



**GOVERNORS' SOUTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE
2ND ANNUAL MEETING
September 6-7, 2012 • Charleston, SC**

MEETING SUMMARY

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Introduction

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) was held in Charleston, SC at the Francis Marion Hotel. Approximately 75 people attended from the states of NC, SC, GA, and FL, as well as from federal agencies and other partner organizations. The list of attendees can be found in the program book.

Since the first Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA, the Alliance has continued to organize itself and lay the foundation for implementation of the [GSAA Action Plan](#). The four Issue Area Technical Teams (Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters, Disaster-Resilient Communities, Healthy Ecosystems, and Working Waterfronts) have made significant progress or completed the two near-term implementation steps they identified in Savannah, and the Project Teams (the GSAA Regional Information Management System and Regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment) are meeting their milestones for the Alliance's [NOAA grant](#) that began in February 2011. On the Administrative front, the Alliance hired a full time Regional Coordinator and is working toward development of an Alliance Business Plan. The Alliance is poised to make great strides in 2013, both in advancing the Action Plan and sustaining its strong collaborative partnerships.

The purposes of this Annual Meeting were to report on progress towards implementation of the GSAA Action Plan, identify a plan of work for the Alliance in 2013, and continue building the relationships that are vital to working on a regional basis.

Reports - Leadership

Updates were provided from the partners in the Alliance to highlight the activities of the last year. **Secretary Dee Freeman, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Chair of the GSAA Steering Group**, reinforced the focus of the Alliance as an opportunity to collaborate on protecting the diverse ocean and coastal resources of the South Atlantic, working closely with federal agencies and other partners to identify common priorities. Secretary Freeman represents the GSAA on the Governance Coordinating Committee established by the National Ocean Council and emphasized that at both a national level and in the regions, there is a need to be results-oriented. He recognized the work of Commissioner Earl Hunter, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, as the first Chair of the Alliance Steering Group in guiding the early days of the Alliance that led to the first Action Plan and success in getting grant funding. Looking forward, Secretary Freeman underscored the need to identify opportunities for continuing the flow of resources and that the Steering Group is engaged and committed to finding ways the Alliance partners can help each other.

Dr. Paul Sandifer, NOAA's National Ocean Service and Lead Federal Co-Chair for the GSAA, reported on the activities of the Federal Co-Chair agencies, including the US Department of Interior and US Environmental Protection Agency. The Federal Co-Chairs meet every other month to get updates on the Alliance and identify coordination opportunities. NOAA has provided some initial funding to the Regional Ocean Partnerships, including a substantial award to the GSAA to strengthen the Alliance, get the Technical Teams and Project Teams started, and manage day-to-day activities through the Alliance Coordinator. Dr. Sandifer emphasized that the work of the Issue Area Technical Teams (IATTs) is crucial to the success of the Alliance and in reviewing their progress updates, was pleased to see that Alliance activities dovetail with many federal initiatives, such as the National Ocean Policy's emphasis on Ecosystem-based Management approaches, DOI's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, the President's modernization and expansion of several South Atlantic Ports through the "We Can't



Wait” Initiative, and several other areas. The Federal Co-Chairs and other federal agencies are enthusiastic and committed to continuing to support the Alliance and coordinate activities where possible. However, the fiscal realities for federal agencies are daunting and the Alliance and other Regional Ocean Partnerships will need to look for opportunities to leverage existing federal activities to work towards their goals. Dr. Sandifer has recently stepped down from his role in the National Ocean Council, and his role as the Lead Federal Co-Chair will come to an end in January 2013. At that time, Dr. James Giattina from US EPA Region 4 will take over the role.

