



## **Town of Edenton, NC RCCP Resilience Strategy**

Meeting #1

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 3:30 p.m.

Town Council Chambers, 504 South Broad St

David Stroud, Ranger Ruffins, and Abby Moore, from WSP, the Town's consultants, met with the Town of Edenton Community Action Team (CAT) to cover the topics outlined in the following agenda:

- 1 Project Update
- 2 Vision and Goal Setting
- 3 Asset Inventory
- 4 Preliminary Vulnerability Assessment Results
- 5 Next Steps
- 6 Discussion

### **Attendance**

In addition to the consulting team, there were seven attendees:

- April Lane, Environmental Task Force
- Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Manager/Planning Director
- Kent Pierce, Floodplain Administrator
- Karen Mastin, Environmental Task Force
- Cordell Palmer, Emergency Management Director
- David Herlong, Environmental Task Force
- Susan Inglis, Environmental Task Force

### **Project Update**

#### **Resilient Coastal Communities Program**

David reviewed the two phases of the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) and the steps and deliverables associated with each. This process will produce a vulnerability assessment report and a project portfolio. In this meeting, the CAT will be discussing information related to Phase 1, Steps 3, 5, and 6.

David noted that in developing the vulnerability assessment report, we are drawing from the data collection and findings from the 2018 Resilience Evaluation and Needs Assessment (RENA), which is the product of a 2016-2018 Division of Coastal Management (DCM) pilot program to develop a resiliency planning framework for coastal communities. Data and findings gathered from the RENA include historical assets, redevelopment areas, retirement communities, critical assets, and priority flooding hotspots.

The CAT team will meet in early April (this meeting may be held virtually) and again in early May. A final public meeting will also be held in May.

### **Vision & Goal Setting**

David reviewed public feedback from the first public meeting and the public survey, which has 61 responses so far. See slide 9 for a summary of responses.

Slide 9 and the comments from the survey were voiced by a couple of people as being tied into the vision and goals. CAT members added the following priorities for their vision and goals for Edenton:

- Want to be able to handle more water at higher levels
- Less damage to property and the environment in Edenton is key

Existing plans and efforts may provide a starting point for Edenton's vision and goals. CAT members were asked to consider if/how Edenton should build on existing plans such as the RENA, land use plan, regional hazard mitigation plan, Chowan County Resilient Redevelopment Plan, Albemarle Regional Resilience Portfolio, and Edenton's Neighborhood Redevelopment Plans. See slide 10 for a summary of these efforts.

A vision statement is an aspirational, future-oriented statement, and goals are specific, measurable steps to achieve the vision. WSP will draft a vision statement and goals for the CAT to review based on public input and this discussion.

### **Asset Inventory**

The asset inventory includes all categories required by DCM, and was broken down into critical assets, historic & cultural assets, natural infrastructure, and socially vulnerable populations. David reviewed assets identified for each of these categories and asked for CAT input on any missing assets. See slides 14-19 for a summary of identified assets. CAT members contributed the following additional assets:

- Edenton House: an assisted living facility to add to socially vulnerable populations.
- Swain Apartments: retirement community at East Church and Court Street, attached to the senior center, that floods frequently.
- Private utilities: Dominion Power\*, Century Link off East King Street, three cell towers on the water tower with infrastructure at ground level, Fybe (new service provider) infrastructure on Freemason Street near the substation. \*Note, a specific location for Dominion Power infrastructure was not provided. The WSP team will verify locations with Dewayne.

### **Preliminary Vulnerability Assessment Results**

David reviewed a list of hazards evaluated and stressors that may exacerbate vulnerability to these hazards:

- Potential Hazards: sea level rise, riverine & coastal flooding, stormwater flooding, storm surge and wind-driven tides, shoreline erosion
- Non-Climate Stressors: aging infrastructure, population dynamics, economic shifts, altered drainage patterns, land cover change (redevelopment / new development)

Maps of stormwater flooding areas and erosion hot spots were presented for CAT review. There was a question about the inclusion of Robin Lane; Dewayne confirmed that there is a drainage issue there which threatens West Queen Street, but only floods in major events. David indicated that the hotspot areas could be modified by the CAT/staff to make the areas more refined.

