



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

MARC RECKTENWALD
Director

Natural Infrastructure Flood Mitigation Program (NIFMP): Advisory Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Microsoft Team

1. Attendees

Sarah Collins (NCLM) Bill Hunt (NCSU) Maria Polizzi (NC FS)
Kayne Van Stell (Water & Land Solution) William McDow (EDF)
Danica Schaffer-Smith (Nature Conservancy) Bill Holman (Conservation Fund)
Noah Persons (SWANC) Marlena Byrne (NCORR) Bobby Croom (City of Goldsboro)
Randell Etheridge (ECU) Marc Recktenwald (DMS) Periann Russell (DMS)
Lin Xu (DMS)

2. Periann Russell started the meeting and stated the purpose of the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss goals of NIFMP, to set standing meeting schedule, to discuss the possibility of changing the name of the program, and to provide updates on Blueprint and Stoney Creek projects.

3. NIFMP Goals

Periann talked about the process of developing goals and nature of the goals. She proposed to have a 2-3 hrs in-person workshop / brainstorm session developing the program goals. She asked any members of the board wanting to participate in the workshop to email her. Her next steps will be to set up the workshop.

4. Standing Meeting Schedule

Quarterly Thursday, 10 am
Periann will send a calendar invitation for the standing meeting.

5. Possible Name Change

Members of the board agreed with the idea trying of a name change with a better acronym. The name change will be discussed at the workshop.

6. Blueprint and Stoney Creek Updates

Marc Recktenwald provided updates on both Blueprint and Stoney Creek projects. For Stoney Creek pilot project, the first stakeholder meeting was held on February 8, and it was mostly attended by agency folks. Moving forward, stakeholder meetings will be held for the general public. Blueprint vendor was also at the first meeting, and both vendors have been communicating and exchanging ideas and information. Ecosystem Planning & Restoration (EPR), the vendor for Stoney Creek pilot project, has already began to develop a hydraulics



and hydrology model (HH model) for the Stoney Creek watershed. A potential list of project sites is also being developed. The vendor is in the process accessing feasibilities of those sites and contacting landowners for those sites.

7. Following the agenda items, the board commented and discussed some of the future needs of the NIFM program.

William McDow

Natural Infrastructure for Communities and Environment (NICE) program

(3 liked)

The other opportunity for learning around practices and performance will be the projects funded by the Land and Water fund within DEQ, would be good to connect DMS activities with DWI (SRF), 319 program, and DCM priority areas. Then outside DEQ, lots of other options.

Bill Holman

Design for future storms not past storms

William F Hunt III

Carbon sequestration

(2 liked)

DOT is going to have good future storm info later this year.

Randall Etheridge

There were two things that came to mind when thinking about the NIFMP and goals. First, it will be important know what level of risk is acceptable for testing/developing new techniques for flood mitigation through this program. I think there are a lot of opportunities for new techniques to play a role in flood mitigation.

I also think Marc's comment on what can be included in a RFP is very important based on my experience submitting an application to the Land and Water Fund. We want to be able tell the whole story or showcase the benefits of these projects through good monitoring. However, we need to maintain reasonable requirements for what must be calculated and included in proposal submissions for evaluations.

Meeting adjourned 11:00am

