

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: A Regional Resiliency Study of the St. Johns River Watershed

by Agency: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Locations: FL

POC Name:

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 09/23/2015

Confirmation Number: 23e6af7f-c67e-4ed7-88a1-e6bbb12f6a3b

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
RCI Letter of Support USACE Proposal.pdf	09/23/2015
NEFRC letter of support.pdf	09/23/2015

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
<p>Northeast Florida Regional Council(Primary)</p>	<p>The Northeast Florida Regional Council is fully committed to the regional resiliency efforts underway in Northeast Florida. The Council will provide all necessary means to achieve the resiliency goals set. Additionally, the Council fully supports the proposal of a Regional Resiliency Study of the St. Johns River watershed, as this would fill a critical data gap in the Region.</p>
<p>The Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. (RCINEF)</p>	<p>The Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. (RCINEF) was formed in response to a growing realization that Northeast Florida needed a broad-based organization that would initially have as its purpose to advance and promote the vision of regionalism, as it relates to the quality of Northeast Florida’s natural, man-made, economic and social environments. The Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. undertakes policy work for the Northeast Florida Regional Council.</p> <p>The Regional Community Institute’s First Coast Vision (2011) is a 50 year vision for growth and development in the seven county Northeast Florida region. First Coast Vision was requested by the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) so that it could be considered as the regional plan is updated. One of the action items included in the vision was the need to bring together leadership and experts from the region to determine climate change impacts, and if indicated, mitigation and adaptation plans. In early 2012, NEFRC posted a request for information and positions on climate change in the region. The bulk of the responses received were related to sea level rise. In August, 2012, NEFRC asked the Regional Community Institute (RCI) to take up sea level rise in Northeast Florida as its next topic for review and policy recommendations. RCI accepted the challenge, referred the issue to its Emergency Preparedness Committee and began planning in September, 2012.</p> <p>The result of this planning effort was the creation of the Regional Action Plan on Sea Level Rise. Further work lead to the formation of Public/Private Regional Resiliency Committee (P2R2) of the Northeast Florida Regional Council. The work of these committee members is helping to advance regional resiliency with a business focus. The action items of the P2R2 committee are achievable items but would greatly benefit from a vulnerability assessment like the one proposed. RCI stands in full support of this proposal.</p>

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE

feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

Feasibility Study

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

This proposal focuses on the USACOE authority to complete a regional resiliency study of the St. Johns River watershed for the Northeast Florida region. The center of the region is the City of Jacksonville, with nearly one million residents, with a MSA population of nearly 1.5 million. The region is home to two major military facilities – Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport and a major port facility. The operation effectiveness of these military bases has increased in recent years and is critical to US national security. The region as a whole is dependent upon the economic and community based assets the St. Johns River and Atlantic coast provide. The Army Corps of Engineers has a district office in Jacksonville and while there have been a few, targeted federally funded ACOE studies in this area, the region has a lack of robust data and analysis for the watershed regarding sea level rise and climate change. This study would have a long term vision, focusing on the next 100 years, and examine multiple facets in planning over such a long term planning horizon. As land is lost in South Florida, populations will retreat to the less vulnerable land found in other parts of Florida, including northeast Florida. This population shift is in addition to the rapidly growing population in Florida. The St. Johns River watershed study could be a pilot project for a concept that could be replicated across the other watersheds in Florida and the southeastern United States. Key to the plan is an analysis of the regional implications of sea level rise on the St. Johns River watershed. A resiliency assessment for the region, in the current environment, should be completed to determine baseline conditions, which includes storm surge. Further study and analysis should include an assessment of future conditions, determining adaptation options for sea level rise at 1 foot increments.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation (if necessary)

An estimate of the cost would be \$200,000. This includes an estimated \$100,000 of work leveraged by the P2R2 Committee work with its extensive partnerships (see description of local support) which is the non-federal share. The work completed by the P2R2 through their action items furthers regional resilience efforts in Northeast Florida. The federal share of funding for this project is estimated to be \$100,000, for a total project cost of \$200,000.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The identification of less vulnerable land, as identified in a regional resiliency study, is important for the siting and placement of critical infrastructure needed to accommodate future growth. Infrastructure often is a catalyst for development. Channeling growth, including infrastructure and people, to the least vulnerable areas will reduce risk on lives, property and investment. Less people will be in danger during the more frequently occurring 100 year storm events, less property will need to be insured adding to the stability of the National Treasury and expected infrastructure lifespans will be met or even exceeded. Appropriate adaptation strategies will ensure the effectiveness of the military assets in the region, in order to support the mission of national security.

7. Does local support exist? If ‘Yes’, describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

Ongoing, non-federal work can be leveraged for this opportunity, including the work of the P2R2 Committee of the Northeast Florida Regional Council. This committee was formed in response to an action item from the adopted Regional Action Plan on Sea Level Rise, which was a challenge to engage the business sector in long term resiliency. The committee is made up of a variety of business representatives from the banking, real estate, engineering, and insurance industries. The P2R2 Committee of the Northeast Florida Regional Council is addressing twelve action items with a focus on regional resiliency. Action items fall in to four categories: Health & Wellbeing, Infrastructure & Environment, Economy & Society and Leadership & Strategy. A few of those specific actions include identifying finance mechanism for resilient redevelopment; determining resilient building techniques and those who implement them in NE Florida; leadership training and identifying less vulnerable areas. In addition to P2R2 Committee members, volunteers from across the region have committed to accomplishing these action items. The work of the committee members, the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the volunteers are leading complementary efforts with the proposed Regional Resiliency Study. One of the twelve action items is “We can dream: vulnerability assessment”. This action item calls for a Northeast Florida specific vulnerability assessment to the coastal and waterfront changes we can expect as the sea rises and climate changes. This vulnerability assessment should include a study of the vulnerability of the people, economy, natural and manmade assets of Northeast Florida to sea level rise. The proposed regional resiliency study would accomplish this action item.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

