

# Resilient First Coast Collaborative Infrastructure Committee Participant Agenda

**\*Notes from meeting are in red, we did not cover all topics on the agenda**

Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 @ 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Virtual Meeting through TEAMS

Host: City of St. Augustine

## Infrastructure Committee Members

Name	Email	Organization	Meeting Attendance
Vanessa Vitale	<a href="mailto:Vanessa.Vitale@rsandh.com">Vanessa.Vitale@rsandh.com</a>	RS&H	Yes
Richard Levine	<a href="mailto:richard.levine@usmc.mil">richard.levine@usmc.mil</a>	US Marine Corps	Yes
Doug Conkey	<a href="mailto:DConkey@sjrwmd.com">DConkey@sjrwmd.com</a>	SJRWMD	Yes
Tim Harley	<a href="mailto:Harley.Tim@wseinc.com">Harley.Tim@wseinc.com</a>	Weston and Sampson	Yes
Rebecca Vanderbeck	<a href="mailto:rebecca.vanderbeck@wsp.com">rebecca.vanderbeck@wsp.com</a>	WSP	Yes
Jessica Beach	<a href="mailto:jbeach@citystaug.com">jbeach@citystaug.com</a>	City of St. Augustine	Yes
Steve Swann	<a href="mailto:sswann@coab.us">sswann@coab.us</a>	Atlantic Beach	Yes
Colin Moore	<a href="mailto:colinmoore@nbfl.us">colinmoore@nbfl.us</a>	Neptune Beach	No
John Coarsey	<a href="mailto:COARJB@JEA.COM">COARJB@JEA.COM</a>	Director, Electric T & D Planning, JEA	Yes
Fara Ilami	<a href="mailto:Fillami@nefrc.org">Fillami@nefrc.org</a>	Regional Resiliency Manager Northeast Florida Regional Council	Yes
Roxanne Horvath	<a href="mailto:duoarch@comcast.net">duoarch@comcast.net</a>	City of St. Augustine, Resilient First Coast Steering Committee Chair	Be sure to invite on future meetings

## Agenda:

1. Introductions of Infrastructure Committee members on the call – **see table for attendees, brief introductions and backgrounds provided**
2. Recap from RFC Collaborative meeting on 12/6 – **we did go over the pillars and vision, briefly highlighted the goals/objectives relevant to the committee**
  - a. Refer to the “meeting” minutes and “break out group” notes
  - b. RFC Collaborative
    - i. 4 pillars (Environment, Quality of Life, **Infrastructure**, Economic Resilience)

- ii. Vision - Resilient First Coast will actively promote regional cooperation on initiatives that improve the environment, quality of life, infrastructure, and economic resilience of Northeast Florida to adapt and thrive in the face of acute shocks and chronic stresses related to climate change
  - iii. Goals –
    1. Maximize the function of natural systems and agricultural lands while incorporating environmental justice and equity.
    2. Maximize quality of life through improved health and wellness, food security, access to energy and clean water, and safe, resilient, cost-effective housing.
    3. Maximize the security and resiliency of infrastructure for critical assets, transportation, and technology.
    4. Maximize economic resilience to potential threats through growth, mobility, quality jobs, and workforce training.
  - iv. Objectives –
    1. Share data, research, and solutions; provide technical assistance (all goals).
    2. Engage and inform the community (all goals).
    3. Promote understanding of natural hazards and develop consensus (goals #1 and 2).
    4. Promote the incorporation of green infrastructure and natural solutions into regional planning (goals #1 and #3).
    5. Promote best practices for growing food (goal #2).
    6. Incorporate sustainable, resilient, and adaptive practices into existing and new building and development (goal #3).
    7. Facilitate job training and workforce development (goal #4).
  - v. Action items
    1. Coordinate vulnerability assessments among the jurisdictions in the region (deadline June 30).
    2. Identify vulnerabilities and risks, including acute shocks and chronic stresses.
    3. Create/adopt a current system of consistent data and mapping that can be adapted as needed.
    4. Determine where green infrastructure and natural solutions are most feasible.
    5. Create a regional resiliency action plan.
  - vi. Considerations
    1. Regional Resilience Priorities Analysis conducted by NEFRC: data gaps and additional needs
    2. Reach out to other RPCs/experts outside region
    3. Help local governments prepare for implementation grants
    4. Guidance vs. standards vs. best practices
    5. Balancing local and regional approaches
3. Infrastructure Committee
- a. General Expectations
    - i. Meet at least once per quarter (publicly posted)
    - ii. Coordinate with Collaborative leadership
    - iii. Report to full Collaborative at each meeting
    - iv. Adopt relevant goals and objectives
    - v. Determine and complete committee action items

