

Meeting Notes



Project Name: Coastal Lakeshore Economy and Resiliency Initiative
Date: April 28, 2021
Meeting: Cayuga-Oswego Region – SC Meeting 1
Attachments: Attendance Sheet + Presentation

1. Introduction of Project Team

EDR (prime consultant): Jane Rice, Sam Gordon, Erica Tauzer
EcoLogic (subcontractor to EDR): Liz Moran, Sharon Anderson, Michelle McGinnis
Cameron Engineering (subcontractor to EDR): Michael Keane, Andrew Martini, David Tepper
NYS Department of State: Karen Catcher, Nancy Martel, and Chris Bauer

2. Introduction of Steering Committee

SC members in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliations. During the self-introductions, SC members were asked to respond to the following: *"On a scale of 1-10 rate your community's ability to withstand and recover from a major flooding event (1 being not at all prepared, 10 being solidly prepared).*

A range of responses were offered; the majority fell between 5 and 7. SC members noted the progress made in response to the high-water level events of 2017 and 2019. Other comments noted high variability across the shoreline regions.

3. Presentation by EDR

Erica Tauzer and Sam Gordon reviewed CLEAR program's objectives, timeline, and desired outcomes. The presentation included three specific tasks (homework assignments) for members of the Steering Committee.

1. Complete a brief on-line survey <https://forms.gle/7EqpKAsm3cr45pYdA> The survey is designed to gather information and local knowledge on the following
 - a. Lakeshore issues affecting the community
 - b. What areas/components of the community are most vulnerable to changing water levels?
 - c. Existing resources that could be enhanced or expanded
 - d. What does the community need to become more resilient (tools, etc.)?
2. Send photos that illustrate extreme water level events
3. Prepare for 'Look and Listen' Tour (**scheduled for Wed. May 19th at 10 am**) by exploring the interactive map Cayuga & Oswego:

<https://edrdpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a93e2fb586bb4e8398eb42818ac8266f>

4. Discussion (comments and responses paraphrased)

Question/comment 1: Can we share the presentation with others?

Response: Yes, after other regions have had their first SC meetings (by 4/30/21)

Question/comment 2: Are risk maps coordinated with FEMA?

Response: FEMA recently held a public information session to review updated maps for this region. The FEMA representatives explained that the updated flood mapping reflects updated topography and wave impact analysis, which improves consistency between map criteria.

Question/comment 3: The risk map suggests that the Town of Scriba is within the red/extreme risk. There are three nuclear power stations located in this region. That concerns me as this projection comes to fruition over the next 20 years.

Response: Please review risk map tool to check, but the Nine Mile power station is outside of mapped risk area.

Question/comment 4: Can be overwhelming to some of the local governments.

Response: Yes, we hear that and have much experience relating to that on a personal level. We will work to make sure our time with you is as efficient as possible, and that documents will be useful for your municipality in the long term to leverage resources.

Question/comment 5: Are you planning to share the list of people on the local SC? It would be nice to be able to contact our cohort

Response: Yes, this information will be shared

Question/comment 6: Emphasis seems to be on the flooding aspect, but we also experience low-water events. Will the CLEAR initiative also consider these events?

Response: Yes, we are talking about extreme variability. What is most recent in our memories is the floods of 2017 and 2019. Resiliency is being able to operate in variable conditions and the extent to which we can be prepared for those extremes.

Question/comment 7: Offered a comment based on his experiences working in the eastern Lake Ontario region (Sandy Creeks area) which is within a LWRP region. Referred to a long-term study of shoreline changes since the 1980s in this region. Dramatic variability, look at Story Maps on the Sandy Creek website. With storms and westerly winds, onshore wave height is 17 ft, offshore is 20+ feet.

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Question/comment 8: The elephant in the room is Plan 2014. Unless you tackle that head on, it is going to be difficult to get buy-in. Rather than ignoring it, I think we need to talk to the community. The extreme highs and lows exacerbate the perception that all the blame lies with Plan 2014. Was the CLEAR program initiated in response to Plan 2014?

Response: This effort will not address Plan 2014. What it can do is help communities be prepared for variability.

Question/comment 9: Many members of the Fair Haven community place blame for the fluctuating water levels on Plan 2014. Whenever water levels are discussed, someone brings up Plan 2014.

Response: Thank you for bringing up that issue. We may consider having a focus group to figure out how to deal with that sentiment. We do not want to spend our time debating why it is happening but figuring out strategies to combat and prepare for the variability.

Copies To: All members of the Cayuga-Oswego CLEAR Steering Committee, Consultant Team, and NYSDOS representatives

Meeting notes were prepared by Michelle McGinnis of EcoLogic. If there are any discrepancies, please notify our office within three business days of receipt.