

# DC Flood Task Force | Action Team Meeting: Governance and Coordination



## Governance and Coordination Action Team Meeting Minutes January 14, 2022 | 9:30 am – 11:00 am WebEx Meeting

Meeting began at 9:31 am with the following members, agencies, and support staff in attendance.

### **Attending Voting Members and Support Staff**

Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure (DMOI)

1. Alan Propp
2. Robert Preston
3. Johnathan Rogers

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

1. Salil Kharkar
2. John Lisle
3. Apera Nwora

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) –

1. Nick Bonard
2. Meredith Upchurch
3. Martin Koch
4. Lily Chen
5. Victor Ukpolo

District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)

1. Vermechia Alsop
2. Melissa Deas
3. Carolyn Mejia

District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

1. Ravi Ganvir

District of Columbia Office of Planning (OP)

1. Stephen Gyor
2. Elisa Vitale

District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

1. Brent Sisco

DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

1. Richard Livingstone

DC Department of General Services (DGS)

1. Matt Floca

DC Office of Risk Management (ORM)

1. Jane Waters

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## District Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)

1. Chris Bailey
2. Danny McCoy

## DC Department of Public Works

1. Andrew Gerst
2. Timothy Spriggs

## **Attending Consulting Members and Support Staff**

### DC Office of the People's Counsel (OPC)

1. Grace Soderberg
2. Yohannes Mariam

### DC Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency (DCCCR)

1. Sandra Knight

### National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

1. Julia Koster

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineering Baltimore District (USACE)

1. Stacey Underwood

### Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)

1. Steve Bieber
2. Katie Dyer

### District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA)

1. Cellerino Bernardino
2. Erika Wadlington

### Apartment and Office Building of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA)

1. Glen Hugo

### Washington Gas

1. Manuel Geraldo

## **Facilitators and Support Staff**

1. Monte Monash
2. Adria Anderson
3. Nick Hall
4. Rachel Kendrick

9: 31 am | Welcome

Facilitator Monte Monash welcomed everyone back to the second Governance and Coordination Action Team Meeting. She shared a summary of the Task Force meeting, shared where the team was in terms of the yearly meetings, and gave an overview of the goals for January's Action Team meeting.

Today's meeting focuses on:

- Discuss Benefit-Effort Matrix and Action Plan,
- Prepare to report Action Team progress in Full Task Force meeting Jan 19<sup>th</sup>

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## 9: 36 am | Action Ideas and Categorization

Co-Chair Supporting Staff of DOEE, Nick Bonard, introduced and explained the Benefit-Effort Matrix identifying *Quick Wins*, *Win-Wins*, *Big Bets*, and *Spinning Wheels* as a means to consider the effort and impact Action Plans/Ideas would need, in order to properly prioritize Action Ideas during the discussion.

He delivered a brief overview of the Idea Categorization matrix and the List of Action Ideas and stated the categorizations were drafts. He explained the goal for the discussion is for the team to analyze the full List of [Project Category] Action Ideas based on the four criteria outlined in the Idea Categorization matrix. It was explained that the categories displayed in the draft chart are not final and that feedback and ideas are needed on the “List of Action Ideas.”

Action Category leads facilitated a discussion on each of the five Action Categories listed below.

### 5) Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Projects

Lead: Alan Propp (DMOI)

Discussion topics and findings:

- 5.1.8 District Wide Small Parks and Open Space projects should be raised to a higher effort
- Inquiry into how anything under category 6 would eliminate flood risk. If any of the capital projects were in place would the Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> flood event have been avoided? How is legislation or resilience fee result in a green category (low effort).
  - Capital Projects cannot completely eliminate flood risk; some risk will always remain
  - Capital Projects are going to be high effort, but would likely be higher reward or Win Win
- This matrix intended to prioritize projects
- Adding an equity or Environmental Justice category would allow projects in vulnerable communities to have higher priority
- The aspects of the matrix that ranks neighborhood-scale projects as lower-value is counterintuitive and fundamentally wrong. The adaptation measures may not have as much weight as they should, which could also pull in equity
- The return interval storm that a particular project protects against (i.e. 100-year vs. 500-year) could be used as a rating scale
- One way to talk about the resilience rubric is to identify whether the actions address current vs future flood risk
- Small parks projects would be a second line of defense and connected to other mitigation actions. The District needs multiple lines of defense against flooding (i.e New Orleans levees).
- DPR is looking at similar projects as stated in 5.1.8. The strategy would be to begin with a small number of parks that can be organized in a network
- Old 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Park in Atlanta is a good case study for green infrastructure
- Frederick, MD is also a good case study for flood protection
- Suggest group add an additional ‘Best Practices’ column? This would allow the actions to be evaluated based on a comparison to BPs
- We want to make sure infrastructure projects don’t get pushed to the side

