resilience means
- Technical capacity of floodplain mapping program should be continued and supported. Would benefit from being combined with estuarine mapping
- Increase local capacity. Communities that have been historically successful in mitigation are the ones that are typically higher income, higher population that have the local staff to support these kinds of issues. Disproportionately the people participating in buyout programs are lower income, minorities.
- Need to have projects ready when funding becomes available, e.g. NFWF
- DOT's risk assessment- are transportation projects making flooding worse?
- Disease vector control
- State could incentivize better stormwater management through funding CWMTF or other financial support
 - Need legislative amendments so that CWMTF can fund broader range of stormwater projects, not just "innovative"
- Assisting local government with maintaining existing stormwater best management practices

How can your organization better take advantage of existing opportunities?

- Focus on 5-year, 20-year horizon. The nonprofit community is ready to go there. Not clear that the GA is, but if we talk about it with them, may be able to get them down that road.
- Allow existing programs that efficiently spend money to accept disaster funding.
- Information sharing
- Education – we need to be thinking about how to work with schools

- Hometown strong – make sure that we are communicating with them.
- How do we layer potential sources of funding and leverage appropriately.

Prioritization (dot voting)

RSF members were provided with four dot stickers each and asked to “vote” on the flip charts with the stickers to determine the priority issues for this RSF.

Next Steps

T. Vinson and M. Byrne to discuss process for next steps and discuss with group at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

*Attachment to Minutes: Excel spreadsheet with vote tally