



EDENTON *North Carolina*

Town of Edenton, NC RCCP Resilience Strategy

Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, 106 West Water Street

David Stroud, from WSP, the Town's consultants, facilitated the first public meeting for the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) and supported by Dewayne Whealton the Assistant Town Manager along with Tyler Newman the Edenton Public Information Officer. Makenzie Todd and Kasen Wally from the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) were in attendance as staff supporting the RCCP. The agenda included the following topics:

- 1 Introductions
- 2 Project Overview
- 3 Hazard & Stressors
- 4 Asset Identification
- 5 Ways to Stay Involved
- 6 Questions and Discussion

Attendance

In addition to the consultant, the Town of Edenton Staff, and the Staff from DCM there were thirteen citizens in attendance.

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
4. Project Implementation

Program Objectives



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 9 in the PowerPoint presentation.

Hazards and Stressors

David reviewed a number of maps showing the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), sea-level rise and coastal storm surge. David then highlighted a list of hazards and stressors to be assessed:

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

The members of the public discussed several areas of flooding throughout the Town from a stormwater or urban/pluvial flooding perspective where a drainage system cannot handle heavy rain in a short period of time and tidal flooding and/ or wind driven tides. During an exercise to identify areas of flooding concerns, the following areas were provided.

- ✓ Court Street (South of Queen Street and North of King Street) Between the jail and courthouse
- ✓ Parker Road area
- ✓ The area of Cabarrus Street and Johnston Street
- ✓ Near the Freeze Ice Cream Shop and Queen Street
- ✓ Dillard Avenue off of Paradise Road
- ✓ Court Street and the Senior Center (nearby train track may be acting as levee)
- ✓ Granville Street and Water Street
- ✓ Queen Street and Broad Street
- ✓ Gale Street and Broad Street
- ✓ Pembroke Circle
- ✓ Intersection of Court Street and East Eden Street (covered stream under parking lot)
- ✓ The area of Stratford Road and Hawthorn Road
- ✓ East Queen Street and Wood Street
- ✓ Junction of North Broad Street and Coke Avenue (between Colony Tire and Dollar General)
- ✓ East Water Street

There was a tremendous amount of discussion around flooding issues and areas throughout the town. An existing constructed critical wetland in the area of Virginia Avenue, West Hicks Street, and Granville Street has filled in with sedimentation over the years and has overgrown vegetation. Because the wetland is not operating properly there are impacts to surrounding homes, medical offices, county offices and the hospital. The Town has applied for a grant to remove the sedimentation and overgrown vegetation to allow better flow.

It was discussed that for project design and development, any work should take into account the entire watershed as you have to understand the impacts from upstream and with any stormwater project that might be proposed, it must consider both water quantity and quality.

David asked members of the public what the biggest flooding risk impacting Edenton is. The first response was storm surge, and many agreed with that assessment, but others thought that excessive rainfall with inadequate drainage was the biggest threat.

Asset Identification

David reviewed a list of critical assets that Town staff identified as the most important assets to be protected. A list of the identified assets is in the table below. Critical assets can be buildings, roads, utilities, etc., natural areas such as wetlands, forest, parks and open space, social vulnerability such as underserved or disadvantaged populations, etc.

David asked member of the public what other critical assets were important to protect. There were comments about all historical buildings need to be protected and others thought wetlands and natural areas were important.

Map ID	Facility	Address	Asset type
0	Edenton Police Department	301 N. Oakum Street	Safety and Security
1	Chowan County Public Safety Center	305 W. Freemason Street	Safety and Security
2	Edenton Public Works Department	118 W. Hicks Street	Government
3	Edenton Electric Department	107 W. Freemason Street	Energy
4	Edenton Fire Department	704 N. Broad Street	Safety and Security
5	Water Tower	304 Park Avenue	Water Systems
6	Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library	106 W. Water Street	Food, Hydration, Shelter
7	John A Holmes High School	600 Woodard Street	Food, Hydration, Shelter
8	Edenton Primetime Retirement Center	106 Mark Dr.	Food, Hydration, Shelter
9	Chowan River Rehabilitation & Nursing Center	1341 Paradise Road	Food, Hydration, Shelter
10	Chowan Senior Center	101 Court Street	Food, Hydration, Shelter
11	ECU Health Chowan Hospital	211 Virginia Road	Health and Medical
12	Town of Edenton Municipal Offices	400 S. Broad Street	Government
13	Substation	227 E. Freemason Street	Energy
14	College of the Albemarle/Temporary High School	824 N. Oakum	Food, Hydration, Shelter

Plan Vision and Goals

David mentioned that 41 survey responses have already been received which is considered a good response rate so far. David then asked members of the public (instead of referring to resilience or being more resilient) “what would it mean to you to be protected from flooding.” Several of those responses included.

- ✓ Safety for vulnerable populations
- ✓ Safety and less loss
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Longevity
- ✓ Peace of mind
- ✓ Ability to quickly recover
- ✓ Less cleanup
- ✓ Avoid damages (structure, contents, and landscaping)
- ✓ No insurance claims
- ✓ Avoid evacuation
- ✓ Safety for all residents
- ✓ Keep the character of the town intact
- ✓ Water will not damage my property or my neighbourhood

Stay Involved

David indicated how the public could stay involved including the Town's [flooding webpage](#) for RCCP, the public survey (found [HERE](#) or the QR code) along with attending upcoming CAT meetings (see webpage for dates and locations).

The meeting ended at 6:25 pm.

