Engaging Communities in Resiliency Efforts Post-Hurricane Sandy

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November 2014
Overview

• North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS)
  – Focus Area Analysis
  – Visioning Sessions

• Similarities

• Differences

• Lessons Learned
North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS)

- Hurricane/Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy moved to the U.S. Atlantic Ocean coastline October 22-29, 2012
- Congress signed into PL-113-2 directing USACE (by January 2015)
  - “That using up to $20,000,000* of the funds provided herein, the Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive study to address the flood risks of vulnerable coastal populations in areas that were affected by Hurricane Sandy within the boundaries of the North Atlantic Division of the Corps...”
- Coastal framework for range of potential solutions
- Identify activities warranting additional analysis
Focus Area Analysis

- Activities (areas) warranting additional analysis
- Reconnaissance-level effort
- Stakeholder engagement efforts: meetings, webinars/conference calls
Visioning Sessions

- Continue dialogue with stakeholders on coastal resiliency
- Aligned with areas identified in the focus area analysis
- 9 stakeholder meetings between January – March 2014
- Overview of NACCS and opportunity to inform study
- Group discussion format
Step 1: NACCS Introduction
Step 2: Visioning Session Format
Step 3: Generate Individual Responses

Name: 
Organization: 
EMAIL: 

Question 1: How is your community most vulnerable to coastal storm risk?

DELAWARE INLAND BAY COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCED BLDG. DAMAGE DURING SANDY DUE TO INADEQUATE FLOOR ELEVATIONS OF HOMES BUILT TO BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS THAT WERE TOO LOW.

• TOWN HOUSE SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGED THAT WERE BUILT TO 1980'S FLOOD LEVEL.
• USACE/FEMA PRELIMINARY FLOOD STUDIES WHICH WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL BUILDING BUILT AT RISK. SEA LEVEL RISE, COASTAL EROSION, DEEPENING OF INDIAN RIVER INLET INDICATE INLAND BAY FLOOD LEVELS SHOULD BE GOING UP NOT DOWN.

NDCIRC MODELING DOES NOT INCLUDE BARRIER ISLAND IMPACTS, EROSION, BREACHING ETC., WHICH LEADS TO FLOOD LEVELS WHICH ARE TOO LOW.
Step 4: Develop Group Summary
Step 5: Report-Out
Discussion Topics

• Vulnerability
  – Question 1: How is your community most vulnerable to coastal storm risk?

• Potential changes
  – Question 2: Based on one vulnerability noted above, what are 1-2 promising solutions to address this vulnerability?

• Institutional/policy challenges
  – Question 3: What is the most prominent policy change or legislative solution that could improve coastal resilience?
SIMILARITIES
Similarities

- Interagency and Intra-agency collaboration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliation of Meeting Attendees</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</table>

248 Total Attendees
Similarities

- Theme/format
Similarities

- Goal
Differences

- Overlapping outreach efforts
Differences

- State of disaster/recovery process

A car is submerged in the Dumbo section of the Brooklyn borough of New York, as the East River overflows during Hurricane Sandy.
(Credit: Associated Press)

The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., Rain and wind from Hurricane Sandy are hitting the area.
(Credit: Getty Images)
Differences

- Physical characteristics
### Differences

- **Number of attendees**
  - Attended the meeting
  - Per discussion group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries, New York City (NYC)*</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau County Back Bays, NY</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaware Inland Bays and Delaware Bay Coast</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C. (National Capital Region)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Rhode Island</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Connecticut</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Norfolk, VA</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries, Hudson River Valley*</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Differences

• Response to questions

City of Baltimore Inner Harbor

Washington, D.C. Cultural Assets

New England Coastal Development

(Credit: CUWFA.org)  (Credit: Elizabeth Harball)  (Credit: University of Rhode Island)
Differences

- Stakeholder representation

**Example: Nassau County**
- Village Officials
- NY State DEC
- County Officials
- Public Works
- Consultants

- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- USACE
LESSONS LEARNED & CONCLUSIONS
Lessons Learned

• Bring an array of people to the conversation
• Know your audience

Example: Nassau County
• Village Officials
• NY State DEC
• County Officials
• Public Works
• Consultants

• Department of State
• Department of Transportation
• USACE
Lessons Learned

- Consider stakeholder fatigue
Lessons Learned

• Providing multiple outlets for stakeholders to express themselves was beneficial
Lessons Learned

- Nothing will go as planned, be flexible and spontaneous
  - Not enough participants
  - Too many participants
  - Lack of diversity of stakeholder representation
  - Last minute additions of meeting material from other parties
  - Meeting space complications
  - Weather
Lessons Learned

- Set participant expectations and have a clear agenda

USACE North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS)
Visioning Session
Baltimore Metropolitan Area

USACE Baltimore District
10 South Howard Street
11th Floor Room 11240
Baltimore, MD 21201

March 6, 2014
10 am – 12 pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Overview and Meeting Purpose

III. USACE North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS)
   a. Update
   b. Focus Area Analysis

IV. Facilitated Discussion Topics -
   a. Topic 1 - Vulnerability
   b. Topic 2 – Solutions
   c. Topic 3 – Policy/Institutional
   d. Report Outs

V. Closing Remarks/Adjourn
Acknowledgements

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- Joe Vietri
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- Amy Guise
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- Karla Roberts
Questions

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