Mary Conley, The Nature Conservancy and Chair of the Alliance Executive Planning Team’s Partners Arm, provided the Partners report. Ms. Conley began by highlighting the fact that partner organizations have been involved with the GSAA from its inception, helping to facilitate discussions among the states and federal agencies, which is a unique role across the Regional Ocean Partnerships. With that background, Alliance Partner organizations are invested in the success of the Alliance and committed to supporting the goals and implementation of the Action Plan. Partners can bring innovative approaches to addressing Alliance challenges and provide unique perspectives on how to engage a regional network of partners. In 2012, members of the Partners Arm were involved in working on the Alliance Regional Information Management System (RIMS) project, developed plans for a conference between the South Atlantic and Caribbean researchers, and contributed the Alliance Leadership Arm and business planning, among other activities. Other Partners Arm members also commented on the value of the Alliance in preventing duplication of effort in ocean and coastal research activities, which is even more important in this fiscal environment, and the opportunities in accessing existing collaborations among partner organizations to advance Alliance goals.

Reports - States

State Representatives to the Alliance Executive Planning Team (EPT) each reported on Alliance-related activities in their state and the benefits of working with their partners through the GSAA. **Chris Russo, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Chair of the EPT**, reported on the work NC DENR is doing with partners on implementing a Coastal Habitat Protection Plan. The Plan provides a comprehensive description of fish habitats and identifies management actions to respond to potential threats. NC DENR is also partnering with the Marine Corps to create new oyster habitat along bombing ranges, which prevents erosion, expands oyster habitat, and prevents encroachment on the bombing ranges. The GSAA is unique in that it is the only Regional Ocean Partnership that was developed in partnership with the military and recognizes the military as a resource for ocean and coastal research and management.

Carolyn Boltin-Kelly, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and EPT State Representative, reported on South Carolina’s activities. SC DHEC and its partners are developing a Beachfront Vulnerability Index, which is a new tool for local governments to weigh risks to habitable structures in coastal areas and aligns with the Alliance’s Disaster-Resilient Communities priority issue. They have also launched a mobile application, Storm Reporter, that allows for real-time storm reporting specific to South Carolina. Local governments can use the information to assess damage and notify emergency management, media, and others. SC DHEC is wrapping up its Ocean Planning Report as well, which ties into the Alliance Healthy Ecosystem work and identifies priorities for ocean planning. South Carolina is active in



all the Alliance's IATTs and sees the value of the Alliance in bringing the states together to address environmental issues that don't recognize state boundaries.

Brad Gane, GA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and EPT State Representative, reported on Georgia's activities. GA DNR is actively involved in all the Alliance IATTs and has incorporated many IATT activities in shaping Georgia's ocean and coastal management work. GA DNR is working with the Alliance's Regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment, based out of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and developing a long-term disaster recovery plan with information from the summit hosted by the Disaster-Resilient Communities IATT in July 2012. With the Healthy Ecosystems IATT, GA DNR is making their data accessible and conducting an internal assessment of data and GIS capabilities. In the Working Waterfronts IATT, GA DNR is identifying water access potential and working with the GA Ports Authority. GA DNR worked on the design of the Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters IATT project atlas and mapping and as a result, the agency has increased its focus on water issues.

Rebecca Prado, FL Department of Environmental Protection and EPT State Representative, reported on Florida's activities. Florida has a heavily urbanized shoreline with significant coral resources in close proximity. To understand possible impacts, Florida is working with partners to develop data resources that identify land-based sources of pollution in a geospatial format, which will feed into the work of the Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters IATT. The Clean Water Council evaluated 18 programs currently available to address water issues and is planning to work with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to develop a catalogue of indicators, which may be an opportunity for the GSAA to become involved as well. FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is addressing invasive species management, which aligns with the Healthy Ecosystem IATT's work, and is promoting an executive order to collect lionfish without a license to inform fisheries management. FL DEP also hosted the Long-Term Recovery Planning Summit organized by the Disaster-Resilient Communities IATT, where the state introduced their Long-Term Recovery initiative. It was a very successful meeting that has resulted in positive feedback from the Federal Emergency Management Agency about sponsoring similar summits in other regions. In addition, FL DEP has conducted its second Tidal Protection Strategy Exercise that identifies potential impacts of oil drilling in Cuban waters on the Florida coastline; results are available online.

