

# STRENGTHENING COASTAL COUNTIES RESILIENCE WORKSHOP



November 7-8, 2019  
Cameron/Willacy Counties  
South Padre Island, Texas





## WELCOME!

Welcome to the Strengthening Coastal Counties Resilience Follow Up Workshop! Over the past year, your teams have participated in the Strengthening Coastal Counties Resilience technical assistance program. This workshop is the culmination of our work together, during which we have worked to facilitate the creation of collaborative partnerships between county and community leaders to catalyze the implementation of resilience strategies that address unique local challenges and improve the management of coastal resources

For this workshop, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), the Coastal States Organization (CSO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have worked to bring leaders in the areas of resilience you identified as most pressing to your county resilience needs. Throughout the workshop, these experts will lead discussions on a range of resilience topics including economic resilience, mitigation, community outreach and education, watershed planning, and the Community Rating System (CRS). We look forward to the exchange of knowledge both between invited speakers and workshop participants and peer-to-peer among our teams who represent rural coastal communities from across the Gulf of Mexico region.

Please join us in providing social media updates during the peer exchange using #CoastalCounties! Follow along on Twitter with @NACoTweets.

We'd especially like to thank the NOAA for their generous support of this program. We hope that the information presented, and connections made during this convening will be beneficial to you and your community for years to come. Please be sure to complete the post-event online evaluation form to help us improve our offerings, and please do not hesitate to share your feedback with the project team here at the event or after you return home. Thank you for taking the time to join us in South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas!

## MEETING LOCATION

The event hotel is the [Pearl South Padre Hotel & Resorts](#) (310 Padre Blvd., South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas 78597). Our activities will be held in Sand Dunes Ballroom C/D on the Second Floor. When you go up the stairs or exit the elevator, Sand Dunes Ball Room C/D should be the first room you see.



## TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Attendees are responsible for coordinating their own travel between their airport of choice and the event hotel, as well as to and from their dinner options. The [Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport](#) and [Valley International Airport](#) are approximately 36 minutes and 1 hour from the event hotel, respectively. **To get to the hotel from the Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport or Valley International Airport, you can either rent a car, book a shuttle or take a taxi.**

A taxi trip from Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport to the event hotel will cost approximately \$65 one way. **Shuttle reservations from either airport are recommended regardless of when you travel** but walk ups are accepted until 8pm CT; shuttle service is not available after 8pm CT unless you make a reservation ahead of time. Contact information for shuttle reservations from Brownsville can be found [here](#) and from Valley International can be found [here](#). Shuttle costs are approximately \$35.

## MEALS

NACo will provide breakfast and lunch on both days of the workshop. *Dinner will not be provided.* Here are the top restaurant recommendations from Trip Advisor – and I am sure our cohort members from Cameron and Willacy Counties will give us some further recommendations:

- [Ceviche Ceviche](#)
- [Gabiella's Italian Grill](#)
- [The Meatball Cafe](#)
- [Grapevine Cafe & Coffeehouse](#)
- [Pier 19](#)
- [Jax](#)
- [Liam's Steak House & Oyster Bar](#)
- [Yummies Bistro](#)
- [BurgerFi](#)
- [Sea Ranch Restaurant](#)

## ON-SITE COASTAL COUNTIES STAFF

Haley Briel	Research Specialist	ASFPM	<a href="mailto:haley@floods.org">haley@floods.org</a>	
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## AGENDA

### Thursday, November 7, 2019

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>8:30 – 9:00 a.m.</b>   | <b>Event Arrival and Registration</b><br>Participants arrive and check-in.  |
| <b>9:00 – 9:15 a.m.</b>   | <b>Opening Remarks</b><br>Project team welcomes everyone and sets out the structure for the rest of the workshop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jenna Moran, Associate Program Director for Resilience, NACo</li><li>• Susan Fox, Project Manager and Training Specialist, NOAA</li></ul>   |
| <b>9:15 – 10:45 a.m.</b>  | <b>Team Presentations: <i>Where are they now?</i></b><br>Teams give introductory presentations on their communities, summaries of their original action plans and updates on their work to date.  |
| <b>10:45 – 11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Networking Break</b>   |
| <b>11:00 a.m. – Noon</b>  | <b>Flood Economics: <i>Mitigation Saves</i> and the Impact of Resilience on Bond Ratings</b><br>The <i>Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves</i> report found that every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation saves \$6 in future disaster costs. Additionally, resilience planning and mitigation efforts will soon have an impact on local governments' credit ratings. This session will delve into the national efforts that are exploring the economic benefits of pre-disaster mitigation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Angie Gladwell, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Risk Management Directorate, Resilience/Federal Emergency Management Agency</li><li>• Adebola Kushimo, Vice President – Senior Analyst, Public Finance Group, Moody's Investors Service Ltd.</li><li>• Keith Porter, PE PhD, Principal, SPA Risk LLC</li></ul> |
| <b>Noon – 1:00 p.m.</b>   | <b>Luncheon Presentation on Watershed Resilience Planning</b><br>Watershed resilience plans require cross-county, multi-jurisdictional collaboration in order to address complex threats. This luncheon presentation will focus on how the Milwaukee Metropolitan Stormwater District (MMSW) built – and has implemented – its Resilience Plan in partnership with other jurisdictions and stakeholder groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Karen Sands, Director of Planning, Research and Sustainability, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District</li></ul>   |
| <b>1:00 – 1:15 p.m.</b>   | <b>Break</b>  |



