

Public Workshop #3

Project Name: Coastal Lakeshore Economy and Resiliency Initiative
Date: November 9, 2021
Meeting: Jefferson-St. Lawrence Region – Public Workshop #3
Attachments: Presentation

1. Welcome and Introduction

Sharon Anderson (facilitator) opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Project Team members in attendance included:

EDR (prime consultant): Jane Rice, Sam Gordon, Erica Tauzer

Ecologic (subcontractor to EDR): Liz Moran, Sharon Anderson, Jasmine James

Cameron Engineering (subcontractor to EDR): Andrew Martini, David Tepper, Michael Keane

NYS Department of State: Karen Catcher, Nancy Martel

A total of 26 participants logged onto the Zoom session (this count included several Steering Committee and NYSDEC representatives).

2. CLEAR Overview

With some attendees joining their first meeting, the presentation began with an overview of the CLEAR initiative, including a map of the Lake Ontario shoreline regions, and the planning process, deliverables, and schedule. The EDR team outlined that CLEAR is focused on assisting communities reduce the risk of harm to their vulnerable assets (including property, natural resources, infrastructure, public health and safety, and the local economy) posed by fluctuating water levels. CLEAR is designed as a community-led initiative that will recommend actions for resilience to water level changes that reflect the unique features and challenges of the CNY shoreline region.

3. Presentation by Mary Austerman

Mary Austerman, a Great Lakes Coastal Community Development Specialist with New York Sea Grant presented on Scenario Planning. First, she explained that the Sea Grant program in New York is one of thirty-four across the United States. Scenario planning is meant to brainstorm “what if” situations, where groups can determine if a project could have co-benefits or conflicting issues with other projects or aspects of the environment. Austerman emphasized that each project is unique, and that there are many possible approaches and tools that can be used successfully.

Attendees were encouraged to use various resources to create ideas, projects, and learn information about the CLEAR initiative.

4. Interactive Session

An interactive session using the tool Google Jamboard followed the explanation of the strategy matrix and themes; the interactive session was structured by grouping similar themes. Three Jamboards were used to list potential projects and encourage comments on each of the various

projects. Meeting participants were encouraged to list potential challenges, partnerships, and champions. The Jamboards will be left open for approximately one week to allow time for participants to read and make comments. The links to each of the Jamboards are listed:

JamBoard 1 (Coastal Systems):

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1bhFObGZ1Pklh9tQZIJRhDeHgfpPFnXv_K5WVK8S3xBg/edit?usp=sharing

JamBoard 2 (Health/Safety/Water/Wastewater):

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1pb4dGirmojeleJAm8JiCCJxkQkBC5rA0hkGSKeJ7p8c/edit?usp=sharing>

JamBoard 3 (Tourism and Built Environment):

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1RGAr_gI9m1qKxsHEaYAZml893AsGExY5UW46faU2V2M/edit?usp=sharing

Question Prompts (the same for each Jamboard):

- *Are there any potential project partners you think may be helpful?*
- *Are there names of potential champions that could lead this project?*
- *Are there any challenges that you think may occur?*
- *How can we address/solve these challenges?*

Comment left on the questions page: “The greatest challenge to this entire initiative is finding a way to involve the residents of those communities most impacted by these events.”

PROJECT TITLE	COMMENTS POSTED DURING MEETING
Coastal Resiliency Network (Theme 1: Communication)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY Sea Grant, with partners, has been working in this space along the GL, and can offer customized training/resources/lectures/workshops. Some of the current capacity includes targeted programming for local governments, property owners, angling community, marinas, K-12 and informal educators. • We at NYS WRI have been compiling an extensive inventory of non-profit actors and regional organizations that could be partners! We can talk more about it eventually. email: rp589@cornell.edu • Indian River Lakes association does not work within the shoreline. Eastern Lake Ontario dune coalition. Ontario Bays Initiative. NY Sea Grant. • Develop a regional conference that can serve communities across the shoreline.
Regional Resiliency Newsletter & Resource Database (Theme 1: Communication)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian River Lakes Conservancy does not work in the shoreline area. • How are you including seasonal residents or entities in this process? • Develop a specific approach for reaching out to seasonal residences - this could include sending out announcements through local utility/tax bills to reach property owners.