Reports - Administrative

Rick DeVoe, SC Sea Grant Consortium and GSAA Administrative Agent, and Kristine Cherry, GSAA Regional Coordinator, provided an administrative update. Mr. DeVoe highlighted the two NOAA grants secured for the Alliance in FY2011, which provided over \$1 million in programmatic and administrative funding, and the grant submitted to NOAA in FY2012, which is expected to provide another \$276,000 in programmatic funding. He also introduced Ms. Cherry as the new Coordinator for the Alliance, who described her activities to date and plans to finalize the GSAA Business Plan, update the Alliance website, and prepare the Alliance for a transition at the end of the Memorandum of Agreement with SC Sea Grant Consortium in June 2013.

Reports - Projects

The two projects funded by the GSAA through the NOAA grants reported on the progress of their research and how they interact with the IATTs. **Debra Hernandez, Southeast Coastal**



Ocean Observing Regional Association and Principal Investigator for the Regional Information Management System (RIMS), reported on progress from multi-agency project team. RIMS is a framework that provides access to data and information relevant to ocean and coastal resource managers and decision makers. The project has completed an initial assessment of South Atlantic priorities for spatial data needs, which has focused the project on sediment management and habitat conservation as its initial development areas. The RIMS team is now in the design and development phase of the GSAA Data Portal and drawing on the experience of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) portal development team. Ms. Hernandez provided an overview of the proposed design and reported that an initial prototype of the portal would be reviewed at the project team's meeting in November. The team has worked closely with the Healthy Ecosystems IATT and is using the Annual Meeting as an opportunity to receive more input from all the IATTs. Ms. Hernandez reported that the project is meeting its milestones on schedule and on budget, and going forward, the project team will look for opportunities to effectively link to federal data.

Dr. Chester Jackson, Georgia Southern University and Project Team Member for the Regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA), discussed their project to develop a geospatial tool to assess vulnerability to coastal hazards. Dr. Jackson reported that the goals of their project are to deliver geospatial tools of direct value to coastal managers and scientists, using meaningful datasets with clear definitions of "vulnerability" and "hazards." The project team has undertaken an extensive literature review, identified study areas for initial assessments, and are about half-way through modifying an existing geospatial tool (AMBER) to meet project goals. The team is also collecting shoreline data, starting with the US Geographic Survey's Coastal Vulnerability Index and adding more parameters to extend into inland areas where development is taking place. HVA takes into account multiple hazards, leveraging existing geospatial data and incorporating the natural environment and social vulnerabilities. Identifying and incorporating social vulnerabilities is a challenge, and meeting participants from the US Army Corps of Engineers indicated they have data that may assist in addressing social components of HVA. The project team is working closely with the Disaster-Resilient Communities IATT and will work to interact with other IATTs following the Annual Meeting.

Reports – Issue Area Task Teams

Each of the Issue Area Task Teams (IATTs) reported on their progress towards the Governors' Action Plan and the functioning of their teams. **David Graves, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and Team Lead for the Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters IATT**, reported on the Technical Team's activities. Action Plan implementation in 2012 focused on establishing a Watershed Improvement Working Group to share watershed water quality improvement processes across the region, and developing recommendations and implementing best management practices for point and non-point source pollution controls. They are now starting programmatic activity with a website established to compile data. Cataloging of watershed water quality processes has begun in each state and each state is reviewing and compiling promising best management practices (BMPs). The focus for BMPs will be Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of water pollutants. The team holds monthly calls and rotates the Team Lead in January of each year to provide a regional perspective. The working group lead and IATT Lead are from the same state to facilitate coordination.

April Turner, SC Sea Grant Consortium and Working Waterfronts team member, reported on the team's activities. Action Plan implementation in 2012 focused on compiling a regional



inventory of military infrastructure and developing common definitions and criteria for working waterfronts that will contribute to an inventory of current working waterfronts and their elements. One participant indicated that a map of military installations in NC, SC and GA is available and would be shared with the team. Team members have committed to making Alliance activities a priority and getting states together has been valuable because it reduces duplication of effort and improves contacts/network in the region. The team has strong collaboration and leadership, frequent communication, and good sense of how IATTs fit into the Alliance big picture. The team is currently working on implementation steps without Alliance funding, and would benefit from in-person meetings and resources to focus on additional tasks.

