



MEMORANDUM
Town of Nags Head
Planning & Development Department

To: Planning Board
From: Holly B. White, Principal Planner
Date: January 14, 2022
Subject: Update on Resilient Coastal Communities Program- **Goals**

*****Items in red indicate updates.**

Earlier in the year, the Town was notified that it was accepted into the [North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program](#), a technical assistance program under the Division of Coastal Management that endeavors to “allow communities to develop an in depth understanding of their risk to coastal hazards. As a result, communities will be better prepared to take advantage of various future implementation funding opportunities.”

The objectives of the N.C. Resilient Coastal Communities Program include:

- Address barriers to coastal resilience in North Carolina at the local level, such as limited capacity, economic constraints, and social inequities.
- Assist communities with risk and vulnerability assessments and developing a portfolio of planned and prioritized projects.
- Advance coastal resilience projects to shovel-readiness, or ready for implementation; and
- Link communities to funding streams for project implementation.

The North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program Planning Handbook is available [HERE](#) and describes the Phases of the program.

VHB has been assigned as the Town’s consultant under this Program, and the Town’s efforts under the development of the [VCAPS Report](#), [Comprehensive Plan](#), and [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) have been recognized as satisfying the many of the initial requirements of the program.

At the January 18, 2022 Planning Board meeting, Candice Andre, Senior Project Planner with VHB, will briefly review the Town’s adopted plans to overview how the plans address resilience. Following this brief review, Ms. Andre will facilitate discussion with the Planning Board, who is acting as the Community Action Team, about the Town’s vision on resilience and the development of goals that will guide this effort. As a starting point, these resilience goals will be based in content from the VCAPS Report, Comprehensive Plan, and Hazard Mitigation Plan. The presentation is attached to this memo.

Staff and the consultant will be available to answer any questions or discuss concerns.

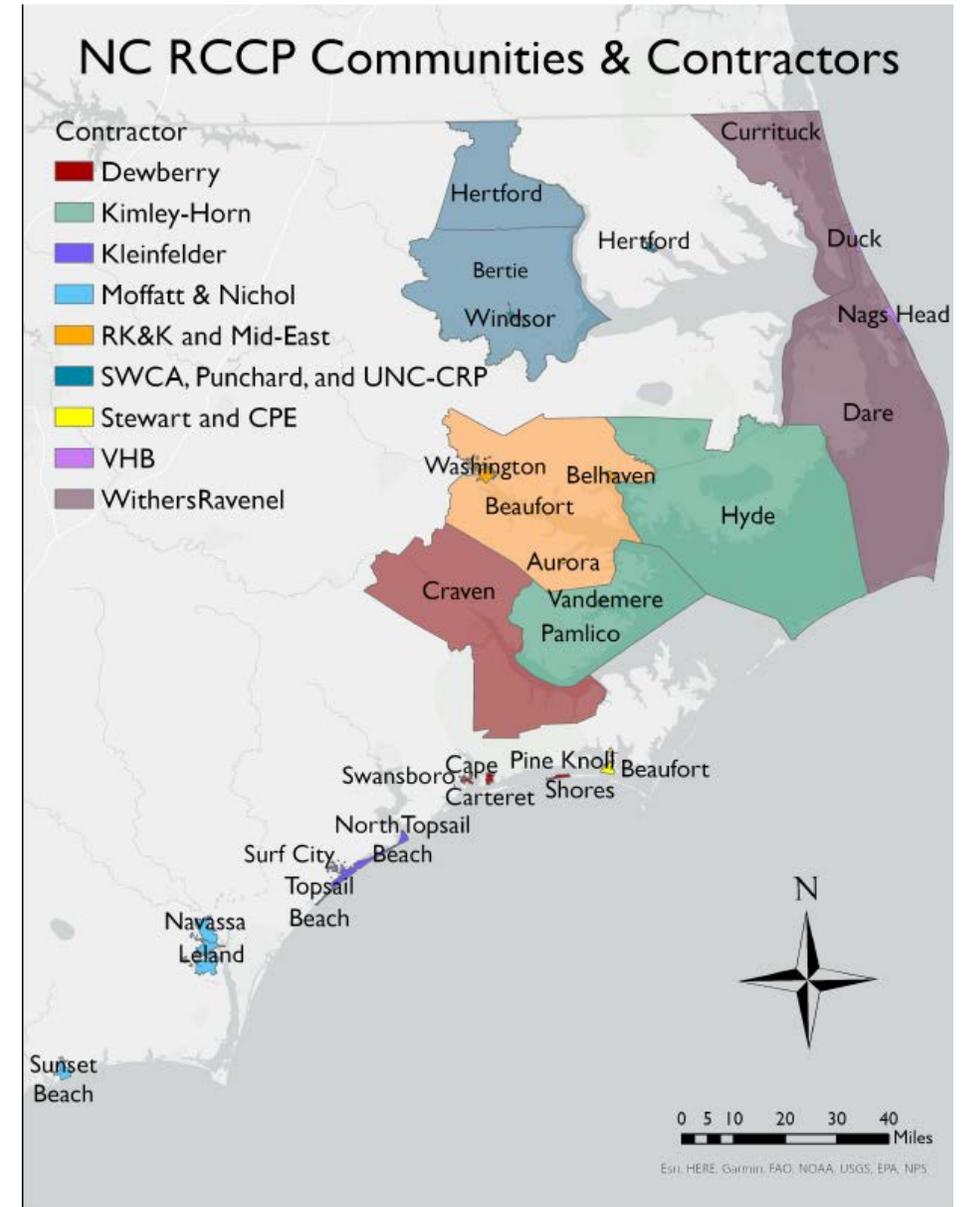
Town of Nags Head Resilient Coastal Communities Program

