

Emerald Coast Area Resilience Collaborative (EC-ARC) and MIRR Implementation Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM CST (3:00 PM – 4:30 PM EST)

Location: Online (Joint meeting with the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape Resilience
Working Group)

Attendees (77 total, some unidentified):

Joy Brown, Resilience Specialist, Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape
Eric Christianson, Planner III, Emerald Coast Regional Council
Hope Childree, Tallahassee State College
Chris Cortina, Throwe Environmental
John Whittington, Florida Department of Transportation
Cheri Moon, Community Planner, Tyndall AFB
Getty Hammer, ABG
Cynthia Cannon, City of Pensacola
William "Sandy" Pizzolato
Matthew Avery, CHELCO
Cory Lewis
Ada Clark, Community and Economic Development Director, Emerald Coast Regional
Council
Tiffany Bates, Emerald Coast Regional Council
Don Palmer
Scott Davidson, Community Planner, Hurlburt Field
Roshita Taylor, Emerald Coast Regional Council
Blair Hayman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Mark Throwe, Throwe Environmental
Tiffany Lane, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kay Rasmussen, OneOkaloosa EDC
Melanie Kaeser, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Scott Luth, Space Florida
Mike Hackett, Okaloosa County Water and Sewer
Debi Graham, Northwest Florida Defense Alliance
Thomas J. Derbes, University of Florida
Chris Verlinde, Santa Rosa County
Logan Benedict, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Anna Turlik, Program Manager and Lead Facilitator, Salas O'Brien

Joshua Mills
John Skaggs, Community Planning Liaison Officer, NSA Panama City
Melinda Gates, Walton County
John Broughton, Navy Portfolio Lead, Salas O'Brien
Jacob Hullett, City of Milton
Melissa Stoker, Space Florida
Kent Wimmer, Sentinel Landscape Coordinator, Defenders of Wildlife
Rachel Gwin, Northwest Florida State College
Ryan H. Kirby, Escambia County
Eric Schneider, Environmental Services Association
Matt Vera, Engineering Flight Chief, Hurlburt Field
Shelley Alexander, Santa Rosa County
Jessica Woodham, Florida Department of Transportation
Darryl Boudreau, Resource Planning Program Manager, Northwest Florida Water
Management District
Tyler Reed, Community Development Director, City of Mary Esther
Chad Hanson, Pew Charitable Trusts
Katie Konchar, The Nature Conservancy
Mike Norberg, Okaloosa County
Nathan Sparks
Jack Kiger, Eglin Air Force Base
Heidi Stiller
Jeff DeQuattro, The Nature Conservancy
Justin Grubich, Pew Charitable Trusts
Caroline Pryor, Cummins Cederberg
Jessica Graham, Florida State University
Ole Amundsen, Legacy Works
Bernard Johnson, Florida Power and Light
Robert Bendick, The Nature Conservancy
Hannah Quenga
Naisy Dolar, Santa Rosa County
Timothy R. Day, Escambia County
Tanya Gallagher, Jacobs Engineering
Ryann Rossi, Florida State University
Paige A. Lansky, Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program
Jason Bird, Jacobs Engineering
Rebecca Perry, The Conservation Fund
Jeff Talbert
Eddie Taylor, Eglin AFB
Rebecca Atkins, NOAA

Christie Rother, Salas O'Brien

Minutes:

The meeting, which began at 2:00 PM CST, was attended by 77 participants, including stakeholders from local governments, military installations, environmental groups, and various agencies.

Eric Christianson, Community Planner at ECRC, opened the meeting by providing an overview of the Emerald Coast Area Resilience Collaborative (EC-ARC). He emphasized the collaborative nature of the group in implementing the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) priorities and updating regional resilience strategies. Eric reminded the group of EC-ARC's responsibility in coordinating resilience efforts across the Emerald Coast region, particularly those supporting military installations and community infrastructure.

Eric also updated attendees on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), noting that Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Washington Counties have signed the agreement. He highlighted the need to secure additional signatures from the remaining four counties in the region and the hope to expand to additional parties beyond county governments. This could include the region's municipalities and especially military installations. The group expressed its support for obtaining additional MOU signatures and continued conversations with elected officials to empower local working groups that would advance MIRR priorities within their jurisdictions.

Eric then provided an update on the status of key MIRR resilience projects, including changes to project rankings and priorities. He encouraged regional working groups to actively engage in implementing these projects, emphasizing the importance of updates on progress and specific challenges. The group reiterated its commitment to supporting these efforts and ensuring that they remain aligned with regional resilience strategies.

The Florida Vulnerability Assessments (VAs) were next on the agenda, with Eric summarizing ongoing efforts required by Florida Statute 380.093. These assessments aim to identify critical community assets vulnerable to flooding and standing water damage. ECRC provided an update on the work they had performed for the Town of Century and the municipalities of Washington County which presented data on key facilities such as schools and city hall, highlighting flood risks and vulnerability scenarios for the 100-year and 500-year rainfall scenarios. Other jurisdictions also shared updates on their assessments and asset prioritization, with some requesting assistance in finalizing their assessments.

Anna Turlik of Salas O'Brien then provided an update on the ongoing and completed Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSAs) in the region, which focus on collaborative

agreements for services like refuse management, road maintenance, and environmental services. The group discussed the importance of expanding these agreements to improve regional resilience, enhance installation operations, and create efficiencies. There was strong support for further development of IGSA's with local governments, military installations, and other partners to ensure sustainability and resilience.

During the open discussion, participants emphasized the importance of continuing regional collaboration and leveraging local expertise to increase grant funding opportunities. The group also discussed the need for a unified regional voice to advocate for resilience efforts at the state and federal levels. There was mention of the possibility of organizing additional local in-person meetings to continue work on project prioritization and coordination.

In the meeting's closing, it was agreed that EC-ARC would continue its efforts to secure additional MOU signatures and involve more regional partners in MIRR projects. The next meeting was scheduled for May 2025 with an in-person meeting tentatively scheduled for later in the year, likely in Santa Rosa County, to update the prioritization of resilience projects and discuss new region-wide initiatives. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM CST.