Jennifer Kline, GA Department of Natural Resources and Team Lead for the Disaster-Resilient Communities IATT, reported on the team's activities. Action Plan implementation in 2012 focused on a literature review of post-disaster redevelopment processes and hosting a regional summit to discuss post-disaster redevelopment, both of which were completed. The summit included FEMA and a number of state and federal agencies, private industry, and partner organizations and was funded by a number of participating agencies. The team has strong group cohesion and used the opportunity to work through the Alliance to share information important to work of individual states, leverage resources, build a community of practice and network. The team is limited by funding and staff time, and is looking for more direct ways to engage Alliance leadership.

Bob Van Dolah, SC Department of Natural Resources and Team Lead for the Healthy Ecosystems IATT, reported on the team's activities. Action Plan implementation in 2012 focused on two areas. (1) Map distribution of key estuarine and marine habitats and distribution of key species of management concern (ocean only to start). The team conducted an analysis of resources being mapped by each state and is still working on holding a workshop for resource managers and scientists and establishing an interstate GIS work group to resolve standards and compatibility. (2) Initiate joint federal-state marine spatial plan to identify location of marine resources and activities. The team is nearly finished identifying locations and scope of activities likely to benefit from interstate coordination of planning and is still working on prioritizing resources in greatest need of conservation/restoration. Through this work, the HE Team has developed a template for states to use in assembling known data sets and their characteristics. The HE team has strived to be inclusive and has SECOORA directly involved, however their work is limited by funding and there are questions that need to be resolved about how to connect the Alliance portal and federal data management systems. The team has been able to capitalize on existing mapping efforts, such as SC DNR's GIS maps of biological resources and coastal habitats and uses along the SC coast, fisheries data layers from the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, the Alliance RIMS project ocean GIS data and sediment mapping, and The Nature Conservancy's habitat and natural resources data, including inshore resources.

Steering Group and Federal Co-Chair Meeting

The GSAA Steering Group and Federal Co-Chairs met to re-confirm their commitment to move the Alliance forward in the direction set by the Action Plan and Implementation Plan and identify and discuss paths to successful implementation. They agreed to the timeline for developing an Alliance Business Plan and highlighted the need to clarify decision-making authorities in the Plan. They also agreed to move the Alliance forward on a transition plan to 501(c)(3) status, while pursuing a thorough analysis of transition options. The Steering Group and Federal Co-



Chairs are committed to leading the Alliance and implementation of the Action Plan. They facilitated this by establishing a regular rotation of the Steering Group Chair, with each state holding the role for a maximum of two years. North Carolina will continue chairmanship, then rotate to Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.

Executive Planning Team Meeting

The GSAA Executive Planning Team (EPT) met to clarify the role and functioning of the EPT and brainstorm mechanisms for improving communication. The identified roles for the EPT included: facilitate internal and external communication, review Alliance policies and processes, facilitate integration with the IATTs and other Alliance entities, and bring resources that can support Alliance activities. It was suggested that simple steps, such as ensuring quarterly meetings are scheduled and engaging the IATT leads directly could provide needed communication pathways.

Next Steps for the Issue Area Technical Teams

Notes from IATT breakout sessions are available in **Appendix 1**. Following the breakout sessions and consultation with stakeholders, the IATTs identified their next steps for 2013.

Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters, David Graves

- Implement CCOW Action Item 1A, Implementation Step 2: *Develop the ability to transfer the knowledge about modeling and process development between states to enhance the water quality improvement process.*
- Host a joint workshop with the Healthy Ecosystems Team to identify a demonstration project watershed to demonstrate and document the effectiveness of BMPs and LID, as demonstrated by ecosystem indicators, in coastal watersheds.
- Host a webinar between the WIWG and the CCOW Team to finalize products resulting from CCOW 1A step 1 and 1C step 1, and to decide how that knowledge would be transferred.

