

February 29, 2020 Sea level Rise/Floodplain Workshop

Recommended Next Steps

1. Risk and Vulnerability

- a. Integrate information about current and potential future flood risk and hazards into your community's existing planning, policies, and activities to protect people, homes, and infrastructure, now and into the future.
- b. Partner with local universities and colleges to identify and operationalize opportunities for faculty and student research to help answer questions your community has and inform local decision-making.

2. Critical Infrastructure and Facilities

- a. Incorporate existing and potential future coastal hazards into design standards, capital improvements planning, and regulations for critical infrastructure.
- b. Conduct a detailed vulnerability assessment of potential flood impacts to your critical infrastructure and facilities.
- c. Develop an inventory of prioritized infrastructure and facilities vulnerable to existing flood hazards and future sea level rise to inform upgrade, repair, and replacement projects.
- d. Adapt and adopt existing federal floodplain management and development policies for guiding public and/or private development in your community.

3. Community Planning

- a. Develop a resilience plan and/or integrate resiliency into existing community plans and policies.
- b. Establish a municipal fund to support local resiliency efforts.
- c. Integrate hazard mitigation into your community's comprehensive plan.
- d. Consider offering incentives to encourage private property owners to voluntarily implement flood risk reduction practices.

- e. Establish a low-interest loan program to provide financing to private property owners to retrofit homes and businesses to be more resilient to impacts from flooding and extreme storms.
- f. Post signs or markers indicating historical flood depths and/or potential future sea levels in publicly visible areas around your community to increase awareness of local flood risk and encourage action to mitigate that risk. FEMA's High Water Mark Initiative is a community-based program that offers guidance, resources, and standardized signage for communicating local flood risk.
- g. Encourage or require property buyers to review flooding and sea level rise risks to property with municipal staff and sign a form acknowledging the risk.
- h. Adopt zoning and/or floodplain ordinances that apply to flood hazard areas that extend beyond, horizontally and/or vertically, those identified as the 100-year floodplain depicted on your community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to account for existing and potential future flood hazard areas.
- i. Collaborate with property owners located in areas vulnerable to flood hazards to form a district in which property owners opt in to participate, wherein the district would use capital raised by issuing bonds to make resiliency improvements, which is paid back through a property tax assessment.

4. Social and Economic Vulnerability

- a. Identify local organizations and groups that can help build support and engagement within the community for understanding flood vulnerability and increasing resilience.
- b. Encourage and provide assistance to local businesses to register as approved vendors for federal post-disaster procurement processes.
- c. Encourage your Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to assess their vulnerability to coastal flood hazards and assess how well prepared they are for flooding events.

5. Natural Resources

- a. Adopt land use regulations that require expanded setbacks to protect buffer areas around natural resource areas.
- b. Adopt land use regulations and/or zoning ordinances to protect, accommodate, and facilitate future marsh migration.
- c. Identify and prioritize conservation areas that offer multiple benefits such as flood protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, and CRS credit.
- d. Utilize buy-out options of properties repeatedly damaged by coastal hazards and preserve those areas as open space.
- e. Develop easement language for coastal properties that accounts for sea level rise and subsequent changes to property boundaries.
- f. Identify opportunities to restore, conserve, or enhance natural protective features.