

Cape Fear River SRP Meeting
Notes
November 8, 2018

HURRICANE DEBRIEF:

Jeremy McCargo, WRC: do not keep fish stock on hand for immediate stocking following hurricanes. CFR had significant fish kills from L&D2-ocean had hypoxia and anoxia. Many other areas had fish kills as well. Main stem CFR has not been sampled yet due to high water levels. Water temps in Fall will impact ability to electro sample. Has sampled in NE CFR and full compliment of species present. Will not know if American shad juveniles were killed or left with the floods for 3-4 years. Saw dead stripe bass and sturgeon in LCFR but will not know damage to population until sampling. Do have stripe bass and will stock 100K in December.

Madi Polera, Cape Fear River Watch: DO causes included: CAFO failures and inundation. Multimillion gallon waste water discharges. Coal ash pit failures. Sampling showed arsenic and selenium from coal ash. Bioaccumulation concerns from heavy metals. Mostly in main stem and not side creeks. Shifted priority to communicating issues to public.

Peter Raabe, American Rivers: There are both state and federal disaster relief packages being brainstormed. He has the NGO group drafts.

Chris Stewart/Casey McKnight, DMF. Continuing to sample. Starting to see fish bounce back in some areas. Electro fishing and gill net being used on CFR. Be awhile before full impact is known. Plan to get back out and tag a bunch of fish in December. Still not back in office from storm damage.

Emily Hughes USACE biologist. Looking at effects of hurricane on infrastructure in the area. Have a dredge project in CFR anchorage basin pipelining dredge material to Eagles Island.

Cindy Simpson. Concerns about pollinators.

Beth Darrow/ Emily Bald Head Island Conservancy. Made apparent to them that they are at the receiving end of everything upstream.

Bill Hart, Soil and Water. Tree canopy loss to historic district. Marsh shell held in place. Lots of dead fish. Storm debris in creeks.

Beth Eckart. Cape fear public utilities. Resiliency and after-action reports done. Fuel contracts for 148 pump stations being reexamined. 123 had generators. Some areas flooded that had historically not flooded causing logistical issues. Had to increase TOC monitoring and chemical usage went up. Did metal sampling at water intake. Copper/arsenic was at similar levels as a few years ago.

Kerry Allen, NC Coastal Fed. Water quality testing and public information. Living shorelines successful. General permit gone to comment with USACE. Debris removal and infrastructure assessment.

Mick Noland, Fayetteville PUC. Adding additional generator. Ran for 2 days. Can retrofit treatment plants. Both back in compliance by the end of the week. If something flooded once, it is going to flood again. 2 historic storms in a row. CFR as high as it has ever been since 1945.

We ran out of time. USGS, TNC, Natural Heritage, Audubon, and Moffit and Nichol did not give full updates.

AFTERNOON BREAK-OUT SESSION NOTES

The room was tasked with answering the following questions:

- 1. What are the top three questions we want to collectively address through spatial analysis?*
- 2. Do we have the data we need to answer these questions?*
- 3. What resources do we need to consolidate our efforts? Do we need to hire someone? What financial resources do we need and what grants might apply? Who can take responsibility?*

Group 1

1. How do we use a collective SA to bridge gap btwn UCFR and LCFR? How do we design a tool that could help influence policy? Do we need a tool that provides analysis or outcome or a data repository?
2. Real time WQ monitoring, extra gages
3. Dedicated staff person. User interaction to inform tools. Improve communication so people know tools are available. Identify true mission of spatial tool.

Group 2

1. Land water interface. Human dimensions why do they care/generate more interest? What should we measure and how certain models/forecasts extreme events/resilience?
2. Human dimensions, Local scale/case study calibration/validation
3. More widely sharing be a better way to get buy in. One integrated platform. Like DOT tool. Funding florence/michael relive. Leverage existing cost share conservation. Marketing other successful stories.

Group 3

1. More info on point source pollution. Maximize spatial analysis to increase public will for specific conservation efforts. How do we use spatial analysis to incentivize longterm resilience actions in response to disasters?
2. Have some of the data we need but need it consolidated. Need more social data. Some hurricane data still being collected/assessed.
3. Need access to fed/state data and someone that understands it. Need infrastructure info.

Group 4

1. Include economics/social element in spatial analysis tools. CFR partnership could be librarian to combine tools and efforts. Prioritize 100 year flood plain. Grow to bigger storm. Prioritize buyouts protection and restoration.
2. Have a lot of the data that we need but need more gages, input data, impairment updates, more real time species data.
3. Hire a contractor/consolidator but first ID partners that can take early lead.

Follow ups:

- Dawn to put up presentations and links to tools on the website. Materials to be posted.
- Contact data to be shared through an email.
- Keep partnership informed if groups start working together to integrate tools.
- The CFRP is going to start a work group for spatial analysis