Town Planning Board Meeting
JANUARY 18, 2022
Presented by: Candice Andre, AICP

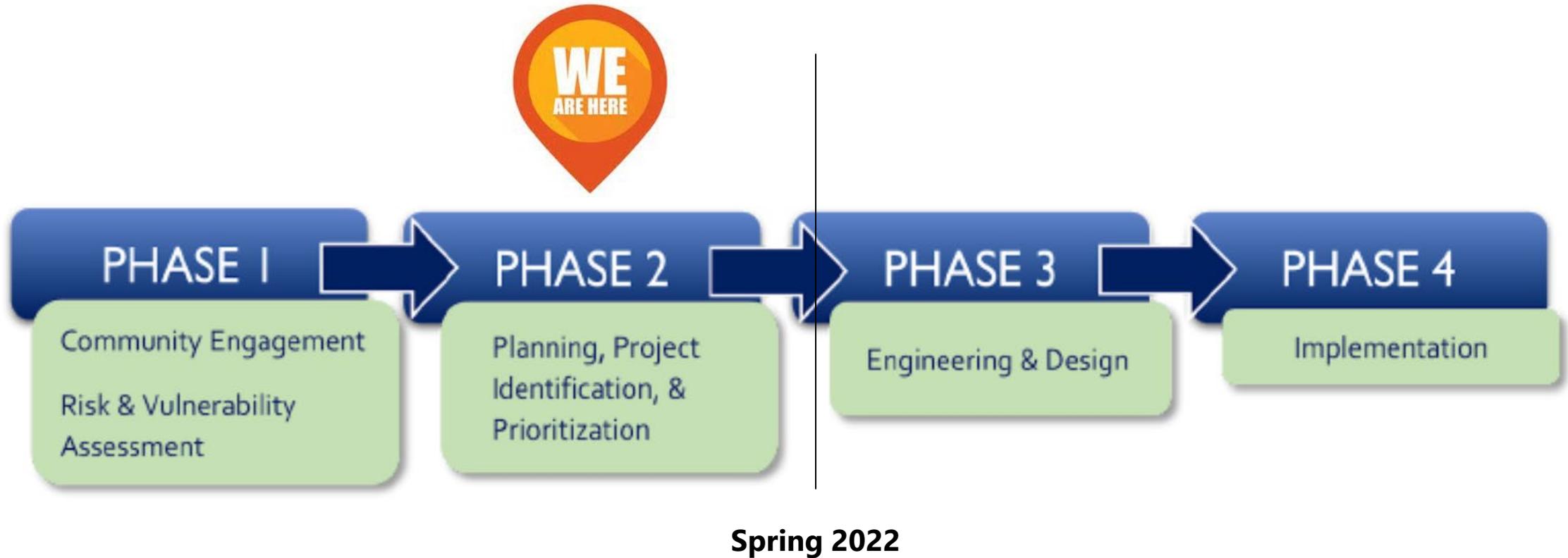


RCCP Program

- Provide funding & technical assistance for:
 - Developing Resilience Strategies (risk & vulnerability assessments, portfolios of prioritized resilience projects)
 - Project engineering, design, & implementation
- Promote locally-driven, inclusive, & forward-thinking approaches to traditional hazard mitigation planning
- Incentivize innovative solutions (Natural & Nature-Based Solutions)



Process / Timeline



Vision & Goals

- Local Values & Priorities
- Vision – Where do you (as a Town) want to be in the future?
- Resilience Goals – measurable steps that can be taken to achieve the vision
 - Preparedness
 - Recovery
 - Community engagement
 - Construction & restoration
- Pull from existing sources of information



