Emerald Coast Area Resilience Collaborative

Resilience Priorities Survey Results

About the Survey

To determine next steps for the Collaborative, EC-ARC conducted a survey to gauge resilience priorities in the region. The survey ran from November 3 through November 24, 2021 and was open to members of the Collaborative for participation. The survey asked participants to rank the six identified resilience priorities from 1-6: 1 being the most important and 6 being the least. These categories came from the Colorado Resiliency Office from their resilience framework. Categories of resilience include **Resilient Infrastructure, Resilient Housing, Community Resilience, Watershed & Natural Resource Resilience, Economic Resilience,** and **Health & Social Resilience**. Within each resilience category, several subtopics were included:

- ❖ **Resilient Infrastructure**: Transportation, Green Infrastructure, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Energy, Communications, Public Facilities
- ❖ **Resilient Housing**: Affordable Housing, Accessibility, Range of Housing Options, Durable Materials, Energy Efficiency, Insurance
- ❖ **Community Resilience**: Land Use/Planning, Smart Growth, Emergency Management, Mitigation, Governance, Capabilities, Culture
- ❖ **Watersheds & Natural Resource Resilience**: Environment, Streams, Beaches, Water Quality and Capacity, Ecosystems/Natural Habitats
- ❖ **Health & Social Resilience**: Access to Services, Physical and Behavioral Health, Underserved Populations, Equity
- ❖ **Economic Resilience**: Business, Agriculture, Tourism, Jobs, Diversity

In addition to ranking resilience priorities, participants were also asked the following open-response questions:

- ❖ Of the resilience categories listed above, which topics with those categories interest you most? (Mandatory)
- ❖ Are there any additional resilience issues that our region is currently experiencing that should be addressed? (Optional)
- ❖ Is there anyone missing from the table at our Collaborative? (Optional)
- ❖ Do you have anything you want to share with us related to resilience or this Collaborative? (Optional)

Information on Participants

Current stakeholders in the Collaborative were invited to participate in this survey. This includes individuals with backgrounds in academia/research, local government, planning,
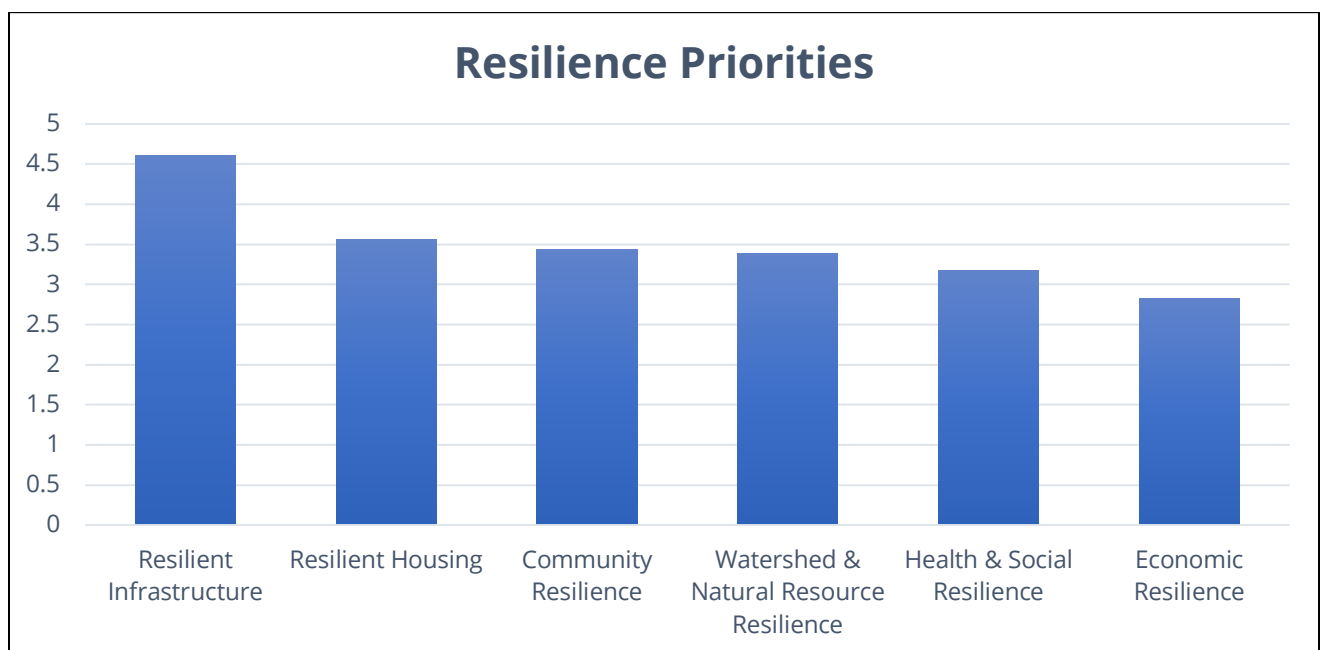
economics, environmental protection/water management, and infrastructure/utilities. Participants were not asked to share any identification information; therefore, the survey doesn't have data on exactly who participated.

As the Collaborative grows in membership and new groups are represented, conducting a follow-up resilience survey may offer a clearer picture of the region's resilience priorities.

Results

The survey closed with 18 responses. Of the resilience priorities, Resilient Infrastructure ranked the highest with an average score of 4.61, followed by Resilient Housing at 3.56, Community Resilience at 3.44, Watershed & Natural Resource Resilience at 3.39, Health & Social Resilience at 3.17, and Economic Resilience at 2.83, as shown by the graph below. The table below depicts how each category was ranked by the participants -e.g., 'Ranked #1' is the number of participants who ranked a category as the most important.

