

Long-Term Recovery Planning Summit

Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning & Beyond Jacksonville, Florida

OVERVIEW:

This meeting included topics on the National Disaster Recovery Framework, the Florida Statewide Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Initiative, a panel on local perspectives on Florida's Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning, a researcher's perspective on long-term recovery, economic development in recovery through public-private partnerships, lessons learned in Tennessee and Georgia, NGOs involved in disaster recovery, long-term recovery actions in local government, and a panel on the future of holistic long-term recovery. The meeting also included an activity on the future of long-term recovery in the U.S. and discussions on how to involve the private sector in long-term recovery.

DAY ONE: Tuesday, July 10th

The National Disaster Recovery Framework: Making the Connection Between Local, State, and Federal Government Activities During Long-Term Recovery

Bruce Kinney and Lynda Lowe of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV gave an overview of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), one of the five frameworks required under Presidential Policy Directive-8. They explained that the NDRF is not a plan, but rather a flexible guide to effective recovery. It promotes the establishment of post-disaster organizations to manage recovery and supplies the leadership needed to create well-coordinated support to the Community.

The Florida Statewide Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Initiative

Julie Dennis of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity gave an overview on the State of Florida's Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning (PDRP) Initiative. She provided a brief history on the initiative, which started with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funds through a grant with the Florida Coastal Management Program and established a focus group of experts who identified what should be in a PDRP. This was closely followed by the designation of pilot communities who used guidelines created by the focus group to create their own PDRPs. Julie then provided an overview of the Florida PDRP guidebook, how communities can create their own PDRP, and how to integrate PDRPs into other state and local plans.

Florida Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning: A Local Perspective

The panel on local post-disaster redevelopment planning consisted of: Curtis Knowles from the Polk County Board of County Commissioners, Helene Wetherington from Galvin, Giordano & Associates, Michael Wood of MWR Planning, and Allara Mills Gutcher of The Planning Collaborative who worked as the city planning director during Panama City's pilot program. The presenters discussed the strengths and weaknesses of their recovery planning process and how to best include all sectors during the planning.



Governors' South Atlantic Alliance

North Carolina • South Carolina • Georgia • Florida

Long-Term Recovery Planning Summit

Long-Term Recovery: Experience from the Field

Gavin Smith from the Department of City and Regional Planning at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill discussed his experience in academia and planning for post-disaster recovery. Gavin expressed his concern over the disconnect between many of the components involved in disaster recovery planning and the “zone of uncertainty” in which a large number of people involved do not understand their role in recovery. Gavin also discussed case studies from his research regarding weaknesses within each sector.

Economic Development in Long-Term Recovery: Successful Public-Private Partnerships

Mickie Valente of Valente Strategic Advisors, Josh Barnes of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, and Brian Strong from Florida Blue introduced the topic of economic development in long-term recovery through successful public-private partnerships. Their presentations were focused on how to include the private sector in discussions, background on the NDRF, and what some private organizations are doing for their employees and clients.

Involving the Private Sector in Long-Term Recovery: Café Conversations & Report Out

The group broke into seven sub-groups at round tables to discuss and record responses to two questions: what projects, programs, or collaborations already exist where the private sector is doing or involved in disaster planning, response, and/or recovery?; and what else is needed to effectively involve the private sector in planning for and implementing long-term recovery? From these conversations many examples of current programs were listed, and participants discussed the need for open dialogue, reaching out to small local businesses, to consider funding outside of federal assistance, and to involve the private sector.

Long-Term Recovery: Lessons Learned from Tennessee and Georgia

Elgan Usrey from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and Brian Laughlin of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) presented on the steps their respective states have taken in the wake of disasters towards long-term recovery. They provided case study examples and lessons learned from the process.

DAY TWO: Wednesday, July 11th

The Non-Governmental Role in Long-Term Recovery: NGPs Active in Disaster Recovery

Emily Meyer of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Tom Linley of Volunteer Florida, and Jody Hill of Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster presented on the importance of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) as a critical component of the recovery process. The speakers stressed the need to bring these organizations to the table and to utilize their already established missions towards the recovery plan.



Governors' South Atlantic Alliance

North Carolina • South Carolina • Georgia • Florida

Long-Term Recovery Planning Summit

Long-Term Recovery In-Action: Featuring a Local Government

Ed DiTommaso and Ron Feldner of Garden City, Georgia, and Norman Bourdeau from Calcasieu Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) in Louisiana, presented on the long-term recovery efforts in action in their communities. Garden City has just acquired grant funding to focus on vulnerability and risk assessment, and they are currently working on a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program to determine vulnerability within the City. Calcasieu is working on opportunities within their own community to rebuild in a timely and effective manner without relying heavily on federal funds.

The Future of Long-Term Recovery in the United States: Roving Flipchart Activity

Meeting participants broke into ten different groups at flipcharts around the room. Each flipchart asked one of five different questions based on long-term recovery in the U.S. and applying some of the lessons and insights gained from the conference. Some reoccurring issues include the need to reach the public, both with information on how to plan for recovery and why recovery planning is important. There is also a need for further education at every level in terms of what roles are following a disaster and when to transition to long-term recovery. Finally, the importance of bringing all the sectors to the table while planning for long-term recovery.

The Future of Holistic Long-Term Recovery: A Panel Discussion

As the final element of the conference, there was a panel of six long-term recovery experts from various sectors to answer any questions from the floor. The panel included: Curtis Knowles of Polk County, Florida; Brian Laughlin of GEMA; Bruce Kinney of FEMA; Mickie Valente of Valente Strategic Advisors; Jody Hill of Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster; and Gavin Smith of University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The questions asked the panel about road blocks they had encountered, research initiatives needed to plan for recovery, and resources different sectors have to help establish statewide recovery plans.



Governors' South Atlantic Alliance

North Carolina • South Carolina • Georgia • Florida