



SUMMARY OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING #8
Florida Adaptation Technical Work Group (TWG)
July 18, 2008
12:00 to 2 p.m. EST

Attendance:

1. TWG members: Gary Appleson, Kathy Baughman McLeod, Julie Brashears-Wraithmell, Audrey Brown, Sheri Coven for Secretary Pelham, Jim Murley, Doug Shaw, Debbie Harrison, Wendy Nero for Matt Alvarez, Sheri Coven, Richard Owen, Steve Boutelle.
2. Bruce Deterding, Florida Department of Environment; Karen Webb, Florida Public Service Commission; Kathy Neill and Melony, Department of Transportation.
3. Members of the Public: Barry Heimlich, Bob Krasowski, Florida Alliance for Green Environment.
4. Center for Climate Strategies: Ken Colburn, Linda Schade, and Joel Smith via phone.

Background materials:

(Posted at www.flclimatechange.us)

Documents for this call:

- [Notice and Agenda](#)
- [Call #7 Draft Summary](#)
- [Powerpoint](#)
- [Full Set of Draft of ADP Policy Options](#) (clean copy revised as of July 17)
- [Partial Draft ADP Policy Options](#) (tracked changes version posted July 14)

Discussion Items and Issues:

This was the eighth call of the Florida Adaptation TWG.

1. Ken Colburn of CCS called the meeting to order, called roll, and reviewed the agenda for the call. The Call #8 Summary needed two corrections: definition of DCA Department of Community Affairs on page 2; typo on page 5 – title repeated twice.
2. Linda Schade updated the TWG on Action Team Meeting #4 and reported that Joel Smith presented a summary of the TWG dialogue on each ADP. The Action Team was satisfied but looked forward to seeing the significant writing work done by the TWG at the next Action Team meeting. There was also discussion of possible future merging of some ADP Options with Mitigation side work but further discussion on that was postponed until the Action Team reviews the ADP TWGs draft options.

3. There was discussion on the need for an overview to provide context for the Adaptation Policy Options work in that is a long term planning timeframe. This topic arose a second time and it was agreed that an introductory text should be drafted that would present information such as the emerging scientific consensus that Sea Level Rise (SLR) for example is happening more quickly than the IPCC report reported.
4. Linda Schade gave status report on all fifteen ADPs in terms of which are drafted, which have been reviewed by the TWG and which will need more time on the July 29 TWG call.
5. Ken Colburn placed the TWG's work in the timeframe and schedule of the Action Team process and that today's goals were to get a full round of TWG input on the first 3 template sections (Description of Issues, Objectives, and Assets at Risk) and that Goals would be discussed if there was sufficient time.

ADP-1 Advancing Science Data and Analysis for Climate Change

The TWG had limited comment on ADP-1 which was interpreted as agreement and appreciation of the good job done by Hilary Swain in drafting. Mesonet and carbon tower networks (p. 7) were noted as possible Early Action items.

ADP-2 Comprehensive Planning (Drafted by Jim Murley)

It was agreed to take 'Land Use' out of the ADP title.

"Regional" will not be in parentheses.

There was discussion about 2.3 State Government Goal 3: Balancing Property Rights and Protecting Communities. The issue of property rights comes up in a number of ADPs as it has regulatory and legal aspects, significant implications for beaches and coastal areas. The Bert Harris Act was discussed in this regard. Goal 3's title was amended to be Balancing Property Rights and Protecting Communities and Natural Resources.

Goal 3 text was amended to read: Florida statutes, policies and Florida Administrative Code should be reviewed by the Florida Attorney General to determine potential conflicts between private property rights and the state and local government's responsibility to protect communities from the impacts of sea level rise. (NOTE: I think the above should be revised as indicated. I don't think the intent is to have the Atty Gen. review all the state's written rules, laws and policies for conflicts with property rights. I think the TWG's intent is much narrower.

ADP-3 Protection of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (two texts drafted by Laura Gesselbracht and Gary Appelson)

The ADP-3 Description of Issues is excellent but mostly drawn from Australia. It was agreed that it would benefit from more US and Florida-focused information and that Gary Appelson's paragraph on beaches in that section was a good model for the addition of other Florida-specific

paragraphs on subsections 3.1 Uplands, Freshwater and Marine Systems and 3.3 Species Protection. Paul Johnson and others may contribute to that new text.

The text for section 3.3 Species Protection should also consider the nexus between species and habitat protection.

ADP-4 Water Resource Management (Matt Alvarez and Jay Yingling, and input from Julie).

The tracked changes draft of ADP-4 did not include water requirements of natural systems but it was included in the latest version.

Mining has implications for aquifers and water supplies and storage which should be noted in the sub-sub-section of mining and possibly in the Assets at Risk section of ADP-4. There was a concern expressed about only listing mining as a land use, as opposed to listing all land uses.