- b. Define infrastructure (per Statute) – **we did briefly go over the definition**
  - i. Pillar – critical assets, transportation, technology/broadband
  - ii. Transportation assets and evaluation routes, including airports, bridges, bus terminals, ports, major roadways, marinas, rail facilities and railroad bridges
  - iii. Critical infrastructure, including wastewater treatment facilities and lift stations, stormwater treatment facility and pump stations, drinking water facilities, solid and hazardous waste facilities, military installations, communications facilities and disaster debris management sites
  - iv. Critical community and emergency facilities, includes in schools, colleges, universities, community centers, correctional facilities, disaster recovery centers, emergency medical service facilities, emergency operation centers, fire stations, health care facilities hospitals, law enforcement facilities, local shelter inventory and state government facilities
  - v. Natural, cultural and historical resources, including conservation lands, parks shorelines, surface water, wetland and historical and cultural assets
- c. Work previously done in 7 county region and at the State level:
  - i. **City of Jacksonville (COJ) - City Council Special Committee on Resiliency -**
  - ii. **Steve Swann was on one of the subcommittees through this and provided information from that to share with the group that may help**
  - iii. **We discussed this being more specific to the COJ and we would likely need to be more broad in our efforts, more of guidance/suggestions for the region**
  - iv. NE FL Resilient Highlights (Oct. 2020)– introduced subcommittees of the Jacksonville City Council Special Committee on Resiliency –
    - 1. This group would focus its attention on critical infrastructure within Duval County, such as bridges, hospitals, grocery stores, roadways and drainage systems. The focus of this discussion would also be on maintaining continuity of operations before/during/after a disaster.
  - v. Objectives (Final Report, 2021):
    - 1. Establish priorities for Public Works Dept
    - 2. Develop infrastructure recommendations for Chief Resilience Officer
    - 3. Identify funding and financing opportunities
    - 4. Prioritize projects in Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
  - vi. Observations (Final Report, 2021):
    - 1. Quantify the magnitude of Jacksonville’s Resilience requirements
    - 2. Adopt 1 SLR figure to guide infrastructure project planning and construction across the City
    - 3. Update Building Codes
    - 4. Incorporate neighborhood-specific criteria while prioritizing resilience decisions
    - 5. Promote developer/property owner resilience roles
    - 6. Promote the private sector business case for resilience
    - 7. Examine how conservation non-profits and other conservation partners could assist with the acquisition of land to provide flood storage capacity
    - 8. Explore ways to disclose flood zone and prior flooding information on real estate transactions and lease agreements
    - 9. Identify flood-prone areas where people and homes are the most vulnerable and recommend solutions to protect those neighborhoods

10. Publicize the drainage system's 92 outfall spot cleanings locations in a way that the general public is aware of where the work is taking place to prepare for potential heavy rains
11. Assess private sector assets such as grocery stores, gas stations, hospitals etc. to see how vulnerable they are and their impacts on the community if damaged
12. Submit projects for inclusion in the 2022 Water Projects Bill
13. Review the master stormwater management plan (MSMP) update
14. Consider resilience when appointing JEA board members
15. Pursue creative funding measures to address the City's resilience needs
16. They had a number of speakers address the committee from various areas of expertise that helped influence the observations in the final report

