

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: May 14, 2024

TO: Mayor and Town Council
VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager
FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works
RE: Flood Vulnerability Assessment Update Presentation
DATE: April 25, 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Woods Hole Group (WHG) will be making a presentation of their progress on the Flood Vulnerability Assessment and will request input from both Town Council and the public. Town staff requests the Town Council provide any additional input on the path forward and goals for the assessment.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHG completed the Town's Coastal Flood Vulnerability Assessment and presented their findings to the Town Council on February 14, 2019, and submitted the final report in July 2019. The purpose of the vulnerability assessment was to identify Town infrastructure that has a flooding risk due to future storm surge impacts from tropical storms or hurricanes including projected rising sea levels.

WHG then completed the Town's Coastal Resilience Implementation Plan, "Level-Up," and presented draft and final recommendations to the Town Council on June 8, 2021, and September 14, 2021. The final report was submitted in November 2021. The plan included recommended actions to improve the coastal resilience of Town facilities and infrastructure, the Lake Worth shoreline, floodplain development, and comprehensive planning. Town staff and Committees have been working to implement several priority actions identified in the plan.

In 2021, the State of Florida developed Statute 380.093 with Section (4)(b) that requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) "...complete a comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment...". This statute included new elements and analysis to be included in the assessment, which had previously not been included in the 2019 assessment completed by Woods Hole Group. The Town's updated assessment will be included in the FDEP statewide assessment.

The Town received a Resilient Florida Planning grant from FDEP to help fund the cost to update the vulnerability assessment and bring it into compliance with the statute. As part of the grant, WHG included a public outreach meeting to provide updates on the progress and input from Town Council. An additional public outreach meeting would be held in the fall to present results and highlight changes from the prior work, along with implications on recommendation to the Town for priorities to improve community resilience.

cc: H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works
Patricia Strayer, Town Engineer