**1:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Overcoming Barriers To and Best Practices For Implementation and Enforcement of Mitigation Activities**

The key to making hazard mitigation planning work is the implementation of recommended actions and ongoing communication among participants in the planning process. This session will focus on overcoming barriers to the implementation of outlined mitigation efforts and challenges and successes related to regulating and enforcing mitigation activities.

- Lisa Foster, CFM, Floodplain Administrator, Pinellas County, Fl.
- Gene Henry, AICP, Hazard Mitigation Manager, Hillsborough County, Fl.
- Paula Lorente, Ph.D., Fellow, Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, Texas A&M

**2:30 – 2:45 p.m.**

**Team Spotlight: *Santa Rosa County, Florida***

**2:45 – 3:15 p.m.**

**Roundtable Discussions on Mitigation**

In small assigned groups, attendees will have an in-depth discussion on hazard mitigation, drawing from the presentations and conversations today as well as experiences back home. Table assignments can be found on the back of your nametag.

*Discussion questions:*

- *What stood out from today's panel discussion? What do you plan to take back to your county?*
- *What successes or failures have you had in your county and what lessons learned would you share?*
- *Is there anything about mitigation that wasn't touched on during today's conversation that you would like to know more about?*

**3:15 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Break**

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Team Strategy Session**

Teams will meet to retrospectively look back at the work they have accomplished over the past year and begin to identify next steps.

*Objectives:*

- *Discuss key lessons learned from the past year*
- *Identify where they would still appreciate support*
- *Start to think about next steps*

**4:30 – 4:45 p.m.**

**Team Spotlight: *Calcasieu & Cameron Parishes, Louisiana***

**4:45 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Wrap-up of Day #1 & Preview of Day #2**



## Friday, November 8, 2019

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**8:30 – 8:45 a.m.**      **Opening of Day #2**

**8:45 – 9:00 a.m.**      **Team Spotlight: *Harrison County, Mississippi***

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**      **Educating Residents on Flood Risk to Build Community Capacity and Preparedness**

Taking measures to advise community residents about local flood hazards, the importance of flood insurance, ways to prevent or reduce flood damage to buildings and the natural benefits and functions of floodplains is vital to building your community's capacity to respond to and recover from a flood. This session will explore strategies and resources communities can use as they work to build awareness and knowledge of flood risk.

- Benjamin J. McFarlane, Senior Regional Planner, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Tim Trautman, Engineering & Mitigation Program Manager, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services

**10:00 – 10:15 a.m.**      **Break**

**10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**      ***Local Government Guide to Coastal Resilience* Feedback Session**

The project team is seeking feedback on the Beta version *Local Government Guide to Coastal Resilience*. During this session, at each table, we will pull the website up on a laptop and guide the group through a discussion of their thoughts on the usability of the tool, from functionality to content.

**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**      **Building CRS and CRS User Groups**

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program that provides communities the opportunity to reduce their flood insurance premiums, while offering co-benefits to the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain. This session will explore ways communities can develop CRS Users Groups, or communities that meet regularly to discuss CRS and other flood management-related concerns

- Niki Pace, Sustainability Coordinator, Law and Policy Program, Louisiana Sea Grant
- Mary-Carson Stiff, Policy Director, Wetlands Watch
- Will Underwood, Coastal Section Administrator, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Lands Division
- Moderator: Wes Shaw, Coastal Consultant to the CRS Task Force

**12:15 – 1:00 p.m.**      **Lunch**



**1:00 – 1:15 p.m.**

**Spotlight on National Resources Available from the Texas Community Watershed Partners (TCWP)**

TCWP provides education and outreach to local governments and citizens on the impacts of land use on watershed health and water quality. TCWP operates on the Land and Sea Grant model of integrated university research, education, and extension.

- Valeria Keese, Coastal Resiliency Program Coordinator, TCWP

**1:15 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Team Spotlight: *Cameron and Willacy County, Texas***

**1:30 – 2:15 p.m.**

**Roundtable Discussion on Social Vulnerability**

In small assigned groups (check your nametag for your table assignment), attendees will have an in-depth discussion on social vulnerability, the problem and steps you can take to address it.