Working Waterfronts, April Turner

- Continue work on the top 2 priorities that are underway, with particular attention paid to finalizing the working waterfront definitions/criteria;
- Begin focusing on the additional priorities identified in the original top 5;
- Engage more stakeholders representing the commercial and recreational marine trades businesses;
- Explore/research using other initiatives to further those outlined in the WW plan (e.g., Working Waterfronts Website may have resources that would help to develop flexible incentives, Florida entities including FL Sea Grant working on the development of an evaluation tool designed to protect critical maritime infrastructure which could be adapted, piloted, and expanded to rest of the South Atlantic states);
- RIMS database - address how the team can compile parcel data for working waterfronts for the region for inclusion in the portal system;
- Contact Clemson University (and others) with expertise/research to address the task of planning for the effects of emerging industries (Obj. W.W.3)



Disaster-Resilient Communities, Jennifer Kline

- *Action Item DRC3A: Improve post-disaster redevelopment planning for coastal communities, including infrastructure and business continuity.*
 - DRC3A 3) Compile online database of tools and resources with a forum for discussion that could be used to help with post-disaster redevelopment planning.
 - DRC3A 4) Explore land use change analysis and planning tools that could be used during the post-disaster redevelopment process, and implications for implementation.
 - DRC3A 5) Examine current federal recovery resources and evaluate any barriers or obstacles that they present and offer ways to better coordinate with them through the states.
- *Action Item DRC3C: Explore short-term economic recovery aspects of long-term redevelopment, and opportunities to create partnerships in support of local business recovery.*
 - DRC3C 1) Evaluate successful public-private partnerships.
 - DRC3C 2) Evaluate current tools available for this collaboration and their effectiveness (i.e. Business Continuity Information Network – BCIN)
 - DRC3C 4) Begin to forge regional state collaborative efforts on sectors of the economy (i.e. tourism, water-related, etc.) that span all states and ways to leverage opportunities for expedited recovery.

Healthy Ecosystems, Bob Van Dolah

- Allow ocean mapping activities to proceed as planned through funded sources
 - Vetting of the data layers being developed through RIMS
- Start a similar process for the inshore areas
 - Compile lists of habitats, resources, uses, events
 - Prioritize data layers to be worked on
 - Will mesh well with TNC SALCC funded effort
- Initiate some webinars with GIS IT staff and HE Team to evaluate existing standards in each state, and issues involved in developing consolidated data layers having a common standard.
- Identify important gaps in mapping efforts that state's could tackle
- Adopted the approach of other teams and will be rotating the State Team Lead annually.
- Jan Landsberg will assume the Team Lead responsibilities for the coming year.

APPENDIX 1 – IATT BREAKOUT SESSION NOTES

All Hands Meeting 2012 - CCOW Breakout Session Summary

- The Team had anticipated that next steps would be identified at the All Hands Meeting. Therefore, some discussion in the previous two conference calls was dedicated to that topic.
- It was decided that the Team should ensure that Action Items CCOW 1A and CCOW 1C are completely implemented, before focusing on any other action item or implementation step.
- It was decided that the Team would focus on CCOW 1A implementation step 2: *Develop the ability to transfer the knowledge about modeling and process development between states to enhance the water quality improvement process*. This decision was based on three factors:
 - The Team should avoid duplicating the efforts of the WIWG.
 - CCOW 1A step 2 will enable the Team to make use of WIWG products from CCOW 1A step 1 and CCOW 1C step 1.
 - CCOW 1A step 2 is worded similarly to CCOW action item 1C. Therefore, accomplishing CCOW 1A step 2 will also facilitate completion of CCOW 1C.
- There was some discussion of water quality (WQ) issues shared by member states. Mercury and fecal coliform contamination were identified as the primary common WQ issues of concern.
- There was discussion of a demonstration project, to demonstrate and document the effectiveness of BMPs and LID in costal watersheds. A joint project with the Healthy Ecosystems Team was discussed as a way to maximize the benefit of such a project.
- A face-to-face meeting between the WIWG and the CCOW Team was discussed for the late summer or early fall. The objective would be to finalize products resulting from CCOW 1A step 1 and 1C step 1, and to decide how that knowledge would be transferred.

