
Planning for Resilient Communities Workshop

Key Takeaways and Resources

Workshop Key Takeaways

- In the context of land use, flooding happens when water expands into an area where development exists.
- Local governments have the legal control over where development happens and how it's done. As such, it's important that they understand flood risk across their communities and develop plans and ordinances that reduce risk and keep residents safe.
- Good planning establishes community priorities, ensures communication across sectors, and directs resources to community needs.
- Incorporating resilience into your community's plans might include:
 - Adding a resilience chapter to your master plan
 - Future land use maps that identify nature features for flood protection and areas of flood risk
 - Infrastructure/Asset Management Plan Development that develop a collaborative process to tackle the same problems, especially around stormwater and transportation
- When it comes to zoning for flood resilience, we want to:
 - Provide setbacks and open space so that water can move and has places to go
 - Provide buffering and landscaping to help manage water
- Coordination across internal departments and sectors is critically for making plans successful.
- Stormwater Managements Plans are an important type of plan that communities can implement, that help identify gaps in the infrastructure system and determine how decisions are made. Developing a plan follows the general steps:
 - Assessing the current system
 - Identifying deficiencies
 - Identify future needs
 - Assess flooding risks
 - Develop plans and potential solutions
- The City of Ann Arbor's Stormwater Comprehensive Management Plan is the first of it's kind in the Great Lakes region, and a god example for Southeast Michigan communities. The plan holistically looks at the stormwater system, and emphasizes working with the natural environment to manage stormwater. In developing the plan, there's been three main learning takeaways:
 - It's important to ask hard questions, especially about future conditions and what needs to happen for the plan to realistically be implemented.
 - Philosophical changes are difficult, especially changing public perceptions of stormwater management, how it's done, and why it's important. Language shifts can really help with the education component that's required of this.
 - Conflicting initiatives within the community make it hard to get work done, emphasizing the importance of working across sectors early on, and aligning plans from the beginning.

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Future Community Needs for Resilience Planning:

- More opportunities for communities upstream & downstream to come together, understand each other's situations, and how to help one another.
- Public education and outreach that focuses on how we communicate and plan for uncertainty, especially around flooding.
- Education toolkit for stormwater utility.
- Technical assistance for planning standards and project designs.
- Standard definitions across the region.
- How to use the data that's available to support community plan and project development.

Workshop Resources

- [Michigan Association of Planning Website](#)
 - [Coastal Solutions Compendium](#)
 - [Planning for Resilience in Michigan Handbook](#)
- Example of good Integrated Planning: [Plan Ferndale](#)
- Example of good Nature Features Protection: [City of Kalamazoo's Nature Features Protection Overlay](#)
- [Tackling Barriers to Green Infrastructure Guidebook](#)
- [Protecting Michigan's Wetlands Guidebook](#)
- [MiDIG Portal](#)
- [City of Ann Arbor's Stormwater Comprehensive Plan](#)