	<p>Town of Lyme community foundation newsletter - seasonal residents sign up to receive year round.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Lyme Community Foundation could be an entity to reach out to local communities.
High-Water Warning System (Theme 1: Communication)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Emergency Managers would be a natural fit.
Nature-Based Shoreline Protection Measures (Theme 3: Natural Systems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement NBS demonstration projects and share success stories to promote additional projects. Evaluate the success of nature based REDI projects (such as Fort De La Presentation) through monitoring (DOS shoreline monitoring framework available). • Some pretty innovative projects with reclaimed debris, oyster shells and other materials are being carried out in the landscape architecture world. Could be a good idea to get landscape programs in local universities involved with this for innovative approaches. – Rewa • NY Sea Grant "Working with Nature" guide provides list of native plants for use in NNBS, hosts workshops on NNBS (Chaumont, August 2021) • NY Sea Grant works directly with shoreline residents on managing healthy, nature-based and resilient shorelines
Integrate Natural Protective Features into Municipal Level Planning (Theme 3: Natural Systems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS WRI can assist. We have been working on this. https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/ • NYSG can assist
Virtual Climate and Resiliency Video/Interactive Series (Theme 3: Natural Systems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SU-EFC has a pretty great story map for the Wayne County shoreline! -Rewa • Videos could also seek to engage landowners and managers to share their stories by requesting feedback. • NYSG has started a dashboard and story map series showcasing resilience projects and also is planning a podcast. In addition, we have other story maps, 2017 flood resources, resilience tools, etc. Feel free to reach out if you want help navigating the website to get you to the stuff that might be most helpful. (Mary mp357@cornell.edu)
Regional Circuit Rider for Technical Assistance to Municipalities (Theme 4: Land Use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist municipalities with developing and implementing resiliency projects. • This is Mary Austerman. This is something I'm seeing come up across the shore. It might be good for us to talk about ways this could be approached. I'm considering putting a workshop together to help the regions think through this.
Local Vulnerability Assessment and Assistance Program (Theme 2: Public Health & Safety)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with insurance companies to obtain data, but consider confidentiality concerns • County Health Department and local code enforcement officers can be good partners to understand septic needs

Climate-Based Floodplain Management Initiative (Theme 2: Public Health & Safety)	(no comments)
Resiliency Fact Sheet (Theme 2: Public Health & Safety)	(no comments)
Resilient Wastewater and Stormwater Systems (Theme 6: Water & Wastewater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some areas (Town of Clayton) might benefit from smaller scale septic improvements, not necessary to install sewer per se • How can the infrastructure bill be used to fund these new types of infrastructure for communities? • small lots can't accommodate large septic lots • Seasonal homeowners sometimes are unaware of flooding issues until months later • Requires neighbors to complain to county health departments, but landowners are hard to reach and issues aren't always addressed • Barriers: communicating that programs exist to homeowners • \$5000 grants don't go far enough for some homeowners; also granting programs are difficult to access and complete on time
Create Resilient Open Space and Recreation Areas (Theme 5: Recreation and Culture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential partner: NYS Parks • Local citizen's associations (hamlets, villages, river associations, marina owners/members • Natural Heritage Program/The Nature Conservancy, or other partners with experience in modeling and mapping may be able to help identify important areas for conservation and protection that would enhance shoreline resiliency while achieving other benefits. • Local land trusts
Conduct Resiliency Trainings for Local Contractors (Theme 5: Recreation and Culture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should local code enforcement officers be involved? • Without training requirements, may be difficult to have contractor participation • Association of Towns, State Floodplain Managers, Regional Planning boards could assist with training for local municipalities. • Yes, local code definitely. As a place to start, each community has a Local Flood Damage Prevention Law that provides a baseline (Min construction req) for resilient building construction. • NYSG, DEC and US Army Corps of Engineers on a contractor training program
Unified Water-Based Recreation Region (e.g., 1,000 Islands Seaway Region) (Theme 5: Recreation and Culture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Marine Sanctuary is proposed for region. • Getting County Tourism across the region working together

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local CoCs, St L County CoC, sportsman's clubs (fish/game) • Re-establishment of the seaway trail
Implement Development Impact Fees in Extreme Risk Areas (Theme 7: Built Environment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact fees can provide benefits to municipalities, counties etc
Incentive Program for Resiliency Actions (Theme 7: Built Environment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Smart Communities Program offers incentives. • Is this something that FEMA Community Rating System incentivizes?

5. Closing and Next Steps

The project team and Steering Committee will integrate public feedback as they continue to develop projects designed to support resilient communities and prepare final documents. The final CLEAR report is due by the end of December.

Participants were encouraged to explore the project web site www.northcountryclear.com and to remain involved with the CLEAR initiative. Local champions, public support, advocacy to local officials, and outreach to the community at large will be essential to implement recommendations for more resilient shoreline communities.