*Discussion questions:*

- *What did you pull from the readings?*
- *What is your county doing with regard to social vulnerability?*
- *What have you pulled from your experiences?*

**2:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Networking Break**

**2:30 – 3:15 p.m.**

**Team Strategy Session**

Teams will meet to discuss finalize their next steps in this work moving out of the technical assistance program. They should choose one team member to present the team's plans to the larger group.

*Discussion questions:*

- *How might you overcome the barriers to implementation you have encountered to date? What steps can you take?*
- *Do you have everyone at the table who needs to be? If not, how might you engage them?*
- *Have you addressed your socially vulnerable populations, if applicable to the goals of your project?*
- *What types of data and/or funding needs do you have? Have those resources and opportunities been identified?*
- *Is there anything that hasn't been touched on during the course of this program that you would like further assistance around?*

**3:15 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Final Team Presentations**

Teams will present an overview of their plans for the future followed by time for critical feedback. Once all teams have presented, a facilitated discussion of major themes and takeaways from the program will be held.



**3:45 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Final Lessons and Next Steps**

- Jenna Moran, Program Manager for Resilience, NACo

**4:00– 5:00 p.m.**

***Coastal Flooding and Managed Retreat - A Siting Analysis Tool***

NOAA is seeking feedback on the design of a resource to help communities prepare for future coastal inundation.