**vii. COJ – Resilient Jacksonville**

1. Builds for the Future (one of the 4 fundamental objectives)
  - a. Maximize smart and equitable development in areas that are safest from future hazards
  - b. Maximize safe, active and connection transportation options
  - c. Maximize the sustainability and adaptiveness of infrastructure
  - d. Maximize the benefits from public investments in the short and long term
2. Identified Acute Shocks
  - a. Extreme rainfall events
  - b. Extreme heat events
  - c. Hurricanes/Tropical Storms
  - d. Winter Storms/Extreme Cold Events
  - e. Infrastructure Failure or Disruption
  - f. Energy insecurity/blackouts
  - g. High Winds
  - h. Wildfires
  - i. Infections Diseases
  - j. Cyber attack
  - k. Hazardous materials incidents
3. Identified Chronic Stresses
  - a. Sea Level Rise
  - b. High Tide Flooding
  - c. Heavy Rainfall
  - d. Coastal Erosion
  - e. Saltwater Intrusion
  - f. Groundwater Threats
  - g. Urban Heat Island Effect
  - h. Drought
  - i. Aging Infrastructure
  - j. Economic Downturns
  - k. Poverty
  - l. Social Inequality
  - m. Lack of Reliable Transportation
  - n. Lack of Safe and Affordable Housing
  - o. Food Insecurity and Supply Chain Disruptions
  - p. Lack of Healthcare Access

q. Chronic and Infectious Diseases

**viii. Southeast FL Regional Compact – Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) 3.0**

1. In 2010 - Formalized a collaborative regional approach to address climate change
2. In 2012, the Compact codified its vision in its first Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP)
3. Developed with the guidance of more than 150 subject matter experts, including community members and stakeholders, the RCAP 3.0 provides updated guidance to support the implementation and acceleration of local and regional climate action in Southeast Florida.
4. While the RCAP is designed for the Southeast Florida region, it is a comprehensive tool that can be applied to similar regions and ecosystems to promote and realize a healthy, prosperous, more equitable and resilient future, shared and shaped by all.
5. The RCAP outlines goals, recommendations and supporting strategies across 11 focal areas to advance the objectives of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and of strengthening the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of communities, institutions and relevant economies
6. 11 Areas:
  - a. Agriculture
  - b. Energy
  - c. Equity
  - d. Informed and Engaged Communities
  - e. Natural Systems
  - f. Public Health
  - g. Public Policy Advocacy
  - h. Regional Economic Resilience
  - i. Risk Reduction and Emergency Management
  - j. Sustainable Communities and Transportation**
  - k. Water
7. Sustainable Communities and Transportation
  - a. Goal – adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reshaping where and how to build and move from place to place
  - b. Recommendations
    - i. Incorporate resilience and sustainability objectives in plans
    - ii. Integrate SLR and surge projections in maps and documents
    - iii. Use vulnerability assessments to designate resilience priorities
    - iv. Develop and coordinate localized adaptation strategies
    - v. Designate conservation areas as a priority-setting tool
    - vi. Leverage un-used/under-utilized properties for resilience objectives
    - vii. Ensure equitable policy, infrastructure and service delivery
    - viii. Reduce risk through plans, building codes and development regulations

- ix. Adopt green building standards
- x. Prioritize preservation of historic and archaeological resources
- xi. Employ transit-oriented developments
- xii. Support compact development patterns
- xiii. Preserve affordable housing accessible to essential services
- xiv. Employ complete streets and vision zero policies
- xv. Expand transit-connected bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- xvi. Reduce emissions and increase resilience via transportation planning
- xvii. Increase the use of transit
- xviii. Maximize efficiency of the existing transportation system
- xix. Use transportation demand management strategies
- xx. Advance resilient and low-carbon freight transportation
- xxi. Use evidence-based transportation planning
- xxii. Enable a fuel-efficient public vehicle fleet
- xxiii. Facilitate the public's EV transition

**d. What should we focus on?**

- i. General discussion from the group focused on this section of the agenda
- ii. Develop best practices? More broad, provide general guidance. Up to local municipalities to get more granular and specific
  - 1. Divide into categories/types
  - 2. Retrofitting vs. new build
  - 3. List options/brainstorming topics
- iii. Identify a variety of "tools in the toolbox"
  - 1. Resiliency presentation from F&N as an example
  - 2. Appendices from Resilient Heritage study?
  - 3. Example from Miami Dade Study that came out
  - 4. Include green infrastructure
- iv. Focus on bringing various practices throughout the State that have been used and lessons learned, what has worked etc. (came from Steering Committee meeting)
- v. Review completed VA's to gain insight?
  - 1. City of Atlantic Beach
  - 2. Mayport
  - 3. Nassau County
  - 4. COSA
  - 5. St Johns Co – North Beach Area
- vi. Coordinating the upcoming Vulnerability Assessments – out of those VA's, critical assets (including infrastructure) will be identified
  - 1. Deliverables coming up (end of January) for compile/analyze existing VA's inside the region; compile and assess existing models used for exposure and sensitivity analyses
    - a. See Fara's spreadsheet

