

***SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL RESILIENCY
COMPACT***

Meeting 1

Facilitator Summary

October 8, 2021

Interviews conducted and
Summary prepared by
The FCRC Consensus Center

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BACKGROUND

The Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact met for the first time on October 8, 2021 at Florida Gulf Coast University's Emergent Technology Institute. The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review results of initial interviews – common themes and key questions
- Discuss and explore components of a possible governance and operational framework for the compact, in preparation for Organizational Meeting 2
- Begin identification of focus areas and possible activities for 2021-2022

Participants included representatives (in most cases more than one) of all fifteen jurisdictions that signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the compact. In addition, over ninety member representatives, non-governmental organizations, funders, the media and other members of the public attended and observed the proceedings, either in person or online. The list of participants can be found in Appendix A of this summary.

WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome

Greg Tolley, Executive Director of the Water School at FGCU welcomed participants and expressed the University's support for the efforts of the compact.

Noah Valenstein, Presidential Fellow in Water Policy at FGCU and former Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection offered additional remarks. He conveyed his excitement for the work of the compact and noted that collaborative compacts have been very successful in other areas of the state. He noted the work of the legislature and the region's legislative delegation during the last legislative session in appropriating more than half a billion dollars to support resiliency, and noted that a coalition like the compact can help bring those resources to Southwest Florida. He expressed a hope that the region could look back years from now and see this as the beginning of a productive dialogue between the cities and the counties.

Mike Savarese, Distinguished Professor of Coastal Resilience and Climate Adaptation at FGCU also welcomed participants. He noted that the work convening the compact had taken almost two years and emphasized that the compact belongs to its members: it has to work in a way that makes sense for them. His principal hope is simply that the compact gets off the ground and starts doing things. Other compacts have been remarkably successful. Virtually every coastal county is in a compact or considering one. Heartland counties are also considering collaborating, although their challenges are different. He concluded by introducing the two facilitators.

Agenda Review

Facilitator Hal Beardall stated that the agenda focused on helping representatives of the jurisdictions that signed the compact explore how the compact should operate and what its initial activities should be. He noted that it would probably take members at least two meetings to engage with these questions and reach tentative conclusions.

The facilitator highlighted that today's agenda did not anticipate making decisions but rather exploring options and starting points for further development regarding possible guiding principles, a governance and operational framework, and a possible workplan for the compact. He also reviewed the discussion guidelines, worksheet and the consensus-testing scale included in the materials. He emphasized that the consensus-testing scale was not a voting mechanism, but rather a way of getting a "sense of the group" at a particular point during a discussion. He noted that the facilitators would open each discussion by turning to the official representatives of participating jurisdictions and their staff: others in the room might be included in the discussion after that, time permitting. Lastly, he reviewed provisions for public comment.

The agenda and other workshop materials reviewed by Mr. Beardall can be found in Appendix B of this summary.

Introductions

Elected officials and staff seated at the table as representatives of member jurisdictions introduced themselves first, followed by others participating or observing in the room. Elected officials or staff representing member jurisdictions and participating online then introduced themselves. The facilitator thanked the other online observers and apologized that time did not permit all online attendees (more than 56 people) to introduce themselves.

BRIEFINGS

The two briefings described below occurred at separate times on the agenda rather than during a single block of time. They are presented together in this summary for ease of reference

Sunshine Briefing

Vee Leonard, Vice President and General Counsel for FGCU, provided a briefing on Florida's Sunshine Law. She noted that since the representatives of the participating jurisdictions were either elected officials or staff for governmental entities, most would already be familiar with the Sunshine. She stated that future meetings of the compact would be subject to Sunshine, since the compact would be developing recommendations to member governments. Those recommendations, however, would not come before the board of FGCU and the University would therefore not assume formal responsibility for noticing the meetings. Each member jurisdiction should notice the participation of its representatives consistent with its own policy. The University would make a recording of the meeting available upon request.

Participant Questions and Comments (presenter, facilitator or meeting staff answers appear in italics)

- To whom should we make the request for the recording?
- *To Mike Savarese at FGCU.*
- *The facilitators will also prepare a summary of the meeting today which will be provided to member jurisdictions and be made available to others upon request.*

Review of Senate Bill 1954

Noah Valenstein, Presidential Fellow in Water Policy and former Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided an overview of Senate Bill 1954.

