Sea Level Rise

Roadmap - Sea Level Rise (Keith Ingram)

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The Sea Level Change (SLC) group had a broad ranging discussion, which focused on four specific themes:

1. **Improve access to information that is already available**. Assemble available maps, models, data, and tools that are germane to the region. Conduct webinars or conference calls to inform working group and others about how to use them.

2. **Catalog current projects and programs on SLC**. Start with a survey of information at the Georgetown site. Look for SLC impacts that people already observe and find out want they are doing. This information will be particularly useful when informing decision makers. If they see others taking action, they are more likely to act themselves.

3. **Develop and implement plan on how best to move from science to policy and action**. Members of the Working Group communicate well and collaborate well, but tend to stumble when we need to affect policy. There is a disconnect between the technical world and the boardroom. We need to communicate better establish buy-in from the local governments and their representatives. Planners need to better understand the scientists so that we can represent the information. The key for getting from science to policy is for us to gain a better understanding of what motivates decision makers, and then build on those motivations. A major concern is the potential loss of tax base as SLC damages infrastructure and people move away. Economic assessment is needed to understand SLC impacts on utilities. Identify critical infrastructure, vulnerable populations and properties. Communicate clearly that the worst case scenario is one with no action. Many local decision makers face conflicting interests – the opportunity to make money and increase the current tax base versus protecting people and properties from exposure to SLC.

4. **Governance structures**. Investigate the role of governance structures related to responses to SLC, especially with respect to expenses borne by a single utility. What are alternatives that would be more equitable and effective? One example could be cost sharing. We should strive to learn more from insurance companies as they are expert and risk assessment and management.

Information time frames for SCL decisions by water utilities

Time, years	Decision
50	Water treatment plant construction
20	Water supply planning
10	Comprehensive planning
3-6	Capital expenses
<3	Operational

Next Steps: We will focus first on themes 1 and 2 with the following actions. Once these are well in hand, we will develop plans for themes 3 and 4.

Theme 1: Improve access to existing information

1. Organize webinars for various Sea Level Change viewers that are available.
    a. Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Viewer http://csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slrviewer/
    b. Sea Level Rise Map Viewer http://sarasotabay.org/slrmap/slrmap_viewer.html
    c. Surging Seas http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/ - Note that this viewer has generated a fair amount of discussion on at Linked In Climate Change Adaptation Florida
    d. NASA Sea Level Viewer - This viewer shows sea level anomalies as observed by satellite altimeters, not sea level change. http://climate.nasa.gov/SeaLevelViewer/seaLevelViewer.cfm

2. Invite PWSU-CIWG to attend next ACF Drought Briefing webinar to see if we should develop a similar effort for FL.

3. Discuss availability of SLOSH and SLAM model outputs from G. Kiker. Perhaps we should invite Greg to present those results to next PWSU-CIWG meeting.

4. Incorporate NCA reports, Annotated Bibliography of Linhoss et al (2012), and other relevant reports into project Knowledge Management System.

Theme 2: Catalog existing impacts and projects

5. Review NCA impact reports, State Dept of Economic Opportunity project listings, and Georgetown U climate adaptation web site for Florida relevant projects, SLC impacts, and information.