**4. Comments/thoughts/ideas from the group discussion:**

- a. This is a broad topic, and how to best utilize our time and expertise. Need guidance from the Steering Committee on the scale and scope

- i. Should we focus on broad/general but can be scaled down to residential/site specific level
- ii. Should we focus on a best management practices guide book that pulls together various options and tools in the tool box throughout the region and state
- iii. Should we focus on public, private or both
- iv. COJ has efforts underway and also has subcommittees/groups meeting that may overlap with the Collaborative, need to coordinate and/or understand what they are working on so we don't duplicate efforts or can focus on other things that may not be covered etc.
- v. Do we look at shocks and stressors (acute vs. chronic) or both, that is part of the action items identified in the Collaborative but really need that before we can focus on our part
- vi. What are the expectations from the Committee, deliverables/action items etc.
- b. Discussion revolved around challenges with the electrical grid/system
  - i. Consideration of impacts on the system from electrification
  - ii. JEA is undergoing a vulnerability assessment for their infrastructure, they completed that for the water side, now focusing on the electrical
  - iii. Concern over sea level rise (SLR) and how that will impact undergrounding conversions, the push right now is conversion from OH to UG
  - iv. More expensive technology needed for the "flood proofing" of the system where it is needed
  - v. How to pay for all of the needs, likely the needs are in the \$7-8 Billion range
- c. Other discussion
  - i. Examples that can be shared with the group for "what works"
  - ii. Badcock Ranch, higher cost but didn't have the storm impacts, another challenge with equity and those that cannot afford the higher costs for resilience
  - iii. We typically focus on projects, products, protection of properties etc. but what about other critical assets such as land conservation, wetlands etc.
  - iv. Should we push for higher standards, stronger building codes?
    - 1. Discussion revolved around existing, older stormwater systems designed under older criteria that is changing and not adequate to meet the current challenges,
    - 2. What about maintenance? Many existing systems have not been properly maintained and are not functioning as designed, opportunities their to improve
    - 3. What about enforcement of required maintenance and how to address
  - v. Is there a way to incentivize private properties to make their properties more resilient
  - vi. What about sharing of lessons learned or a guidance manual or website that could house the best practices etc.
  - vii. How to divide/categorize these? Policy, standards/codes and then the scale of the BMP, do we focus on the private property BMP, site specific or at the larger/broader scale
  - viii. Army Corps – big studies completed, look to those to see what recommendations have come from those other efforts
  - ix. What about a baseline of how to measure to and identify what's the need, did the project implemented actually address or fix the problem (measurable benefit)
  - x. Don't forget about groundwater! Not just the tide and water levels

- xi. Example projects that RS&H has seen that could be shared
    - xii. Acquisitions – something to consider as a “tool” would help with the utilities,
- 5. Upcoming meetings:
  - a. Steering Committee meeting, 1/18 @ 11:30 AM
    - i. seeking guidance from SC on expectations for Committees
    - ii. Guest speaker(s) from other Regional Collaboratives to share experience
  - b. RFC Committee Leads meeting, 1/27 @ 1 PM
  - c. Full collaborative meets week of April 10<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Schedule next Infrastructure Committee Meeting –
    - i. Feb/March – Jessica to send out a Doodle poll to the group with dates
- 6. Action Items/Follow Up:
  - a. Committee members to send examples on BMPs that they’ve seen that may be good to consider for the group
  - b. Steve to send the spreadsheet/previous efforts done by the Special Committee to take a look at
  - c. Jessica will set up a Share Folder for the group to start saving ideas
  - d. Collect projects, BMPs, ideas etc. while we get better guidance from the steering committee on what to focus on
  - e. Doodle poll to schedule the next infrastructure meeting
  - f. Jessica will sift down the discussion into questions for the steering committee
  - g. Jessica will follow up with the group after the steering committee and leads meetings with more specifics/guidance for the group