

**Natural Infrastructure Flood Mitigation Program (NIFMP)  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2024**

Time: 10:00am Location: Piedmont Room 1103 Green Square & Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:**

Marc Recktenwald, DMS  
Periann Russell, DMS  
Medina, Sascha, DEQ Public Information Officer  
Chris Dreps, Flood Resiliency Blueprint  
Mehdi Lamssali, DMS  
Will Atwater, North Carolina Health News  
Kayne Van Stell, Water and Land Solutions  
Arnold, Laura, North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers  
Etheridge, Randall, East Carolina University  
Byrne, Marlena, North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency  
Will McDow, Environmental Defense Fund  
Reeves, Byron, City of Fayetteville Stormwater Management Program

**AGENDA**

10:00	Welcome	Marc Recktenwald
10:10	Updates and Progress	Periann Russell
	Strategic plan	
	Modeling Effects of traditional mitigation	
	Carolina Bays: potential for restoration and flood mitigation	
	Stoney Creek pilot project	
10:30	Workshop Topics and scheduling	Periann Russell
	Project size and scale	
	NBS/NI definitions for program	
	Currency for RFPs and tracking	
10:50	Questions	
11:00	Adjourn	

Marc Recktenwald welcomed the group and asked for everyone to introduce themselves; attendees added their name and organization to the chat for the official record.

Periann Russell presented program updates and progress.

Kayne Van Stell asked for a copy of the modeling effects of traditional mitigation report from EPR.

Will McDow asked about the modeling application across some broader landscape.

Periann Russell stated that additional modeling work will be performed to test the curve sensitivity to different slopes and soils. Once that work is complete, the methodology will serve as a guide for developing a scope of work and RFP to model additional areas across the state.

Marlena Byrne asked how the modeling effort and the DMS tool for NIFMP fits in with the blueprint modeling.

Marc Recktenwald stated the DMS modeling is being performed at a more refined scale than the blueprint modeling. The blueprint identifies the problem or problem areas and estimates the amount of flood storage needed to address the problem. The DMS modeling and tool allows DMS to evaluate RFP response proposals at finer scale to quantitatively compare specific projects proposed and to assess a combination of proposals that will address the RFP.

Marc Rectenwald updated the group on a site visit in Goldsboro attended DMS and Rep. Bell. They visited several locations including Wayne County Community College (WCCC) where the first project is being implemented.

Will McDow reiterated interest in holding a public event at the groundbreaking of the WCCC project and his willingness to help. All members agreed that a public event is a great idea.

Will Atwater asked about the timeline for WCCC project implementation and asked to be updated. Sascha Medina will be in touch with Will to keep him updated.

Periann Russell presented the workshop topics and asked for advisory members to indicate the workshops in which they would like to participate.

Will McDow brought up the importance of creating different distinctions for definitions related to natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions, as well as putting priority on looking beyond the environmental benefits of nature-based solutions.

Marlena Byrne asked for clarification regarding the workshop topics and questions the workshops would be addressing.

Periann Russell addressed the three workshop topics.

Periann stated that several board members, either five or six, have retired or moved on to different positions and DMS is working on filling those positions.

Periann Russell mentioned the advisory board meetings would be in person and virtual so that the public may attend. Workshops will be planned for in-person but virtual will be accommodated for out-of-town board members.

Periann asked if there were any final questions or comments, then the meeting ended.

**Action items:** Send conceptual framework document to board members  
Send Stoney Creek traditional mitigation practices effects on flood mitigation to board members  
Sascha Medina contact Will Atwater with updates to Stoney Creek  
Post July 11, 2024 presentation to website  
Set up workshops