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Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) Issue Area Project and Resource Needs "Snap Shot"

This Snap Shot is designed to collect brief information on the prospective projects and resource needs of the GSAA Issue Area Technical Teams to progress the GSAA Action Plan and Implementation Plan.

Issue Area: Disaster Resilient Communities

Project Title: Facilitate the use of soft/hybrid shoreline protection measures throughout the four states

Action to be Addressed: [DRC5D, DRC2A DRC2B]

Resources Needed: [\$1,000,000*]

Expected Timescale: [5 years*]

Description

Background: The ability to implement alternative (soft-hybrid) shoreline protection projects throughout the region proves to be quite difficult for two reasons: 1) confusing and cumbersome regulatory schemes not designed with the protection projection project in mind 2) unclear guidance on what shoreline protection measures are suitable in specific environments; however, there is clear demand amongst the four states to improve each other's and the region's ability to appropriately site and permit these type of projects.

Objectives: This project is multi-objective and is intended to be implemented in phases*.

- Objective 1: Develop a regional shoreline protection guidance document that provides information on the feasibility of applying different alternative shoreline protection techniques dependent on site conditions (tide, current, fetch, erosion rate, etc). The guidance document will also provide general information on terminology, estimated costs, etc.
- Objective 2: Leverage the GSAA's work to encourage a programmatic change with the ACOE's regulatory scheme to allow for a Regional General Permit (RGP) that sets provisions intended to encourage alternative shoreline protection measures in our region.

Approach/Methods:

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Objective 1: Guidance Document –The first step will be to synthesize alternative shoreline protection projects in place throughout the region. This will be done in coordination with a broader literature review of alternative shoreline protection activities across the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Both activities will include evaluation of the success rate of different alternative shoreline protection techniques in varying environments (tides, current, fetch, erosion rate, etc). [Estimated cost - \$10,000 to support, graduate student/intern or staff time]

Based on the regional synthesis of in-the-water projects, the team will conduct a gap analysis to identify where additional data and examples are needed. It is expected that gaps would be based on the suite of environmental conditions that determine success of different techniques. This information would be shared with partners across the region and would ideally guide the identification of suitable locations for new pilot projects necessary to comprehensively cover the region. [Estimated cost - \$7,500 to host workshop with four states and partners]

It is not expected that the GSAA would be the primary funding source for additional pilot projects. However, a number of Alliance members are engaged in this work and could benefit from the analysis. The additional pilots are needed to develop a comprehensive guidance document. [Estimated cost - \$75,000-\$200,000 per pilot project]

The guidance document will be based on both the existing and new research regarding alternative shorelines. The guidance would analyze the pros and cons of varying shoreline protection measures and make a case for best available protection measures given site conditions. It is possible that the document would be updated as new information becomes available. [Estimated cost - \$5,000 for writing and printing support]

Objective 2: Regulatory and Permitting Changes – The region specific information gathered through Objective 1 will be critical in making regulatory and permitting changes that enable the use of alternative shorelines. However, there are several steps that can be taken while those activities are underway, including:

- Detailed review and comparison of existing permitting requirements at the state and federal level to support development of new regulatory language that supports the use of alternative shorelines.
- Communication between Gulf of Mexico Alliance and GSAA member to discuss the new ACOE general permitting language that is being applied in the Gulf and the applicability to the South Atlantic.
- Efforts to enable the movement of required pilot project permits through the current regulatory process in a timely manner as research projects.

A more detailed approach to regulatory and permitting changes will be developed based on the above. [Estimated cost - \$10,000 to support travel, meetings, and a potential graduate student/intern]

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Potential Partners: [SERPPAS, US ACOE, TNC, NOAA CSC, NC Coastal Federation, Southeastern Environmental Law Center, CCOW, HE, WW, HVA Project Team, FL DEP CTP, SCRD]