University of Wisconsin

Town Goals

- Vulnerability, Consequences & Adaption Plan Scenario (VCAPS) Report – 2017
 - **Concerns:** erosion (ocean and sound side), rising groundwater impacting septic function and underground utilities, flood events (South Nags Head, Vista Colony, Whalebone Junction, the Causeway)
 - **Needs:** Education and awareness, more public forums, ways to incentivize adaptation measures
 - **Barriers:** government processes, policy between state and local government, public perception of the lack of an immediate threat from sea level rise
 - **Management actions:** ocean, estuarine shoreline, stormwater, ground/surface water, and common cross sector topics
 - Implementation table with priorities

Town Goals

- FOCUS Nags Head Comprehensive Plan – 2017
 - **Vision:** We strive to preserve and protect the Nags Head character, environment, tourism-based economy, and sense of place in order to ensure a high quality of life for residents and a memorable family vacation experience for present and future generations.
 - **Goals:**
 - Preserve our community's distinctive heritage and unique lifestyle.
 - Protect our critical natural resources and coastal ecosystem.
 - Build and promote a sustainable economy that supports residents and visitors.
 - Plan for orderly and sustainable growth and redevelopment.
 - Maintain a well-run and efficient government that provides high quality and cost-effective services.

Town Goals

- FOCUS Nags Head Comprehensive Plan – 2017

- Highly likely hazards – Floods, hurricanes, nor'easters, thunderstorms, erosion, rip currents
- Likely hazards – Wildfires, winter storms

Mitigation Strategies

- Protect the public health and safety of the town from natural and manmade hazards through proactive planning and mitigation efforts.
- Ensure that the town is a disaster resilient community that can survive, recover from, and thrive after a natural or man-made disaster event.
- Support mitigation projects that reduce the potential damaging effects of hazards on the town.
- Support the town's continued participation in the NFIP and CRS.
- Promote public awareness of risks from natural and manmade hazards through public education programs.

Coastal Resiliency & Sea Level Rise

- Foster partnerships with universities and non-profits to assist the town in identifying risks and making scientific based decisions that increase the town's resiliency.
- Minimize impacts of future sea level rise.

Town Goals

- Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2020
 - “maintain its unique quality of life and sense of place while planning and preparing for resilience in the face of future hazards”
 - Sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event
 - Focus on hazards deemed “high” or “moderate” priority hazards for planning, as determined through the risk and vulnerability assessments
 - Anticipate continued growth as a low density, single family residential community and hopes to preserve open space
 - Entire Nags Head oceanfront coastline is experiencing erosion, with more severe erosion in the southern areas of the Town
 - 25 mitigation actions

Town Goals – Common Themes

- Resiliency
- Education
- Outreach
- Unconventional solutions
- Preservation
- Data collection & tracking
- Partnerships
- Contingency plans
- Adaptation

“A resilient Nags Head means the town and its residents:

- **Withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions without long-term damage to the economy or environment;**
- **Require less government funding to recover, rebuild and redevelop its communities; and**
- **Sustain the way that natural systems provide ecosystem services that directly or indirectly support human survival and quality of life.”**



Vision – Where you want to be in the future

Resilience Goals – Measurable steps

Planning Moving Towards Projects

- RCCP Application- (from Town's CIP)
 - Town Hall Rain Garden – Phase II
 - Living Shoreline Pilot Project
 - Project Area #4 CIP Stormwater List – Pump Station
 - Project Area #5 North Ridge Subdivision – Highway Swale
 - Project Area #6 Old Nags Head Place Subdivision – French drain system
- Comprehensive Plan (Adopted)
- Hazard Mitigation Plan- (Adopted)
 - Mitigate areas of repetitive loss
 - Install flood detection gauges
- Decentralized Wastewater Management Plan Update (in progress, but not adopted)
 - Groundwater and water quality loggers
 - Upgrading/repairing vulnerable septic systems
 - Increase septic inspections (pay contractors)
 - Increase septic loans (from \$7,500→\$12,000)
 - Increase in water rebate (credit to water bill) for pumping out septic tanks
 - Public outreach/education- videos/graphics, mailers

Planning Moving Towards Projects

- Estuarine Shoreline Management Plan (in progress but not adopted)
- EV Action Plan (in progress but not adopted)
- ETIPP- Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (in progress but not adopted)

Next Steps

- Finalize mapping & vulnerability assessment
- Meet with Town staff
- Community outreach
- Identify & prioritize projects
- Next meeting – February 15, 2022

Questions

Holly White | Holly.White@nagsheadnc.gov | 252.449.6041

Candice Andre | candre@vhb.com | 919.741.5346

