

## Navigating the Resilience Realm to Catalyze Impacts and Opportunities

### Session Summary:

#### Speakers:

1. Karl Havens, Florida Sea Grant
2. Troy Hartley, Virginia Sea Grant
3. Matt Gonser, Hawaii Sea Grant

Karl Havens discussed a regional project in the South Atlantic to use VCAPS and OCM visualization tools to address resilience in rural communities. This partnership grew out of strong working relationships between the four Sea Grant programs (FL, GA, SC, NC) and personal relationships with OCM. This project was also able to leverage funds from the local communities. They were able to clearly define a focus for the project, identify a regional project coordinator with local PIs, and they anticipate being able to transfer the process to other communities after this project is completed.

Troy Hartley shared Virginia Sea Grant's journey into the resilience realm. He shared the challenges of trying to figure out where Sea Grant can add value to the resilience mission in this area when other players have more resources. This led to bringing additional staff onboard (Michelle Covi) and launching a resilience design project that brought in students to create innovative solutions to a coastal flooding problem. This was a "shovel-ready" project that ultimately led to a \$120 million HUD grant for implementation. The moral of the story is to keep moving forward, don't be afraid to branch into new areas, and learn from your mistakes.

Matt Gonser talked about the climate change impacts Hawaii will face, and connections to planning and design, transportation and mobility, and human health. Urban heat island effect, tsunamis, coastal flooding from storms and SLR, and availability of resources are aspects that will affect the resilience of communities. Coming from an urban planning background, he shared how he used professional associations and community groups to build relationships with other organizations working in the resilience realm. He also shared Rockefeller's 100 Resilient Cities Initiative has placed Chief Resilience Officers in 15 coastal cities in the US.

#### Discussion:

There is concern that "resilience" is a buzzword for which resources are available right now, but will soon fade away, and that Sea Grant should be cautious in how we let the buzz shape the investments we make. However, in general Sea Grant works with communities to address their needs, and the specific term doesn't matter. It's useful to have a broad interpretation of resilience to link it with all the focus areas in which we work and communities we serve. For example, "climate change" is not an accepted phrase in Virginia.

The idea of resilience acknowledges change, and it is about maintaining and evolving our communities, our practices, our research in the face of change. Sea Grant's role in the future will shift, as the environments we work in continue to change. Some of this will be due to longer term underlying stressors, and some will rapid changes or shocks.

Sea Grant network can build laterally from what other programs have done, especially as we collectively are breaking into a new niches. Sharing happens through personal connections in the network and with other agencies, but half of the Sea Grant directors are new within the last 5 years and may not built strong relationships yet. The Climate Network can be utilized to share information. There are also communities of practice in the South Atlantic and Gulf. However, funding to support these groups is an issue. For new Sea Grant staff (in addition to directors), learning from other programs is immensely helpful. A lot of sharing/learning has happened at Sea Grant Week.