### 6) Regulations, Legislation, Compliance, and Permitting

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Leads: Chris Bailey (DCRA) and Nick Bonard (DOEE)

- Circling back to the resilience fee question – it's believed the resilience fee would provide a source of funding
  - The Fee base can be structured in different ways, for example, Virginia has a tax-based system. Other models are based on assessing fees on development that increases flood risk
  - If it's a tax, the money would be placed in a special purpose fund. If it's an impact fee, it would be added to the permit review process
- The floodplain area is mostly on federal land, so I don't think there would be enough base to generate meaningful revenue. Maybe it should be structured more like the bag tax, so to be applied more broadly
  - Agreement that the tax or fee would be targeted on a very small area
- The action of flood ordinance, requirement tons of developers to consider conveyance, impacts, and other items which are pretty strong. Developers could also be incentivized to implement higher standards
  - How to we incentivize existing developments to do more? Where would we have the most impact, existing buildings or new construction?
  - Interested in exploring how existing homeowners can do more, but that requires a funding source.
- The building code already covers the redevelopment of existing buildings.
- Action Item 6.1 – This might be a huge lift that may not get us that far when trying to engage a lot of federal agencies. NCPC should be used as the mechanism to achieve this action.
  - Maybe this should be reframed through better coordination.

## 7) Mapping and Modeling

Leads: Salil Khakar (DC Water) and Nick Bonard (DOEE)

- We view the IFM as a key to help the City identify mitigation projects. What do others think about 7.1 (rain gages and storm water monitoring)?
  - Referring to task 7.1, [DC Water] looking at how we can position our crews for faster response, so we're working with a contractor to help us predict rainfall using rain gages. Therefore, it would be very helpful to have more rain gages throughout the City. The cost is not very significant but requires a lot of coordination. We should engage USGS with this effort.
- Referring to Action 7.5, this is something DOEE plans to do. We want to upgrade the floodplain maps.
- Suggest we have individual flood mitigation for residences and neighborhoods in this category
  - The residential Resilience Team is working on that matter.
- Request for explanation of the modeling clearing house
  - This is still in the thinking process, but it would possibly look like a place on COG website where the modeling info would be stored for the public

## 8) Flood Mitigation Planning and Coordination

Lead: Alan Propp (DMOI)

- 8.2 the individual efforts look good, but a good public outreach effort should be bumped up to yellow

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- HSEMA is envisioning blending Category 8 with the Category 6 to address and lift up the Haz Mit Plan
- Suggestion to adjust the time and effort on 8.4. This would take time and a lot of person-power. The cost should be yellow or orange, the time should definitely be yellow.
- Has the District considered a high-water mark campaign?
  - COG volunteered their office of communications to develop a flooding campaign

## 9) Flood Emergency Planning, Response and Recovery

Leads: Vermecia Alsop and Carloyn Meija (HSEMA)

- For actions 9.1-9.4, HSEMA is in agreement. However, Action 9.3 there would be some potential additional time and cost associated with an agency standing up a group to take on this action. 9.1 is an action HSEMA can start developing. We like to see ideas from the group on how the visual platform should look
- DC Water has a visual platform. It's used solely for operational purposes but the use can be expanded.
- Request that we project interior flood events using this DC Water visualization tool
  - The DC Water platform relies on 311 data, but getting access to DCPD cameras would be great to make this more of a real-time application.

## 10: 51 am | Preview of January 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Flood Task Force Staff of DOEE, Meredith Upchurch discussed the expectations of the Action Team members to report out progress in the upcoming Full Task Force Meeting. She recommended leads update colors in time for the report out at the next meeting on 1/19. The submission is due by 9 am Tuesday. She also invited any agencies requesting support from the Flood Task Force on flood related projects and actions to reach out.

Flood Task Force Staff of DC Water, Apera Nwora, shared the plans to have three Public Listening Session meetings during March to allow the Task Force to listen to the public's concern and input on the Flood Task Force actions and progress. If possible, it would be a good idea to incorporate site visits to the neighborhood flood mitigation projects for preparation of the listening sessions.

## 10: 57 am | Closeout

Homework for each agency was communicated with the documentation to be submitted by January 28, 2022, and agencies were encouraged to begin to think about which agency will lead each action.

### Important Dates

- Next Task Force meeting – January 19, 2022, 2 – 4 PM
- Homework submission due January 28, 2022
- Next Governance and Coordination Action Team meeting – February 11, 2022, 9:30 – 11 am

**The meeting ENDED at 11:00 am.**