Category	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Ranked #6
Resilient Infrastructure	6	5	3	3	0	1
Resilient Housing	2	5	2	2	6	1
Community Resilience	1	2	7	4	2	2
Watershed & Natural Resource Resilience	3	2	3	4	3	3
Health & Social Resilience	3	3	1	3	3	5
Economic Resilience	3	1	2	2	4	6

Topics of Interest

Of the topics listed within each resilience category, the ones that surfaced as the most interesting/pertinent to participants include:

1. Land Use/Planning (Community Resilience)
2. Water Quality/Use (Resilient Infrastructure/Watersheds & Natural Resource Resilience)
3. Green Infrastructure (Resilient Infrastructure)
4. Tied:
    a. Smart Growth (Community Resilience)
    b. Energy (Resilient Infrastructure/Resilient Housing)
    c. Equity (Health & Social Resilience)
5. Affordable Housing (Resilient Housing)
6. Wastewater/Stormwater (Resilient Infrastructure)
7. Economic Growth Opportunity (Economic Resilience)

Resources Shared

Participants were given a chance to share resources and information related to resilience or the Collaborative. Several participants suggested that creating SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-bound) goals would be a potential next step to move forward with the Collaborative.

Several other participants offered specific resources on resilience listed below:

❖ Suggested Reading: 'Resilient Thinking' by Salt & Walker.
❖ FSU Resilient Infrastructure Story Map: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b2207cc8065d46b1ac485735c861d470

Individuals to Include

Participants were asked if there were any other individuals to include in the Collaborative moving forward. A few individuals were mentioned who are not already currently involved:

❖ Walton County Board of County Commissioners
❖ Walton County Economic Development Alliance
❖ Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
❖ Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative
❖ West Florida Electric Cooperative
❖ Florida's Great Northwest
❖ Mental and Physical Health Professionals
❖ Food System Individuals

Next Steps

Moving forward, EC-ARC has a few potential options to move forward with resiliency efforts. ECRC staff has been researching types of projects that the Collaborative could undertake, specifically ones taken on by other collaboratives in the state. Below are a few options that our Collaborative could take on:

1. **Workshop Series:** A workshop series could be conducted to educate on the resiliency topics as well as identify any outstanding data needs related to the categories. The workshop series could also be done for specific counties who join the Collaborative as well and could potentially be made available to community members within those counties to broaden our understanding of county-based vulnerabilities and needs.
2. **Subcommittees:** Subcommittees could be established for each resilience category discussed in this survey. These subcommittees would address initiatives related to the specific resilience category.
3. **Vulnerability Assessment:** A vulnerability assessment would give the Collaborative regional data related to either the top categories identified or for all resilience issues within the region. It would also pinpoint specific projects to address these vulnerabilities.
4. **Mini Summit:** A mini summit could be held to share knowledge, engage leadership across sectors, showcase regional resilience projects/efforts, and mobilize the collaboration needed to promote regional resiliency. This would attract leaders and scholars from business, government, academic, and nonprofit communities to exchange dialogue and ideas on capacity building strategies to tackle resilience efforts.
5. **Quarterly Newsletter:** A newsletter is a simple way to offer continued engagement throughout the year while informing stakeholders of resiliency trends and projects both in the region and throughout the U.S.
6. **Quarterly Meetings:** The Collaborative could opt to meet every quarter to discuss a specific resilience topic and any related projects to start informing membership of the efforts occurring within the region. These resilience topics could also be addressed in subcommittee meetings instead if there is not enough interest in a particular subject with the group at large.
   a. **Guest Presenters:** As an educational component, the Collaborative could bring in guest presenters to discuss a particular resilience topic of interest or a current project they are working on related to a resilience topic. This would be for the first 20 minutes of the quarterly meeting.
7. **State of the Region Report:** Drafting a State of the Region report could provide an understanding of baseline conditions of the region to better tailor a visioning session and action plan to our current needs.

8. **Visioning Sessions/Action Plan Creation:** The Collaborative could conduct a visioning session. Ideally, the session would help our organization decide where we want to be within a year and would contribute to the creation of an action plan. Several participants mentioned that having measurable, attainable goals are important for the success of the Collaborative, and the visioning session could serve as a tool for creating an effective action plan for a 1-year period.

   a. **Action Plan Annual Report:** To gauge progress on the action report, staff could create an annual end-of-year action plan report to discuss the efforts that were addressed from the action plan, what could be improved upon, and offer future recommendations for resilience efforts.

9. **Workshops on Resilience Subjects:** Workshops could help to highlight what data is available currently and what is needed to gain a clearer picture of resilience within the region. These would likely be broken into several sessions that focus on specific resilience categories and would occur over the span of several months.

Other Resources

We have been researching the endeavors of other collaboratives throughout the state and have found a few documents to share with you to inform your thinking on Collaborative efforts.

- ❖ ‘The Cost of Doing Nothing’ – Economic Impacts of Sea Level Rise in the Tampa Bay Area
- ❖ Peril of Flood: Florida’s Resiliency Portal - Resources
  - o Projects in the State
- ❖ East Central Florida – Regional Resiliency Action Plan
- ❖ Colorado Resiliency Office Framework

Contact Us

We are eager to hear from you and your organization! Please feel free to reach out to us and share any thoughts and suggestions you may have regarding the Collaborative, the survey results, and the next steps. We also welcome you to send over contact information for any organization/individual listed in the ‘Individuals to Include’ section or contact information for anyone else you feel would benefit the Collaborative.

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