There was a question on the scope of this plan. David clarified that it covers Edenton and the ETJ where the Town may expand in the future, but not the rest of Chowan County.

David presented the methodology for the vulnerability assessment, which is a combination of exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. Each asset is rated on a scale of 0-3 for each of these categories. Exposure is determined by comparing asset locations to hazard impact areas; it is rated for each hazard and these scores are averaged to produce an overall exposure score. Sensitivity describes the degree to which an asset is cumulatively impacted by hazards. It includes how severely hazards impact an asset, whether similar assets are impacted, and how essential an asset is to community operations.

Criteria for the exposure analysis and the sensitivity analysis are summarized below.

Hazard	Exposure			
	0 - None	1 - Low	2 - Medium	3 - High
Sea Level Rise	No Exposure	Asset in 3 ft extent	Asset in 2 ft extent	Asset in 1 ft extent
Riverine & Coastal Flood	No Exposure	Asset in 0.2% floodplain	Asset in AE / A Zones	Asset in VE / V Zones
Stormwater	No Exposure	Asset within 1 block (600 ft)	Asset within 1/2 block (300 ft)	Asset located along stormwater hotspot
Storm Surge	No Exposure	Asset in Cat 5 surge zone	Asset in Cat 3-4 surge zone	Asset in Cat 1-2 surge zone
Erosion	No Exposure	Asset within 100 ft of hot spot	Asset within 75 ft of hot spot	Asset within 50 ft of hot spot

### Sensitivity Scoring Criteria:

#### Critical Assets

- 1 point if over 66% of that asset type is affected by hazards (or over 50% if there are less than 3 assets of that type)
- 1 point if individual asset is affected by multiple hazards
- 1 point if the individual asset is essential to community operations

#### Historic & Cultural Resources

- 1 point for community & cultural value
- 1 point if affected by multiple hazards
- 1 point if year built is earlier than 1900

#### Natural Resources

- low = <25% of asset area is affected by 2' SLR
- medium = 25-50% of asset area is affected by 2' SLR
- high = >50% of asset area is affected by 2' SLR

#### Socially Vulnerable Populations

- 1 point for social vulnerability
- 1 point if over 50% of that asset type is affected by hazards
- 1 point if individual location is affected by multiple hazards

Examples of exposure and sensitivity scoring were presented for some of the identified critical assets.

Adaptive capacity is a subjective category that describes an asset's ability to adapt or withstand hazard impacts. Factors to consider include if the asset is already protected; if retrofit, relocation, or another alternative is possible or if there are multiple strategies for adaptation; and if another facility could provide temporary service if/when an asset is affected. David described several types of adaptation strategies that the CAT should consider when evaluating an asset's adaptive capacity.

WSP will propose adaptive capacity scoring for the CAT to review.

#### **Next Steps & Discussion**

The asset inventory must be finalized to complete the vulnerability assessment. Please provide additional asset information by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

WSP will then provide a draft vulnerability assessment for CAT review by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The next committee meeting will be scheduled for early April.

#### **Discussion**

Erosion areas were discussed. There is an erosion problem along the waterfront that extends to Sunfish Park and into Queen Anne Creek, under the bridge and east of the bridge. The erosion zone mapping should go in the opposite direction to the Herringbone restaurant. It was noted that projects to address this will affect use of Sunfish Park (including kayak and sunfish launching) and where ferries dock. There is also erosion around bulkheads. One CAT member felt that current bulkheading is problematic and more is needed, including protection on the land side and plantings on the water side.

Drain pipes were discussed. A CAT member recalled someone mentioned pipes under Swain at a recent Council Meeting during the public comment period. If there are drain pipes under Swain that are no longer performing, this should be covered in adaptive capacity. Dewayne mentioned the Town will investigate this location and potential projects.