

Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel (TBCSAP)

Convened by UF/IFAS Extension, Florida Sea Grant

Location: Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Meeting Date: January 13, 2014

The Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel is a scientific advisory board convening to support local governments in their efforts to plan for a changing climate.

Meeting Report

On January 13, 2014 the University of Florida/IFAS Extension, Florida Sea Grant convened a group of stakeholders to discuss regional sea-level rise research and planning efforts. In total, twenty-four attendees from local governments, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions attended. Several agencies and academic researchers with sea-level rise projects in the Tampa Bay region that could not attend the meeting participated via phone and electronic survey.

Agenda Item #1. The Objectives

1. Convene inter-agency partners working both within their own agency and in cooperation with other agencies on research and/or community adaptation projects related to sea-level rise.
2. Inventory existing projects including project objectives, partners, time scales, and needs.
3. Identify existing reports and data sets that can be utilized by local governments in their comprehensive planning efforts for sea level rise.
4. Identify a “core” regional cooperative sea-level rise technical working group that will collaborate to support local governments in their efforts to plan for sea-level rise. **Later called the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel (TBCSAP).*

Agenda Item #2. Key Findings

- The overall feedback from the initial meeting was positive.
- Attendees stated that they feel this is a conversation that should be occurring and it should be occurring at a regional level.
- There is an openness to share project information and resources.
- There is a wide range of engagement amongst the entities represented. Some agencies have integrated sea-level rise projections fully into their planning process. Others are aware of the recent science, but are maintaining a “wait and see” approach until they receive further guidance.
- Some entities are focused predominately on natural ecosystems, such as the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. While other government agencies are focused more on the effects of sea-level rise on the infrastructure of the built environment.

- Academic institutions including local universities and the Florida Climate Institute collaborative offer a variety of expertise and want to be involved in informing the decision making processes.

Agenda Item #3. Resources

There is a wide variety of information available related to climate science and sea-level rise. The vast amount of resources can be overwhelming.

Agenda Item #4. New & Upcoming Resources identified at meeting

- Cross, L. 2014. **Gulf Coast Community Handbook**, Case Studies from the Gulf of Mexico Communities for Incorporating Climate Change Resiliency into Habitat Planning and Protection. A report to the US Environmental Protection Agency, Climate Ready Estuaries Program. Tampa Bay Estuary Program, St. Petersburg, FL.
<http://www.tbep.tech.org/DATA/cre/gulfcoasthandbook.pdf>
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, 2014. **Adaptation Planning in Florida**.
<http://www.floridajobs.org/fdcp/dcp/AdaptationPlanning/AdaptationPlanninginFlorida.pdf>
- Hine, A., D. Chambers, G. Mitchum, T. Clayton and M. Hafen. In Progress. 2015. **Projected Sea Level Rise and What Floridians Should Do**. University Press of Florida.

Agenda Item #5. Needs

- There is an identified need for regional downscaled sea-level rise models.
 - Planned Response - This will be discussed within the TBCSAP group.
- Attendees would also like to see a central web portal to access regionally specific, relevant research and sea-level rise tools.
 - Planned Response - The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is in the planning stages to house the website to share local scientific resources related to sea-level rise.

Agenda Item #6. Next Steps

The next step will be to convene a core group of scientific researchers for the TBCSAP. A meeting will be scheduled for April, 2014. The group will meet to clearly define objectives.

For additional information:

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TBCSAP Member Attendees on 1/13/14:

Organization	Name
Facilitator - UF/IFAS Extension, Florida Sea Grant	Libby Carnahan
Florida Climate Institute	Dr. Gary Mitchum
Florida Sea Grant	Thomas Ruppert Esq.
Hillsborough County	Tom Ash
Manatee County	Robert Brown
NOAA National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration	Kristen Laursen
Pinellas County	Sarah Malone
Southwest Florida Water Management District	John Ferguson, P.G.
Tampa Bay Estuary Program	Lindsay Cross
Tampa Bay Estuary Program	Ed Sherwood
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council	Brady Smith
Tampa Bay Water	Dr. Alison Adams, P.E.
The National Weather Service, Tampa Bay	Dr. Charlie Paxton
University of South Florida, Dept. of Geosciences	Dr. Mark Hafen
US Geological Survey	Dr. Hilary Stockdon

Guest Attendees on 1/13/14:

Organization	Name
FL Sea Grant	Whitney Gray
Hillsborough County Planning Department	Eugene Henry
Hillsborough County	Allison Yeh
The Connection Partners Inc.	Sharon Joy Kleitsch
University of South Florida, School of Public Affairs	Dr. Elizabeth Strom
University of South Florida, School of Public Affairs	Ping Wang