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Working Waterfronts Issue Area Technical Team Break-Out Session Summary Notes GSAA 2012 Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC September 6-7, 2012

Breakout Session 1 – Implementing the Action Plan: Current Status

This session began with participant introductions which included some of the core team members, federal support partners, regional members, and some new stakeholders. The folks that participated included:

Randy Schneider (randall.schneider@noaa.gov)
Jeff King (jeff.king@noaa.gov)
Mackie McIntosh (margarett.mcintosh@usace.army.mil)
Hope Moorer (hmoorer@gaports.com)
Harry Simmons (harry.simmons@ncbiwa.org)
Suzi DuRant (scmarineassn@gmail.com)
Brad Pickel (bpickel@seahavenconsulting.com; AIWA)
Julie Dennis (julie.dennis@deo.myflorida.com)
Shawn Jordan (shawn.jordan@dnr.state.ga.us)
Bill Ross (bross@brookspierce.com; SERPPAS)
Paul Friday (paul.friday@usmc.mil)
April Turner (april.turner@scseagrant.org)

Following introductions the group discussed the progress the team has made over the course of the last year on the identified priorities from the Implementation Plan. In particular, the group discussed the top two priorities (Protection of Military Waterfronts [WW2B1] and Working Waterfronts Definitions/Criteria for Regional Inventory [WW1C1]). It was mentioned that a military operations/training routes/infrastructure inventory is underway (nearly complete for GA, SC, and NC) so the group focused its attention on the review of the draft Working Waterfronts Definitions list. Judging from the participants' comments and lively discussion, the WW team still needs to revisit and tweak the definitions further. For example some participants suggested that recreational working waterfront needed to encompass beach access since fishing piers are included and beaches are economic engines and have significant influence on working waterfronts. Also need to include private and public marines for recreational working waterfronts; and some felt that military specifically needed to be included in working waterfronts definitions, not just the separate category for military routes and operations. It was clear from this discussion that the core team needs to set up a conference call in the near future to address the issues brought up in this meeting and finalize the definitions.

In addition the participants reviewed and edited the WW Summary Reports presentation in preparation for its delivery in the general session on Day 2 of the meeting.

Breakout Session 2 – Implementing the Action Plan: Continuing Our Work

The afternoon of Day 1 the group reconvened their planning discussions continuing to identify how to begin and/or continue working on the priority action items. The group discussed how to go about identifying and compiling land parcels in each coastal county that correspond to the working waterfronts as defined/characterized by the team for the resource inventory. Food for thought: Chris Russo asked the group to think about how to determine which technical area is

APPENDIX 1 – IATT BREAKOUT SESSION NOTES

most appropriate to handle certain tasks where there is a lot of overlap among/ between priority areas.

In addition to this task the group was asked to review the GSAA Regional Information Management Systems (RIMS) project and provide feedback and suggestions for types of data layers to be included in the database management portal. SECORA staff (Debra Hernandez & Jennifer Dorton) heading up this effort attended part of the session to discuss the project and garner the team's input. The majority of this session was dedicated to discussing RIMS (including prioritizing the listed project data layers [high/medium/low] and identifying spatial data needs that the group felt should be added to the portal.

The existing data layers of high importance to the group were bathymetry, submerged aquatic vegetation, recreational boating, commercial fishing, dredging, military activity, and protected areas. Beach renourishment and cables were of medium importance and the rest of the data categories were rated as low importance with respect to working waterfronts. The group identified parcel data and existing conservation easements as additional data layers to be included of high importance and possibly buoys/observation platforms data as a med/low priority addition. The RIMS team also requested that the group complete and submit a questionnaire as part of this exercise. Jennifer Dorton expressed an interest in getting all technical team members to complete an online survey regarding the RIMS project. She will forward it to the core technical team for distribution to our additional team members.

