

# **TOWN OF PALM BEACH**

Information for Town Council Meeting on: September 14, 2021

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TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

VIA: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Coastal Resiliency Implementation Plan

DATE: August 19, 2021

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Woods Hole Group (WHG) will be making a presentation of their draft final report and will request any final input from both Town Council and the public. Town staff requests the Town Council provide any additional input on the report as deemed necessary and provide direction to staff regarding next steps.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

In 2013, WHG completed a technical review of the proposed Coastal Management Program and provided input directly to Town Council prior to Town Council's adoption of the 10-Year plan. While their report identified recommended projects for each respective reach along the shoreline, the report also included island-wide recommendations that extended through multiple reaches.

One of the island-wide recommendations was to perform a flooding vulnerability assessment. The purpose of the assessment was to supplement the Town's Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan (CCMP) with the identification of areas presently at high risk of storm damage and flood, and areas potentially more at risk in the future.

Following a unanimous recommendation from the Shore Protection Board (SPB) on October 27, 2016, Town Council awarded a contract to WHG in December 2016 to perform a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment. WHG presented the results of the study at the January 24, 2019 SPB meeting. Following input from both the SPB and Town Council, the Town's Coastal Flood Vulnerability Assessment report was published in July 2019. The report includes tables of ranked Town assets potentially at risk and maps of present and future flood risk probability. In December 2019, Town Council awarded a contract to WHG to develop this implementation plan. WHG has worked with Town staff, and consulted with both Florida Division of Emergency Management and FDEP, since 2019, to ensure that the implementation plan is consistent with FEMA floodplain mapping and FDEP adaptation planning guidelines.

Bob Hamilton, President, and Nasser Brahim, Senior Climate Resiliency Specialist of WHG, will present their draft final implementation plan during the September 14, 2021 regular Town Council meeting and will solicit any final comments from both Town Council and the public. Following input from Town Council and the public on September 14, WHG will finalize the draft report and submit the final report to the Town. Attached is the draft final report.

The implementation plan includes several recommended actions for Town Council to consider in the near- and medium-term. These next steps may include:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>STAFF RECOMMENDATION</b>
(1) Make applicable adaptations to capital improvement projects	Recommend that Town Council sends this to the Public Works Committee for review and recommendations to Town Council.
(2) Make adjustments to add recommended resiliency features to applicable project and program budgets starting with FY 2023	Staff to address in the FY2023 budget process and present recommendations to Town Council.
(3) Submit for all eligible state and federal grant assistance for added resiliency of capital improvement projects	Initial State Grant request submitted. This will be an on-going effort.
(4) Prioritize and provide policy changes of Town Code and Comprehensive Plan to Town Council for review and approval	Staff to itemize policy issues and present to Town Council, at future meetings.
(5) Create a phased water level monitoring plan to collect data in continued refinement of resiliency implementation	Staff to research. Recommend that Town Council send this to a future Public Works Committee meeting.

### **FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACTS**

The cost of executing the implementation plan to address risk of public infrastructure will be developed after review and input from Town Council.

### **Attachments**

cc: Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager  
H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works  
Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer  
Bob Hamilton, Woods Hole Group, Inc.