



SESSION DESCRIPTION

F1 Louisiana adaptation: Mitigation to managed retreat

Panel

Date: Friday, 27 April, 2018

Time: 16:30-18:00

Rooms: S30-32

Language: English

Contact: Jeannette Dubinin & Mathew Sanders

E-mail/web: jdubinin@cpex.org, www.cpex.org & mathew.sanders@la.gov

Organized by: Center for Planning Excellence & Office of Community Development of Louisiana

OBJECTIVE

Following 2005's Hurricane Katrina, the State of Louisiana recognized the long-term connection between coastal land loss, subsidence, sea level rise and their collective effects on flood risk. In an effort to combat these conditions, the state created the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and in doing so, has made significant investments in modeling out future land loss and flood risk on a 50-year time horizon. Although crucial to the future viability of the Louisiana coast, the restoration of land and creation of structural flood protection will not alone save the coast of Louisiana or the inhabitants that call this land home. In recognition of the fact that no one solution can prevent loss from catastrophic events in the future, the State of Louisiana was awarded \$92.3 million for the execution of two projects, Louisiana's Strategic Adaptations for Future Environments (LA SAFE) and the Resettlement of Isle de Jean Charles by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. LA SAFE is an initiative launched in 2017 and funded by \$40 million of the \$92.3 million grant. In 2017, LA SAFE used the state's land loss and future flood risk data to complete regional and local plans across a six-parish (county) target area in an attempt to orient current and future growth management and land use and development strategies in alignment with the state's Master Plan.

In addition, the state is working with the Isle de Jean Charles Island, a coastal community in remote Terrebonne Parish (county) that has lost more than 90 percent of its land mass over nearly three generations, to relocate the residents into a safe and lower risk area. Looking forward, the Island itself is expected to disappear completely over the next 50 years – or upon the next significant tropical impact. Using \$48.3 million of the \$92.3 million grant, the State of Louisiana is working with the Island community to conduct the first publicly funded, climate change-induced resettlement in American history.

The objective of this panel discussion was to discuss the lessons learned and best practices from both of these adaptation efforts.

OUTCOMES

Participants did:

- Learn about how the State of Louisiana is trying to adapt to our current coastal challenges, including land loss and future flood risk;
- Have a deeper understanding of the importance of authentic engagement in public planning processes that have a direct impact on their lives;
- Learn about new, innovative solutions that were co-designed by the LA SAFE team and community residents;



- Gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the inherent challenges of the community resettlement process;
- Better understand the coastal conditions that will likely engender future migrations along the Louisiana coast, as well as other coastal environments around the country and the world;
- Analyze the economic and cultural sustainability strategies proposed by the master planning team for the new Isle de Jean Charles community.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator opened the session with a short introduction. **(5 minutes)**
- Each speaker were given time to describe their work. **(3 x 10 minutes)**
- The remainder of the session was organized around the guiding questions, with each panelist given time to respond to individual questions, and to respond to comments made by other panelists. **(25 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers from the audience. **(25 minutes)**
- The facilitator concluded with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

Guiding questions:

1. List of questions the panel will explore and seek to answer
2. What are the adaptation strategies from the LA SAFE process that panelists think will be the most successful and why? Do the panelists think those same strategies would be the most successful everywhere across the Louisiana coast or will they be the most successful because they respond to a particular need in a particular place?
3. What was the outreach and engagement strategy in the LA SAFE process versus the IDJC process? What differences did the team consider when crafting each strategy?
4. Do the panelists envision a way to bring lessons learned from both processes to other places in Louisiana or around the country and world, without a major source of new funds? Could existing planning processes be changed to accomplish the same goals?

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator	<i>Dakota Fisher, Resilience Program Analyst, State of Louisiana's Office of Community Development, New Orleans, USA</i>
Panelist	<i>Rachelle Thomason, Coastal Community Resilience Programs Associate, Foundation for Louisiana, New Orleans, USA</i>
Panelist	<i>Jeannette Dubinin, Director of Coastal Program, Center for Planning Excellence, Baton Rouge, USA</i>
Panelist	<i>Maria Papacharalambous, Architect and Project Manager, Waggoner & Ball Architects, New Orleans, USA</i>

Further recommended reading

IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5): <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/>

Johannesburg GDS 2040: http://www.joburg.org.za/gds2040/gds2040_strategy.php

Disaster Recovery Unit, State of Louisiana: <http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Index.aspx>