Breakout Session 3 – Implementing the Action Plan: Next Steps

The purpose of this last concurrent session was to decide on specific next steps for the team to take to implement the GSAA Action Plan in the next 12-18 months, including resources to accomplish these next steps. The group was tasked with preparing a report to this effect based on their discussion. The time allotted for this session was short so the group came up with some general steps, but agreed to table much of the discussion to be continued at a later date. The technical team report on next steps to the steering group, priority area technical teams, and other participants included:

- 1) Continuing to work on the top 2 priorities that are underway, with particular attention paid to finalizing the working waterfront definitions/criteria;
- 2) Begin focusing on the additional priorities identified in the original top 5;
- 3) Engage more stakeholders representing the commercial and recreational marine trades businesses;
- 4) Explore/research using other initiatives to further those outlined in the WW plan (e.g., Working Waterfronts Website may have resources that would help to develop flexible incentives, Florida entities including FL Sea Grant working on the development of a evaluation tool designed to protect critical maritime infrastructure which could be adapted, piloted, and expanded to rest of the South Atlantic states);
- 4) RIMS database - addressing how can compile parcel data for working waterfronts for the region for inclusion in the portal system;
- 5) Contact Clemson University (and others) with expertise/research to address the task of planning for the effects of emerging industries (Obj. W.W.3)

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Governors' South Atlantic Alliance 2nd Annual Meeting Disaster Resilient Communities Issue Area Team Breakout Session Summary

Session attendees: Jennifer Kline (GA), , Will Salters (SC) , Julie Dennis (FL), Tancred Miller (NC), Rick Devoe (SC Sea Grant), Laura Herbert (FL), Richard Bandy (NOAA), Colt Bowles (USACE), Holly Weyers (USGS), Barbara Neale (SC DHEC), Bethney Ward (NOAA CSC), Adam Stein (NOAA CSC).

Jennifer Kline (Team Lead) kicked off the first breakout session with an overview of what the DRC team had accomplished over the past year. The group had accomplished the tasks laid out at last year's meeting which were DRC3A(1) and (2). DRC3A(1) was to review post-disaster redevelopment planning processes and inventory, what has been done throughout all of the states, especially Florida, and other Alliances. DRC3A(2) was to hold a regional summit in Florida to improve understanding of post-disaster redevelopment options. Jennifer went over the presentation that was going to be given to the GSAA the following day and if any additional items needed to be added.

Dr. Chester Jackson was able to attend this session and provided the group with an overview and status of the vulnerability portion of the Programmatic Funding Grant the GSAA received. There was discussion on the social vulnerability portion of the project, capabilities, and how the information would be served.

Next the group discussed potential funding options to accomplish implementation steps. Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program funding was brought up as an option by Colt Bowles. Adam Stein (NOAA CSC) discussed the possibility of funding through NOAA's Coastal Resilience Networks (Crest) Program. The Program funds projects that help communities become more resilient to the threats posed by coastal hazards which include storms, flooding, sea level rise, climate change, etc. Currently, funding opportunities are limited to the Pacific Islands, Gulf of Mexico, and West Coast Regions but could be expanded if a region were to express greater interest. Holly Weyers brought up the Department of Interior's Climate Science Center and that funding may be available through the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. Julie Dennis discussed the possibility of bringing in new partners based on the implementation items and applying for grants through those partnerships.

The second session was a directed conversation deciding upon new tasks and implementation items to accomplish over the next 12 months.

Randall Schneider of NOAA started off the meeting by briefing the group on some upcoming events and projects. NOAA looking at preplanning as well as post disaster development planning. They are holding meetings to provide technical assistance on sea level rise, land planning. This is similar to the project that Jessica Whitehead with Sea Grant is working on.

After Mr. Schneider left the team continued discussion on identifying action items and implementation steps and how to accomplish these steps.