In ‘Florida’s Resilient Coasts’ projected seven inches of SLR by 2060 but now there is growing scientific consensus that SLR of 3 to 5 feet or more is possible by the end of the century. This is being intensely researched and scientific opinion is moving toward higher levels than put forward in the IPCC. Emerging scientific consensus needs to be represented in the TWG’s final document. This confirmed that an overview text for the document is important.

Jim Murley and Barry Heimlich are close to finalizing a follow-up project to Resilient Coasts. This could be a potential early action for the new commission.

ADP-5 Built Environment, Infrastructure and Community Protection Built Environment, Infrastructure and Community Protection (drafted by Ricardo Alvarez)

There needs to be a balancing between protecting and hardening the built environment and protecting species, habitat and the natural world. The state’s goal is to preserve the built environment, but the state needs to consider the difficulties of doing this over a long period of time as coastal systems change in response to climate change. We should be careful about this goal. It is difficult to grapple with but there may be market and non-market benefits to comprehensive planning and redevelopment policies which emphasize actions other than hardening of infrastructure. The existing text ‘protect built environment as it exists’ should be tempered.

There is work being done on the Treasure Coast looking at erosion. Some buildings there are temporary; sometimes structures should be designed to be moved.

ADP-6 Transportation and Other Infrastructure (drafted by Kathy Neill, Department of Transportation)

No amendments made.

ADP-7 Economic Development

Tourism is a resource-based industry – Florida Wildlife Commission has a new report which Julie will be send in for reference. An integrated version will be ready for the next TWG call.

ADP-8 Insurance (Property and Casualty)

References to insurance as a tool for sending market signals should be incorporated, specifically including insurance pricing.

State financial exposure is significant as state is the insurer of the last resort. Audrey Brown will provide feedback on this point. Kathy also will get the Office of Insurance Regulation for their mission statement, at a minimum.

Bruce reminded the TWG about the sunshine laws.

The state may become the only insurer along the coast and in high hazard areas.

ADP-9 Emergency Preparedness and Response (Extreme Events)

Goal 1: Edit: Among state ‘Regional and local’ first responders.

Add language expressing a relationship between increasing the resiliency of coastal communities to storm surge and yet having development patterns constrained by the state’s ability to protect those communities.

Mitch Stripling is working with a group of coastal communities on these issues which the TWG should touch base with. Bruce will attempt to find that contact information.

The definition of resiliency should be incorporated into the document.

Under Priorities for Future Research: Bullet point 1: add ‘intensity to hurricane frequency’.

Given the consensus on the shortening timeframe of climate impacts, delete ‘100 years’ out of this text: ‘Global climate change is likely to increase Florida’s risk of extreme weather events ‘over the next 100 years.’ And delete the 100-year timeframe in ADP-3.

ADP-10 Human Health Concerns (drafted by Camille Coley):

No fresh edits on this.

ADP-11 Social Effects (drafted by Camille Coley):

The updated work from the social and economic committee from Miami Dade was noted as a resource.

ADP-12 Organizing State Government for the Long Haul

HB 7135 does significantly re-organize state government to respond to climate change with the new Florida Energy and Climate Commission (FECC) which was created since the TWG began. It was acknowledged that the FECC will pick up the Action Team's plan, move it forward and produce an annual plan.

However the TWG agreed that ADP-12 should go beyond the new commission with goals and strategies. In fact, with all the good legislation passed this session, the only place that the word 'adaptation' shows up in the Florida Forever – a different bill.

Reframe ADP-12 to be more of an open door NOT infer that nothing more could be done. Can try to figure out what works and does not work.

ADP-13 State Funding and Financing

No amendments were offered. The TWG will review for feedback on the July 28 call.

ADP-14 Coordinating with Other Regulatory and Standards Entities (drafted by Matt Alvarez)

Should note the Coastal States Organization, of which Florida is a member.

ADP-15 Public Education and Outreach (drafted by Meg Lowman and Debbie Harrison/Eric Mielbrecht drafted ADP-15.)

No amendments were offered on ADP-15.

Next Steps

There is a coastal states network of which Florida is a member and they are focused on adaptation. See Coastalstates.org for more information.

Ken Colburn summarized noting that some ADPs will need more review next time including 7, 9, 12 and 13 but that the next call will focus mostly on the Goals section and if possible identifying some Early Actions.

- The next meeting of the Climate Action Team is July 9–10, 2008 in Tallahassee.
- TWG Call #9 is scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2008 from 10am to noon.

Public Comment:

Bob Krasowski had a question about ADP-8 (paraphrasing): From a layperson's perspective, I've heard reference to some mechanism for low and high areas, if SLR does occur as expected, for removing insurability for building properties in hazard zones. I see hotels and developments going forward on barrier islands and rivers and am wondering when the line will be drawn in terms of the state liability. Also how will we handle to issues if communities under water?

The TWG has discussed these issues but Bob was appreciated for articulating them so clearly. Audrey Brown also responded that a lot of those condos are not insured by Citizens Insurance but agreed that the TWG should definitely address those issues.