## NOTES



Attendee List and Contact Information

Team	Title	Name	Title	Organization	Email
Calcasieu/Cameron Parish	Mr.	Alberto Galan	Assistant to the Administrator	Cameron Parish Police Jury	agalan@cpjpi.net
Calcasieu/Cameron Parish	Hon.	Jennifer Scott	Police Juror	Calcasieu Parish Police Jury	dscott@cpjpi.net
Calcasieu/Cameron Parish	Ms.	Jennifer Cobian	Assistant Director, Division of Planning & Development	Calcasieu Parish Police Jury	kcobian@cpjpi.net
Calcasieu/Cameron Parish	Ms.	Kara Bonsall	Coastal Zone Administrator, Certified Floodplain Manager	Cameron Parish Police Jury	kbonsall@cameronpj.org
Calcasieu/Cameron Parish	Ms.	Laurie Cormier	Coastal Zone Manager	Calcasieu Parish Police Jury	lcormier@cpjpi.net
Cameron/Willacy Counties	Mr.	Augusto Sanchez-Gonzalez	Director of Estuary Program & Environmental Projects UTRGV	Cameron County	augusto.sanchez@co.cameron.tx.us
Cameron/Willacy Counties	Hon.	David Garza	Commissioner, Pct. #3	Cameron County	dagarza@co.cameron.tx.us
Cameron/Willacy Counties	Hon.	Eddy Gonzales	Commissioner, Pct. #4	Willacy County	eduardo.gonzales@co.willacy.tx.us
Cameron/Willacy Counties	Hon.	Elberto Guerra	Commissioner, Pct. #1	Willacy County EMS	roseanna.ramirez@co.willacy.tx.us
Cameron/Willacy Counties	Mr.	Gilbert Torres	Community Development Specialist	Willacy County	emsgil@yahoo.com
Cameron/Willacy Counties	Ms.	Jessica Rodriguez-Gracida	Emergency Services Field Supervisor & Deputy Emergency Manager	Willacy County	jessica.gracida@co.willacy.tx.us
Cameron/Willacy Counties	Mr.	Joe Vega	Park System Director	Cameron County	JEVega@co.cameron.tx.us
Cameron/Willacy Counties	Ms.	Kate de Gennaro	Planning Specialist, Community Resilience Collaborative (CRC)	Texas Sea Grant at Texas A&M University	kdegnnaro@tamu.edu
Harrison County	Hon.	Beverly Martin	Supervisor, District 1	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	bmartin@co.harrison.ms.us
Harrison County	Hon.	Connie Rockco	Supervisor, District 5	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	rockco@co.harrison.ms.us
Harrison County	Mr.	Danny Boudreax	Engineer	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	engineering@co.harrison.ms.us
Harrison County	Mr.	Jeff Clark	Public Information Officer	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	jdclark@co.harrison.ms.us
Harrison County	Hon.	Kent Jones	Supervisor, District 4	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	dkjones@co.harrison.ms.us
Harrison County	Mr.	Matthew Stratton	Deputy Director, Emergency Management / Homeland Security	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	mstratton@co.harrison.ms.us
Harrison County	Mr.	Paul Barnes	Director, Geographic Information Services Department	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	PBarnes@co.harrison.ms.us
Harrison County	Ms.	Theresa Hydrick	Code Enforcement Director	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	thydrick@co.harrison.ms.us
Santa Rosa County	Ms.	Christina Verlinde	UF/IFAS Fl. Sea Grant Extension	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	ChristinaV@santarosa.fl.gov
Santa Rosa County	Ms.	Cynthia Cannon	Assistant Planning Services Administrator	Santa Rosa County	CCannon@cityofpensacola.com
Santa Rosa County	Mr.	Darryl Boudreau	Watershed Coordinator	City of Pensacola	dboudreau@tnc.org
Santa Rosa County	Mr.	Kerrith Fiddler	Assistant City Administrator	The Nature Conservancy	kfiddler@cityofpensacola.com
Santa Rosa County	Ms.	Shelley Alexander	Environmental Programs Coordinator	Santa Rosa County	ShelleyA@santarosa.fl.gov
Santa Rosa County	Ms.	Shiela Fitzgerald	Grants & Special Programs Director	Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners	sheilaf@santarosa.fl.gov
Santa Rosa County	Ms.	Tanya Gallagher	GIS Coordinator	Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners	TanyaG@santarosa.fl.gov
Santa Rosa County	Ms.	Whitney Gray	Florida Resilient Coastlines Administrator	Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Coastal Office	Whitney.Gray@dep.state.fl.us
Speaker	Ms.	Adebola Kushimo	Vice President – Senior Analyst	Moody's Investors Service	adebola.kushimo@moody's.com
Speaker	Ms.	Angela Gladwell	Deputy Assistant Administrator, Risk Management Directorate	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Angela.gladwell@fema.dhs.gov
Speaker	Mr.	Benjamin McFarlane	Senior Regional Planner	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	bmcfarlane@hrpdova.gov
Speaker	Mr.	Eugene Henry	Hazard Mitigation Manager	Hillsborough County, Florida	HenryE@HillsboroughCounty.org
Speaker	Ms.	Karen Sands	Director of Planning, Research and Sustainability	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District	KSands@mmsd.com
Speaker	Dr.	Keith Porter	Principal	SPA Risk LLC	kporter@sparisk.com
Speaker	Ms.	Lisa Foster	Floodplain Administrator	Pinellas County	lfoster@co.pinellas.fl.us
Speaker	Ms.	Mary-Carson Stiff	Director of Policy	Wetlands Watch	mc.stiff@wetlandswatch.org
Speaker	Ms.	Niki Pace	Sustainability Coordinator, Law and Policy Program	Louisiana Sea Grant	nikia@lmca.la
Speaker	Dr.	Paula Lorente	Fellow, Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center (HTRC)	Texas A&M University	plorente@tamu.edu
Speaker	Mr.	Tim Trautman	Program Manager, Engineering & Mitigation Program	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services	Tim.Trautman@mecklenburgcountync.gov
Speaker	Ms.	Valeria Keese	Coastal Resiliency Program Coordinator	Texas Community Watershed Partners	valkrdz@tamu.edu
Speaker	Mr.	Wes Shaw	Coastal Consultant to the CRS Task Force	CRS Task Force	wes@blueurchin.com
Speaker	Mr.	Will Underwood	Natural Resource Planner	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Will.Underwood@dcnr.alabama.gov
Internal Project Team	Ms.	Alexis Cunningham	NOAA Digital Coast Fellow	Coastal States Organization	acunningham@coastalstates.org
Internal Project Team	Mr.	Dave Fowler	Sr. Project Manager	Association of State Floodplain Managers	dave@floods.org
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Internal Project Team	Ms.	Susan Fox	Coastal Management Specialist	NOAA Office of Coastal Management	susan.fox@noaa.gov



## ABOUT NACo

The National Association of Counties ([www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

## ABOUT ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

Association of State Floodplain Managers ([www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)) is an organization of professionals involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, National Flood Insurance Program and flood preparedness, warning and recovery. Its mission is to promote education, policies and activities that mitigate current and future losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding, and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains - all without causing adverse impacts.

## ABOUT COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

Coastal States Organization ([www.coastalstates.org](http://www.coastalstates.org)) represents the nation's Coastal States, Territories, and Commonwealths on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resource issues. It works to help states and territories maintain their leadership role in the development and implementation of national coastal and ocean policy; provide information, updates, and alerts that keep states attuned to developments in Washington, D.C.; and maintain a national coastal and ocean management community of practice.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

As the national lead for coastal management efforts, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management ([coast.noaa.gov](http://coast.noaa.gov)) is devoted to partnerships, science, and good policy. "Coastal management" is the term used by communities and organizations working to keep the nation's coasts safe from coastal hazards, rich in natural resources, and economically strong. The agency, housed within NOAA's National Ocean Service, oversees major initiatives that include the Coral Reef Conservation Program, Digital Coast, National Coastal Zone Management Program and National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

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