Will Salters asked Adam Stein (CSC) to elaborate on his continuing work after the PDRP summit. Adam followed up with other communities on the outcomes of the Summit. If we are able to influence Needs Assessment accordingly that line up with implementation plan and look at predisaster planning then Assessment would occur for the Southeast. Rick Devoe asked about building a community of practice around this topic. Jennifer said the existing COP is working towards this.

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Julie brought up the consultants interest in PDRP at the Summit. Funding in Florida from CZM and FEMA for PDRP has dried up but limited efforts continue without funding. Julie asked if the community of practice should be opened up to a broader group.

The discussion went towards short term economic recovery implementation steps and that more information will be coming out in November.

Jennifer discussed moving forward with the following steps in DRC3A since the previous year had focused on steps 1 and 2. Julie mentioned she knew of some databases that were existing and rather than duplicating efforts the team could look into those i.e. APA database. Adam stated that the contact for the APA database is Jim Schwab and they are currently seeking information. Julie stated that work is also being done concerning DRC3A steps 4 and 5. NDRF is coming in to play and there are questions on how states, local governments and feds can interface. Jennifer asked how we approach the outcome under step 5. A question was raised if we know all the federal assistance. Colton said that USACE is working on what local EMD are doing. Julie stressed that we need to tell FEMA our need to know how everything is working together. Will brought up how a lot of the actions we were taking were “check the box” items and how do we work towards sustained and continued efforts in important areas.

Bethney stated that CSC is developing a new mapping project overlaying census blocks with land cover. It will be starting next year and could potentially start in southeast. Adam suggested that it could overlay with CJ's project and feed into the Social Vulnerability Index.

Julie noted that under DRC3c there is overlap with existing efforts and would make sense to bring in private business redevelopment. Rick thought it would be good work through this and start including the Chambers of Commerce. Julie agreed that it would be good to explain to the Chambers where they fit in the redevelopment process.

Jennifer asked the group if we should commit to doing all implementation steps for DRC3c. Julie thought that 1 could be accomplished and Laura stated that 2 could be accomplished easy enough and FEMA has training concerning 3. Jennifer asked if we can engage the State EMD managers. Colton and Richard said they have the contacts and relationships with managers in SC and NC. Jennifer asked the group that given the discussion the team should go forward with the rest of the items in DRC3A and DRC3C 1,2, & 4. The consensus was on moving forward with those items.

The team then decided that Jim Schwab and Gavin Smith should be invited to team meetings to discuss topics on DRC3A 1 & 2. A question came up on how to get at DRC3A 4. The team thought it should be viewed not as much like an inventory but a case study.

Deborah Hernandez came in to discuss SECORRA project. Provided group with spreadsheets for data layers. Since the SECORRA project was focused from the near-shore out into the ocean the team didn't think the project was applicable for their needs.

The afternoon session offered time for a little more discussion on how to best address the implementation steps and needs. The group put new workshop under DRC3c -4 needing funding in order to be accomplished. It was recommended that the team secure funding and utilize interns for items under DRC3A 3 & 4. The group also decided to engage Thomas Rupert, Jim Schwab, Gavin Smith, State Hazard Mitigation folks, EDA – Josh Barnes.

Team Lead will be rotating to Will Salters (SC) who will chair the next meeting on Wednesday, September 26 at 2:00.

APPENDIX 1 – IATT BREAKOUT SESSION NOTES

Healthy Ecosystems Team: Notes From Last Breakout Session

Future Activities:

- ▶ Allow ocean mapping activities to proceed as planned through funded sources
 - Vetting of the data layers being developed through RIMS
- ▶ Start a similar process for the inshore areas
 - Compile lists of habitats, resources, uses, events
 - Prioritize data layers to be worked on
 - Will mesh well with TNC SALCC funded effort
- ▶ Initiate some webinars with GIS IT staff and HE Team to evaluate existing standards in each state, and issues involved in developing consolidated data layers having a common standard.
- ▶ Identify important gaps in mapping efforts that state's could tackle
- ▶ Adopted the approach of other teams and will be rotating the State Team Lead annually.
- ▶ Jan Landsberg will assume the Team Lead responsibilities for the coming year.