

MEMORANDUM

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Coastal Flood Vulnerability Assessment – Implementation Plan Overview

On June 8, 2021, Woods Hole Group will update Town Council on the Implementation Plan report and next steps. The Implementation Plan builds on the Coastal Flood Vulnerability Assessment (CFVA), which focused on estimating present and future coastal flood risk due to effects of sea level rise and increasing storm frequency and intensity in a changing climate. The Implementation Plan is intended to provide recommendations and options for utilizing results of the CFVA to build coastal resiliency, i.e., the ability to withstand and rebound from coastal floods. These recommendations include specific actions now to address Town assets at risk, and policy changes to consider for facilitating short- and long-term actions to address current risk and minimize future risk to Town-wide infrastructure (public and private).

Based on the evolving practice of Coastal Resilience Planning, emphasis on Infrastructure, and impending Florida and National policies and funding, the Implementation Plan has been refined and proposed as **Level-Up Palm Beach**. Our work revealed Palm Beach incorporated resilience into its individual public works assets, and through the Coastal Management Program. Primary remaining present and future flood risk remains from the Lake (source - storm surge through the inlet). The solution to build resilience there is not as simple as identifying and fortifying targeted flooding pathways. Rather, addressing this flood risk will require public/private collaboration; hence, increased emphasis on policy in the Implementation Plan. This approach can position Palm Beach to participate in major state coastal resilience infrastructure investments to prepare for climate change (e.g., Senate Bill 1954: Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Resilience, enacted May 12, 2021, contemplating \$640M investment).

Attached is the Level-Up Palm Beach Implementation Plan Framework. This is not the Report, nor is it the presentation to be provided on June 8. It includes generous detail on the approach as basis for discussion before issuance of the Draft Final Report. We anticipate questions and request input on key questions, such as:

- The overall evolving concept? Feedback on the balanced approach emphasizing both asset specific actions, and Town-wide policies.
- Comments on the asset-specific actions; other assets to consider?
- Opinions on the Town-wide policy recommendations, such as:
 - Design flood elevation (DFE) recommendations
 - Policy recommendations for private properties
 - Town interest in taking responsibility for actions including private property on Lake Worth
 - Degree to pursue inlet surge barrier with USACE and other stakeholders
- How to make Draft Final Report most helpful?
 - Contents and format



- What level of budgetary information short-term tangible actions and/or larger-scale, longer-term coastal resilience?
- How much focus on monitoring and trigger points?
- Other information to include?

To facilitate discussion on June 8, a brief presentation (~30 minutes) will follow the Draft Report Framework:

- Purpose and scope of the Implementation Plan
- Brief review previous work and subsequent refinements to the CFVA leading to the Implementation Plan
- Introduction of the *Level-Up Palm Beach* concept to further position the Town as a leader in building coastal resilience to benefit the citizenry and economy
- Recommendations
 - Level-Up Town Facilities and Infrastructure
 - Establishing new Design Flood Elevations (DFE) for flood reduction actions and policies
 - Short-term floodproofing: specific Town assets at risk and recommended actions
 - Supplemental data needed to refine priority flood proofing projects
 - Medium-term floodproofing: Town assets possibly at risk pending new data
 - Long-term flood proofing: identification of Town assets with possible future risk
 - Level-Up Lake Worth Shoreline (primary pathway for present and future floodwaters)
 - Code of Ordinances changes to consider for building resilience including all properties
 - Lake Worth Inlet Surge Barrier
- Level-Up Floodplain Development
 - Framework established by CFVA, FEMA, FBC, FDEP and other evolving technologies and policies
 - Policy changes recommended to advance coastal resilience
 - Future floodplain development
 - Substantial improvement and damage
 - Non-residential and residential elevations
 - Building heights
 - Flood hazard areas
- Level-Up Comprehensive Planning: Refinements for Comprehensive Plan to advance coastal resilience
- Other key elements that will follow:
 - Budgetary considerations
 - Monitoring and triggers to inform implementation pathways for adaptive manage approach
 - Linkages to FEMA and related evolving Town policies
 - Consistency and opportunities with emerging state programs FDEP Resilient Coastline Program and Senate Bill 1954

Although COVID-19 restricted the ability to interact closely to date, it is somewhat fortuitous that the Implementation Plan could adapt in parallel with rapidly changing Florida government policies. The plan now is to engage closely in the near-term to achieve the objectives intended originally, since an effective Implementation Plan and associated recommendations depend heavily on Town input. Following the presentation to the Shore Protection Board on May 27, 2021 will be the presentation to Town Council on June 8, 2021 to discuss the attached Draft Report Framework. The intent is to secure comments and feedback that can be incorporated into a full Draft Final Report to be delivered in summer 2021 after Town Council. Comments on the Draft Final Report from the Town will be received by Woods Hole Group, ideally including another meeting with Council as schedules permit after there is opportunity to review the Draft Final Report. Following receipt of feedback on the Draft Final Report, a Final Report will be published.