



Town of Edenton, NC RCCP Resilience Strategy

Meeting #1

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Town Council Chambers, 504 South Broad St

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

- 1 Introductions
- 2 Project Overview
- 3 Hazard Stressors
- 4 Asset Identification
- 5 Public & Stakeholder Involvement Strategy
- 6 Review of Existing Planning Efforts
- 7 Next Steps
- 8 Discussion

Attendance

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

- Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Manager/Planning Director
- Cordell Palmer, Emergency Management Director
- Tyler Newman, PIO
- Roger Coleman, Council Member
- Alta LeCompte, Environmental Task Force
- Susan Inglis, Environmental Task Force
- Stephen Karl, Environmental Task Force
- Kent Pierce, Floodplain Administrator
- David Herlong, Edenton resident

Project Overview

Resilient Coastal Communities Program

David provided an overview of the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) noting that the program is a culmination of coastal resilience efforts in NC over several years. After Hurricane Matthew in 2016, the Resilience Evaluation and Needs Assessment (RENA) was piloted – Edenton was a pilot community. Hurricane Florence (2018) was the catalyst for the NC Coastal Community Resilience Guide, followed by Executive Order 80 in 2020 which created the RCCP.

Scope

The RCCP program has several program objectives, outlined in the image below. The program is broken down into four overall Phases:

1. Community Engagement & Risk/Vulnerability Assessment
2. Planning, Project Identification, & Prioritization
3. Engineering & Design

Program Objectives



4. Project Implementation

For this assessment, the Town of Edenton will focus on Phases 1 and 2 which will produce two deliverables: a Vulnerability Assessment Report and a Project Portfolio. The corresponding steps are outlined on slide 11 in the PowerPoint presentation.

Hazards and Stressors

David reviewed a list of hazards and stressors to be assessed:

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

The committee discussed assessing king tides as potential hazard, but it was determined that king tides do not impact the Town. However, it was noted that wind greatly impacts the tides in Edenton.

David noted that in addition to riverine flooding, localized and stormwater flooding would be evaluated. Additionally, WSP will complete a repetitive loss analysis for the Town's Community Rating System (CRS) program. WSP will also work with the CAT to determine areas of erosion that occur in the Town.

When reviewing non-climate stressors the CAT noted that aging and undersized drainage infrastructure often contributes to flooding in Edenton. They also noted that over the years development and fill has occurred on streams and existing water bodies. This has caused flooding to occur throughout the Town.

David also reviewed initial flood hazard mapping which can be seen on slides 15 to 20 in the PowerPoint presentation.

Asset Identification

David reviewed a list of critical assets that will be incorporated into the plan noting that this is not an exhaustive list and more assets can be added. The WSP team will work with the Town to inventory and map these assets. A previous mapping inventory was completed around 5 years ago. WSP will work with the Town to locate a shapefile. Please reach out to the WSP team if there are any assets missing from this list that you would like to include. The following assets will be collected and included in the vulnerability assessment.

Critical Assets

- Roads/Evacuation routes
- Water & sewer lines
- Water/sewer treatment facilities
- Historic and cultural properties, districts, key community resources
- Community government service offices
- Schools
- Health Services
- Public safety or emergency services (police, fire, etc.)

Natural Assets

- Natural areas
- Open space
- Watersheds

Social Vulnerability (CDC SVI data and themes)

It was noted that the northeastern portion of the town is low income and may have higher vulnerability.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement Strategy

WSP proposed four CAT meetings and two public meetings:

- Kickoff Meetings: CAT Meeting 1 & Public Meeting – project kickoff and hazard and asset identification
- CAT Meeting 2 – goal setting and preliminary vulnerability assessment review
- CAT Meeting 3 – finalize vulnerability and brainstorm resilience strategies

- Final Meetings: CAT Meeting 4 & Public Meeting – review draft plan, resilience strategy selection & prioritization

David also discussed additional public outreach which includes an online and hard copy public survey, an informational flyer, and information posted on the Town's website and social media pages. The CAT suggested several places to post hard copies of the survey and informational flyer, including schools, the grocery store, the library, and public housing properties. It was also suggested that a table be set up at the farmers market or grocery store to provide more information about the Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Strategy.

WSP will work with the PIO officer and provide content for the Town's new website, social media pages, and flyers to be shared around Town. The public survey will also be shared with the CAT to review before sharing with the public.

Additional Stakeholder Involvement

David also reviewed a list of additional stakeholders to involve in the planning process. The list is shown on slide 25 of the presentation and includes a range of organizations, community groups, and churches to target for participation and input. Black churches were suggested as a stakeholder group to reach out to. The CAT was asked to please send the names of specific churches and additional stakeholders.

Stakeholders will be asked to attend public meetings and share information about plan and encourage participation. The CAT was asked to suggest additional stakeholders and provide any available contact information. It was also noted that when the plan is presented to the public it should be explained why the plan is important and how the resilience can impact their lives.

Existing Planning Efforts

David shared a list of existing town and county plans that will be reviewed to ensure an integrated approach to resilience. Slide 27 has a list of plans to be reviewed.

Next Steps and To-dos

WSP will work with the Town to set a date for the next CAT meeting. The Environmental Task force meets on the second Thursday of every month.

Below is a list of follow up items for the Town/CAT and WSP:

Edenton/CAT To-dos

- Send WSP any additional critical assets by **November 3rd**
- Send WSP shapefile of mapped critical assets
- Review public survey and provide edits to WSP by **Friday, October 27th**
- Publicize Vulnerability Assessment/Resilience Strategy and public survey on website, social media, and post hard copies in public places
- Provide names of black churches and additional stakeholders to reach out to
 - Names or contact information

WSP To-dos

- Work with Dewayne to set second CAT meeting based on task force dates
- Work with Dewayne and CAT to schedule first public meeting
- Send CAT the public survey to review
- Send Dewayne and PIO publicity language for the public survey and inform about the Vulnerability Assessment