- Senate Bill 1954 provides assistance to make sure all the jurisdictions in Florida have done vulnerability assessments and resiliency plans.
- Part of the discussion during the crafting of the bill revolved around the fact that the legislature had a strong interest in funding projects that communities need, but it could not identify which projects to fund. So, the legislation addresses how the state can determine the list of projects to fund.
- The legislation takes a two-tiered approach. First it requires that all jurisdictions conduct vulnerability assessments with some minimum requirements. Then it requires them to identify resiliency projects based on those assessments.
- The legislature provided \$100 million a year from dedicate funds to support the vulnerability assessments and projects. In addition, it provided for up to \$400 million from federal stimulus funding for a total of up-to \$500 million the first year.
- To be eligible for funding, local governments need to engage with vulnerability assessments and project planning – not for all grant funds but generally.
- In addition to that, the state will go through three years of planning. It will start by rolling up existing vulnerability studies and sending those to the legislature. By the third year the state will have done its own assessment, and related rule-making.
- At the end of that third year you will have the state plan and will be able to talk about regionally significant infrastructure.
- The legislation is looking for regionally significant infrastructure. Thus, it gives you a competitive advantage to work together regionally.
- The advantage of collaboratives at a regional scale is that you can get competitive advantage by talking with each other and developing a narrative of why some assets are regionally significant and become more competitive for grant funding.
- Alex Boganov with the American Flood Coalition is here to help provide information.
- The Water School can provide a platform to get started. The Water School's role is bringing folks together and providing a platform.

Participant Comments and Questions (presenter, facilitator or meeting staff answers appear in italics)

- It is frustrating that special districts could not apply for this money. Do we anticipate that changing in the legislation? And do you anticipate that this group could ever be the overarching funder that small jurisdictions could apply to?
- *Anyone who has applied probably has a pet peeve with the process. We've gone from five years ago there being a perception that state officials couldn't say "climate change" to trying to get \$500 million out the door as quickly as possible, so we've come a long way. The legislature wants feedback. That is one of the benefits of a group like this – you can improve the process by sharing your experience. Don't be shy about suggesting changes. Have patience with the implementing agency during the first year. There are questions about whether specific projects fit. This year's session is a signal that the legislature is interested in working with you on this, so I would say go ahead and submit those projects. Even if it doesn't quite work today, I would bet it would work tomorrow.*
- Talked with Senator Rodriguez and we discussed whether this group could ever act like an an MPO. The thought is out there.
- *That is for you to discuss – Elsewhere the compact is a hub for discussion and coordination of projects and that benefits individual members. I'm not aware of any regions where the compact has taken over the funding role. Usually the individual members apply and manage the grants. But the state is looking to see if there is a regional benefit or is it hyperlocal. So dialogue like this can help you make the case that while a project is within one county it has a regional benefit, it is additive or works with projects in other parts of the region.*
- The question is about the organization of this compact and how that fits with state guidance. Is the intent that a compact could be a vehicle for applying for grants? Does each entity have to have a study/vulnerability assessment first for the compact to apply? If we all can't meet the test does that compromise the compact's ability to apply?
- *The law is written so that local governments are eligible but regional entities can provide assistance both technical and developing. But it still has to be a local government (or regional entity in some cases).*
- *Look for opportunities in your discussion and pitch the idea. The legislature realized that regionally you may have a large county working on something, but there may be a regional overlay. For example, regional assets. You can make a better case and have a better project collaborating regionally on those.*
- As a precursor to pursue projects and funding, we need to know where each jurisdiction is on vulnerability assessments that comply with the law. Right now, I cannot tell you where others are on vulnerability studies.
- How do other compacts handle the applications for funding? Have they been going through the individual jurisdiction or have you seen them applying as a compact? And that emphasizes the need for us to hear from other compacts.

- *Bulk of requests have been from individual entities, but there is three million for regional entities such as Regional Planning Councils. Southeast Florida is looking at vulnerability studies for the region as a whole. They are still figuring out which bucket that falls into. The SFWMD has put in requests also. You may need to tweak the application system. I would flip the question – what do you want to do? I’m pretty sure you have a path to do that. When Southwest Florida speaks as a whole, it is difficult for the legislature to ignore that.*
- Other compacts are frustrated by the need for applications to come from a jurisdiction and wanted more flexibility to apply directly.
- How much has been allocated so far and how much is left?
- *The Department has not yet announced on the larger buckets – the \$100 million per year in dedicated funding and the \$400 million in stimulus funding. The stimulus may have been a one-time thing, but the \$100 million is recurring. But as soon as you are done talking about applying in one cycle the next one opens up. I wouldn’t worry too much about where you are in the current cycle.*
- This regional approach is very good. It makes it much easier to advocate for projects that would have impacts on a regional level. On a practical level, the ability to attack things on a regional level makes it much more likely to get funding.
- There is a difference between needing a regional entity and identifying regional significance. Those are two different things in grant programs. Lee County is applying for grants for a regional benefit. You will score higher on an application if you can prove a regional benefit, but you don’t have to be a regional entity to apply. Because many of those are federal pass throughs, you still need single unit of government to pass the federal money through to administer.
- *That is correct – wouldn’t quibble with that at all. I would still say that while the compact may not be the entity applying, that kind of regional conversation gets noticed and is seen as a signal that the region thinks these projects are important. It may be a bit of an intangible, but it lifts all your individual requests. If you look elsewhere in Florida, that is the case. Just the fact that this many people took the time to come to the meeting today or listen in online is noticed. State and federal agencies see that: we see the level of conversation and teamwork that shows us that when money goes to an individual team member it will be successful because it has that much of a support system in the area.*
- Just as a clarification, Hertz Arena is regionally significant as a shelter that houses 6000 people. Do the other compacts actually want to take on responsibility for implementing physical projects with grant funds?
- Other compacts are at a point further along than we are in planning collectively with joint projects, but not as far as the Southeast Compact. They want to do regional projects. Some are assessments, but the Tampa Bay Compact would like to do physical projects.