NEFRC letter of support.pdf



Bringing Communities Together

Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns

September 22, 2015

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (Council) has taken the lead in the Northeast Florida region (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties) to address the effects of climate change and sea level rise, as released in the *Regional Action Plan for Sea Level Rise* in 2013. The Council oversaw the creation of a Public/Private Partnership Committee (P2R2) with representatives from a cross section of business interests in our region to further the efforts in addressing climate change in Northeast Florida. With the release of the *P2R2 Action Plan* (enclosed) in July 2015, a group of energetic and dedicated volunteers and partners are working towards completion of the twelve implementation items, with additional staffing provided by the Council.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council is fully committed to the regional resiliency efforts in Northeast Florida and in providing the necessary staff time and support to achieve the goals set. Additionally, the Council fully supports the idea of a Regional Resiliency Study of the St. Johns River Watershed for the Northeast Florida, as proposed. The proposed study would fill a critical data gap that exists for more robust and refined data for the region.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Teeple
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Florida Regional Council

Enclosure:
P2R2 Action Plan



P2R2

ACTION
ACTION
ACTION
ACTION
ACTION

P2R2 ACTION

Health and Wellbeing

Are We Ready?

We will work with those who serve vulnerable populations to see if we are ready for a major event and will try to learn from the experiences of others. First up? Health care providers.

Building Resiliently in Northeast Florida

We will convene local folks to choose the resilient building techniques that work here, so when builders build or residents renovate, their choices are local, durable and clear. We will share what we find.

Regional Resiliency Rebuild

We will engage with the arts and education communities and others to help us imagine the future through a design and ideas competition that asks how we might rebuild to thrive after a disaster.

Infrastructure and Environment

Vulnerable Areas

Our vulnerabilities page contains examples of ways to look at our vulnerabilities. We will assemble better data specific to our region as it becomes available so that businesses and communities can assess their risk when considering investment.

Less Vulnerable Areas

Northeast Florida has an assessment of the vulnerability to sea level rise of lands that provide ecosystem services. We will determine what lands may be less vulnerable and where new development might be encouraged. What we mean by "less vulnerable" will be an open discussion.

Infrastructure Checklist and Adaptation Cost Benefit

We will develop a checklist for communities to use to ensure resiliency is fully considered before infrastructure investments are made, and will provide regional assumptions to use in considering the costs and benefits of adaptation approaches.

Economy and Society

Business Risk Survey

We will encourage participation in a quick on-line survey that businesses can take to get them started thinking about resiliency, and provide links to the resources that can help them plan.

Resiliency and Financial Literacy

We will encourage financial institutions to add resiliency to the topics they cover in financial literacy programs, and to include the topic in discussions preceding mortgage pre-qualification.

Incentivize Development in Less Vulnerable Areas

We will convene land use attorneys and experts to identify ways to incentivize investment to go to less vulnerable areas and to fund resiliency in renovation so that communities know their options.

Leadership and Strategy

Leadership Training

We will advocate for training for elected officials, and will seek sponsors from the business community to offset costs if required, so they can better understand, champion and communicate resilience and the challenges we face.

Metrics

We have established a baseline for property and tax base at risk from a major hurricane and 1', 3', and 6' of sea level rise. We will track metrics we feel can help us evaluate how we are doing at addressing resiliency.

We Can Dream: Vulnerability Assessment

We should have data specific to our region that models what coastal/waterfront changes we can expect as the sea rises and climate changes. We should use this as an input to a robust assessment of the vulnerability of our people, our economy, our natural and our manmade assets to that change. This can be done in observation of best practices used elsewhere. Unlike the rest of our actions, which we can advance with our determination and work, this one may require significant funding.

***Sign up to participate or give us your ideas at
www.nefrc.org***

Other Non-Federal Sponsors Letter(s) of Support

(This is as uploaded, a blank page will show if nothing was submitted)

RCI Letter of Support USACE Proposal.pdf



September 22, 2015

Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

To Whom It May Concern:

The Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. undertakes policy work for the Northeast Florida Regional Council. Our organization brought together a diverse set of partners, stakeholders and volunteers to create the original Regional Action Plan on Sea Level Rise and many of our associates from that work remain engaged in the Action Items of the Public/Private Regional Resiliency Committee (P2R2) of the Northeast Florida Regional Council. While the model that works in Northeast Florida involves only including doable items in our policy recommendations, in the case of sea level rise it is impossible to fully implement the work of P2R2 without a vulnerability assessment specific to our region. It is not reasonable to expect a landowner or local government to make funding and cost/benefit decisions based on the data that is now publically available.

A vulnerability assessment in Northeast Florida would recognize and leverage of all the private and public sector work done to date and that which is ongoing. It would also make the P2R2 work effective in ways it cannot be without the assessment. We hope you will support this initiative.

Sincerely,

Margo Moehring
Executive Director