Public Workshop #3

Project Name: Coastal Lakeshore Economy and Resiliency Initiative
Date: November 10, 2021
Meeting: Cayuga-Oswego County Region – Public Workshop #3
Attachments: Presentation

1. Welcome and Introduction

Sharon Anderson (facilitator) opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Project Team members in attendance included:
EDR (prime consultant): Jane Rice, Sam Gordon, Erica Tauzer
Ecologic (subcontractor to EDR): Liz Moran, Sharon Anderson, Jasmine James
Cameron Engineering (subcontractor to EDR): David Tepper
NYS Department of State: Karen Catcher, Nancy Martel

A total of 25 participants logged onto the Zoom session (this count included several Steering Committee and NYSDEC representatives).

2. CLEAR Overview

With some attendees joining their first meeting, the presentation began with an overview of the CLEAR initiative, including a map of the Lake Ontario shoreline regions, and the planning process, deliverables, and schedule. The EDR team outlined that CLEAR is focused on assisting communities reduce the risk of harm to their vulnerable assets (including property, natural resources, infrastructure, public health and safety, and the local economy) posed by fluctuating water levels. CLEAR is designed as a community-led initiative that will recommend actions for resilience to water level changes that reflect the unique features and challenges of the CNY shoreline region.

3. Presentation by Mary Austerman

Mary Austerman, a Great Lakes Coastal Community Development Specialist with New York Sea Grant presented on Scenario Planning. First, she explained that the Sea Grant program in New York is one of thirty-four across the United States. Scenario planning is meant to brainstorm "what if" situations, where groups can determine if a project could have co-benefits or conflicting issues with other projects or aspects of the environment. She used Wayne County's project as an example for their focus areas and processes. Austerman emphasized that each project is unique, and that there are many possible approaches and tools that can be used successfully.

Attendees were encouraged to use various resources to create ideas, projects, and learn information about the CLEAR initiative.

4. Interactive Session

An interactive session using the tool Google Jamboard followed the explanation of the strategy matrix and themes; the interactive session was structured by grouping similar themes. Three

Jamboards were used to list potential projects and encourage comments on each of the various projects. Meeting participants were encouraged to list potential challenges, partnerships, and champions. The Jamboards will be left open for approximately one week to allow time for participants to read and make comments. The links to each of the Jamboards are listed:

Jamboard 1 (Coastal Systems):
https://jamboard.google.com/d/1jygCAhOZTPacKWHQN2MDIczTJDLWyocQy-O25eoKxnw/edit?usp=sharing

Jamboard 2 (Health/Safety/Water/Wastewater): https://jamboard.google.com/d/1-gAQVYimFDktnxNMFTrLU__74I6WCA56-Lg5xFIwZS0/edit?usp=sharing

Jamboard 3 (Tourism and Built Environment):
https://jamboard.google.com/d/1HATO34ZjlI9KG_YfTWM7E-VhxwI4EQMDTUtcwI_pwRQ/edit?usp=sharing

2021-11-10 CLEAR Public Workshop #3: Cayuga and Oswego Counties

Jamboard Notes (as of 9 pm November 10, 2021)

Question Prompts (the same for each Jamboard):

- *Are there any potential project partners you think may be helpful?*
- *Are there names of potential champions that could lead this project?*
- *Are there any challenges that you think may occur?*
- *How can we address/solve these challenges?*

PROJECT TITLE	COMMENTS COLLECTED DURING THE MEETING
Coastal Resiliency Network (Theme 1: Communication)	- US Army Corps of Engineers has an Engineering with Nature Network (good model): https://ewn.erdc.dren.mil/ - I like the idea of CRN. Sam G. was correct when he noted the lack of time/personnel/other resources - especially at the town and village level (no staff) to implement or even to coordinate and collaborate with other entities. CLEAR can emphasize the need for funding resources to offset the cost of staff dedicated to these communication activities out of the County and Regional Planning Agencies - just a thought. - NYSG would be interested in being involved in a CRN. There's been a lot of similar talk across the regions.
Regional Resiliency Newsletter & Resource Database (Theme 1: Communication)	(no comments)

High-Water Warning System (Theme 1: Communication)	• grassroots involvement • hunting clubs, fishing clubs, educational institutions located on or near the lake • An aspect of communication that is needed when a high-water event is unfolding over time is a centralized and informed community webpage (not sure how local or regional this may need to be) where residents/businesses can get information on help/resources/status of emergency operations. This was a real challenge in 2017 and 2019 flooding. The State was very good in 2019 flooding with daily group calls with emergency responders to coordinate actions. Something similar on a community level is needed. • much of the lake shoreline has some level of vested interest group seeking to protect the natural system • Great idea, we included something like this in our LWRP...better warning system through NYS and our Emergency Management Office, and getting people signed up for the NY Alert system.
Nature-Based Shoreline Protection Measures (Theme 3: Natural Systems)	• Does anyone have any real solutions to erosion along the large bluffs? • Roy Widrig at NY Sea Grant may be a resource here.
Integrate Natural Protective Features into Municipal Level Planning (Theme 3: Natural Systems)	• For Sterling & Fair Haven most of the Lake Ontario shoreline is included in a designated Coastal Erosion Hazard Area (CEHA), so there are some limitations in place to development already, but more could be added. • Could designation of Critical Environmental Areas under local SEQRA regulations be a tool for protective measures?
Regional Circuit Rider for Technical Assistance to Municipalities (Theme 4: Land Use)	• Assist local communities with grants and project implementation. • some county planning departments may not have the level of capacity necessary to serve as a central hub for resiliency planning DITTO THAT • This has come up in other regions too. It might be good to talk about this. (It's Mary Austerman) • Not a bad idea for those that don't have access to county or regional planners • I like the idea of adding circuit technical assistance - is there a means to make that happen through County Planning Departments. Challenging to add staff in fiscally strapped legislatures.
Local Vulnerability Assessment and Assistance Program (Theme 2: Public Health & Safety)	• Hazard Mitigation Planning is an opportunity • everyone is having sewer and water and infrastructure issues, how do we coordinate? Lots of $ ARPA, REDI, infrastructure $,

