



Meeting Minutes | Steering Committee Meeting #1

January 19, 2023 | 4:00 p.m.

Attendees:

- Pamela Landi** – City of Wilton Manors
- Jeffrey Hiscock** – Baxter & Woodman
- Alexis Shotton** – Baxter & Woodman
- Rebecca Bradley** – Cadence
- Hope Calhoun** – Dunay, Miskel and Backman PA
- Ron Falk** – Wilton Manors Business Association
- Bert Fisher** – Wilton Manors Utilities Department
- Tim Hernandez** – New Urban Communities
- Andrew Riddle** – Metropolitan Planning Agency
- R. David Walker** – Audubon Society

- Sara Ellis** – Student Member
- Aiden Herrero** – Student Member
- Cali Myers** – Student Member
- Danni Shepard** – Student Member

Not attending:

- Alec Bogdanoff** – Brizaga Engineering
- Ginou Charles** – Student Member



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[The Steering Committee Meeting for the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment was held at the City of Wilton Manor's City Hall Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Discussions regarding agenda items are highlighted in blue:](#)

The Committee convened at 4:00 PM.

Pamela Landi welcomed the group on behalf of Mayor Newton. Self- Introductions followed.

Ms. Landi provided opening remarks, described the mission of the committee, and introduced the draft guiding principles.

Jeff Hiscock of Baxter Woodman provided a brief overview of the scope of services of the study, and included four slides to supplement his comments.

A round table discussion ensued. Member Fisher provided a brief description of water, wastewater and stormwater systems. Member Myers asked about the life cycle of water pipes. Member Hernandez inquired if the City could coordinate underground utility improvements with other utilities like electric and fiber companies. Member Riddle asked if the scope included review of compounding effects such as heat and groundwater. Mr. Hiscock replied that groundwater would be considered, but heat was not included in the scope at all. Member Bradley inquired about access to the materials in multiples languages and forms, and asked that staff be sure to make the materials accessible to all. Member Hernandez inquired about seawall regulations, potential incentives and asked that staff evaluate what modifications to local land development regulations would be required to achieve the mitigation objectives. Member Herrero inquired about the potential for strategic cooperation such as a co-op, to raise seawalls. Member Bradley opined that living shorelines can be just as effective as seawalls and encouraged their consideration as well.

Ms. Landi will take the committee's comments and incorporate them into the guiding principles document for review and approval at next month's meeting.



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Roundtable Discussion

- Page 5 Partnership & Collaboration – What kind of strategies could be done to encourage private entities to comply? **Federal funding may be available to assist with mitigation, such as seawalls.**
- Page 6, Economy “Respect local land development regulations.” – Local land regulations are part of the problem/culprits. Consider changing to “evaluate what modifications need to be made to land regulations” or “examine local land regulations.”? **The regulations will not be examined as part of this study, however it may be a recommendation/solution to review the regulations.**
- Page 7 Communication: Does the City issue communication in different languages, including materials for visually or hearing impaired individuals? **Yes, the City makes an effort to provide materials in numerous methods and languages.**
- Question: Are there any City owned seawalls? **The City owns a few seawalls, however most of the seawalls are privately owned. The County does have a seawall height requirement applicable to all future seawalls.**
- Question: Is this study just focused on vulnerability, and not the solutions? **The Study is focused on the vulnerability of the City’s assets, however there will be recommended solutions included.**
- Question: What was the focus of the infrastructure study? **The Master Plan primarily focused on Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater assets. The entire study is available online.**
- Question: Has FPL, AT&T, Comcast, etc. evaluated their facilities? **As of right now, the other utility companies have likely not evaluated their facilities.**
- Question: When the Master Plan was created, were the low or old roads looked at? **The Master Plan did not focus on transportation/roadways, however we are aware of the older sections/lower areas of the City. Water Projects associated with the Master Plan are generally coordinated with street repairs in order to be cost effective. Approximately 10% of the City is estimated to be lower roads subject to flooding during storm events. However, raising roads may not be a solution as it removes water storage and directs the stormwater onto private properties.**



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Roundtable Discussion

- Question: Is this study focused on storm surges, or will it take groundwater and heat into consideration? **Groundwater is included as part of the sea level rise, based on projections from Broward County. Impacts from heat are not included as part of the study.**
- Question: Is homeowner retreat being proposed as a solution? **It is not a solution as of today. The goal is to find other mitigation efforts to address the sea level rise.**
- Question: Is rainfall part of the study? **Yes, the rainfall is included based on the County Storm Surge data.**
- Question: Will the source data be shared? **Sources will be cited.**
- Question: Could an entire block/section of properties do a single seawall and split the cost? **Yes, however it would be a private agreement between property owners.**
- Question: Are backflow preventers already in-place in the storm sewer system? **No, however the City has applied for a grant to perform this work.**

Future meeting dates were reviewed and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55PM.



Guiding Principles Draft January 2023

Wilton Manors has established guiding principles for the work related to the SLR VA. These are common tenets that should frame the city's future growth and development. These guiding principles frame the analysis and recommendations geared to diverse aspects of community vulnerability, including socio-economic, environmental, real estate, and infrastructure considerations.

Partnership & Collaboration

Climate change and its impacts do not stop at municipal borders, and the adaptation of one community can be strengthened or weakened by actions in another. The City will continue to coordinate climate adaptation efforts across neighboring jurisdictions, seek funding opportunities, consider public investments/initiatives, and examine opportunities for public-private partnerships. A key component of this principle is to make adaptation and mitigation more accessible to everyone.



Infrastructure & Built Environment

Strategies to protect the built environment will incorporate the best available climate science and projections from the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. Climate projections and adaptation strategies will be determined on a time horizon relevant to the lifespan and criticality of the asset(s) in question. The City recognizes that adaptation should balance engineering solutions, including nature-based strategies, and other long-term planning strategies. The City will identify and use science based targets (SBT) and adaptation action areas to prioritize public investments and limit new development in areas most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Economy

Adapting to climate change is essential to the city's economy. Where economic development is appropriate, it will be accomplished in a manner that protects, maintains, and enhances coastal resources, the built environment, historic sites, and tourism. It will also respect local land development regulations, and where appropriate, the City will examine local land development regulations for potential improvements.





Natural Environment

Policy development will consider climate change impacts based on the best available science and aim for the highest possible level of protection of natural resources, biodiversity, natural systems, and environmental quality. Strategies identified within the Adaptation Action Areas will allow for green or planned open space, protect and possibly expand habitats, and reduce or mitigate sources of pollution.

Social Equity

Adaptation and resilience strategies must protect human life, public and private property, and cultural resources from climate change impacts. Actions should be prioritized with consideration to economic and social vulnerability to ensure that climate impacts do not disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities and populations.





Emergency Response

The City will apply policies, tools, and training standards to help prepare for and respond to major disruptions resulting from climate change impacts, with the goal of maintaining and quickly recovering critical operations to reduce adverse effects on people, property, and the environment.

Communication

The City will provide standards and guidance for stakeholder outreach and messaging by navigating social and traditional media to reach all populations, including underserved populations. Outreach materials should be available in Spanish and Haitian Creole as well as English. When necessary, the information will also be available in alternative versions for visually, hearing, or physically challenged residents. Outreach materials should always include a basic understanding of the issues, description of the solutions, and an expectation for the level of service possible in a changing environment with competing priorities. Messaging should be science-based, nonpartisan, and transparent with the aim of allowing stakeholders to make informed decisions.

