AN ELECTED OFFICIAL’S PERSPECTIVE ON FLOOD HAZARDS AND RESILIENCE

NACo’s Resilient Counties

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WE SHOULD ALL BE IN THIS TOGETHER!

- Language Matters
- Perspective Matters
- How do we make it a collaboration?
- What are we missing?
WHY IS RESILIENCY SO IMPORTANT & WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Elected Officials are rarely strategic and often reactive.
Public demands are varied and broad.
Must be knowledgeable about many things.
Building relationships with staff is required to get to outcomes.
Getting re-elected.

THE CHALLENGES OF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL
THE CHALLENGE

Building Resilience takes collaboration!

Telling People No is Hard

People have very short memories!

Building to the future takes vision
Risk – the chance of something BAD happening

Resilience – the ability for a system to respond to, absorb and recover from disruption and return to its core functions

Assessing risk – natural as well as social and political

Resilience is not a fixed commodity – and requires building relationships, trust and understanding

The vision and understanding of risk and resilience requires work every day
HOW TO HELP YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Understanding where the flood plain manager sits in the organizational chart
- Helping them understand: Why should they care? And what happens if you don’t care! There is risk in NOT being prepared.
- Checking in on whether they have read AND understand their HMP
- Ask them what they are most concerned about and then listen
- Building alliances, finding allies and being patient is a requirement
THE OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

We don’t have enough time
We don’t have enough money
This may never happen
Others will fix this if it does happen
Politics!
A better more resilient community
A common vision of what you want your community to be.
HOW TO MAKE THE CASE

Budget impacts – prepared vs. unprepared
Planning helps to build relationships that assist in disasters
Tools for responding to the developers
Learn to tell a story – or help your elected be a storyteller
THANK YOU!

AND QUESTIONS

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