	- Code enforcement officers- part time- how do we get them and their peers more trained on resiliency and flooding issues. Need specific training & knowledge of resources. - CLEAR presentations to Planning Boards, missing the bigger picture - look at more than local zoning- - Need specific training for municipal leaders - NY Sea Grant, with partners, is planning regular local government training for the various positions (supervisors, codes, boards). A committee will be established to help determine some of the logistics. Also there are some materials we (the collective we) are developing. - Tug Hill - great resource - NYSBOC Chapters are a great resource to provide training to Code Enforcement Officials. - NYSG, with partners, is planning regular local government training for GL communities. I'd like to put a committee together to determine logistics (frequency, length, location, cycles, etc.). We've been asked to do this for various positions (supervisors, codes, boards). Materials are also being developed that specific outreach opportunities will be built around. Ex: permitting flowchart - Regional planning boards are a great resource and often provide training for planning and zoning officials.
Climate-Based Floodplain Management Initiative (Theme 2: Public Health & Safety)	- Clearly Sea Grant GLISA work would fit here. Also - Cayuga County GIS could participate in mapping and analysis of scenario projections. - A lot of resources have been developed as a result of CRRA including Flood Risk Management Guidance which can be found here: https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html DITTO THAT - Yes - the scenario planning that Sea Grant highlighted would be a valuable tool. Participants in such scenario planning should include State DOT and FEMA and State/Local Emergency Management personnel, in addition to local first responders, public safety (sheriff/state troopers) and local elected officials. The usual suspects.
Resilient Wastewater and Stormwater Systems (Theme 6: Water & Wastewater)	- Funding assistance is needed for preliminary engineering and testing of systems. Also - there needs to be a focus on wellhead protection plans for local groundwater systems. Although these may not be proximate to the Lake, they are within and serve these communities. - Sewage Pollution Right to Know Law - identifies where sewage is being discharged during highwater events and could be used to develop projects. https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/101187

	• Build on Tug Hill annual conference- opportunity to do session on resiliency (emerging issues track) • Water and sewer- need regional approach.
Comments left on the opening page of Breakout Room #3, Tourism and the Built Environment	• need navigable channel regulations. High water in years past, this past year likely back to normal (though seemed lower) • Poorest counties in CNY with most expensive land • Businesses in decline- spending record money on both houses and businesses • increase in year-round population • Sandy Pond greatly impacted while Mexico Point not • In addition to water levels, winds play a huge role in water levels in certain areas and erosion • Lots of fishing; bigger boats and visitors from out of state
Create Resilient Open Space and Recreation Areas (Theme 5: Recreation and Culture)	• Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Coalition, DEC, and Parks would be helpful here. Also for trail work, the Student Conservation Association might be a good fit. • Problems arise when the lake isn't drained in the fall due to shipping companies • Most shorelines are occupied • Many places were flooded from behind, not necessarily the lake • Huge range from bluffs to beaches and sandy islands
Regional High/Low Water Assistance Fund (Theme 5: Recreation and Culture)	(no comments)
Project Title: Local Impact Fees for High-Risk Development (Theme 7: Built Environment)	(no comments)
Project Title: Incentive Program for Resiliency Actions (Theme 7: Built Environment)	• NYSG is working with DEC, DOS and USACE to develop a flowchart outlining the GL coastal permitting process. Once that is available, we'll distribute and do outreach on it. I'm just mentioning it because it will help with the 4th point on this slide. • Multiple property owners within a given shoreline zone could partner to implement shoreline management projects, this will help reduce impacts from the use of different types of shoreline hardening. • The biggest issue with TDR programs is identifying a sending area with excess development rights and a receiving area that is really in need of or looking for additional development rights. NYS Ag & Markets has pressured us to consider this tool for years but our biggest issue is that we are a collection of small rural communities that don't need to send their development rights elsewhere; and the most logical receiving areas are

	downstate. We have too many underutilized buildings and sites now prime for redevelopment as a tradeoff for protecting sensitive natural areas to consider TRD at this time.

5. Closing and Next Steps

The project team and Steering Committee will integrate public feedback as they continue to develop projects designed to support resilient communities and prepare final documents. The final CLEAR report is due by the end of December.

Participants were encouraged to explore the project web site www.cnyclear.com and to remain involved with the CLEAR initiative. Local champions, public support, advocacy to local officials, and outreach to the community at large will be essential to implement recommendations for more resilient shoreline communities.

Meeting summary prepared by Jasmine James. Please let the EDR office know of any changes or corrections within three business days.