- *Whether it is for compacts, Erosion Control Districts, etc., clearly the legislation will need to be adjusted moving forward. They have assessments and activity they would like to have funded. Probably easy to point to something and say, “why was that written like that.” Ultimately, I think these are the growing pains of a program of this size.*
- For the next 10 years counties will be responsible for 100s of millions in projects. Whatever projects we can’t get grant funding for, will be the responsibility of taxpayers in those counties.
- As a representative of a small resource-constrained municipality, I am especially excited about the compact. The funds are going to flow from the federal level, to the state to the county level and only then to the municipality. Having the compact discuss and raise an issue as regional can help us elevate a proposal that might not have much of a chance otherwise. Also, to state the obvious, resiliency issues have no respect for political boundaries. Working together is crucially important.

REVIEW OF SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW THEMES

Facilitator Rafael Montalvo reviewed the Summary of Interview Themes distributed to participants in advance of the meeting. He noted that the Summary was based on interviews the facilitators conducted with elected or senior staff representatives of almost all the participating jurisdictions. The interviews posed four basic questions:

- What do you hope the compact will accomplish?
- What organizational issues will the compact have to address?
- What substantive issues should the compact tackle first?
- What are the principal challenges the compact will have to overcome?

Key Themes

. The facilitator highlighted the following aspects of the Summary

- The principal accomplishment interviewees hoped for was that the compact would help them cooperate on resiliency issues, and develop a coherent voice for the region as it seeks state and federal funding. Respondents expressed a strong sense that many resiliency issues could be better handled together than individually.
- Water quality, storm surge/flooding and resiliency-related education were the principal substantive issues respondents mentioned.
- Respondents offered a much clearer sense of what the issues were than of what should be done about them. Participants are not coming to the compact with an agenda of projects and actions. This will have implications for the initial work of the compact.
- Participants have a range of expectations for the role of this board.

- Some thought the Leadership Committee would function much as a governing board, setting direction, but not directly involved in the work.
- Others were very interested in the Leadership Committee being directly involved.
- Representatives will need to work through what roles make the most sense for the compact and the Leadership Committee and what the implications of that are for the governance structure and organization of the compact.
- Respondents also mentioned several key challenges:
 - For the compact to sustain interest and involvement, activities need to add value to what the jurisdictions do on their own. Not supplant.
 - Defining resiliency. The compact will need to agree on a working definition.
 - Developing leadership within the compact and the region.
 - Recognition that member jurisdictions come to this with a range of resources and abilities to commit, and the compact will need to accommodate a range of types and degrees of engagement as a result.

Participant Questions and Comments (presenter, facilitator or meeting staff answers appear in italics)

- I entered into this to try to follow the State of Florida’s direction. As much as I want to focus on Southwest Florida, I want to make sure that we follow the state’s direction to maximize funding and that there is no disconnect. Funding is always a concern. If we don’t somewhat coincide, my concern is that funding may become a challenge.
- *That is a perspective that was expressed by many respondents during the interviews.*

Overview of Key Issues to Address in Operationalizing the Compact

The facilitator noted that sets of organizational issues emerged from the interviews that it would be helpful for members to discuss today and possibly set direction for at the next meeting. These included:

- Governance structure and organization – the role of the Leadership Committee, what staffing and support might look like
- How member jurisdictions and others might organize to do the work
- Initial focus areas – what should the compact undertake first

The facilitators noted that they had talked to individuals involved in other compacts about how those groups had approached these questions. The response was that whatever this compact decides to do has to make sense for this region, and members may not know every detail that makes sense at the beginning. It takes time to understand what makes sense. A gradual, incremental approach to answering these questions may therefore be helpful.

Participant Questions and Comments (presenter, facilitator or meeting staff answers appear in italics)

- Regarding the governance structure for the compact, I know there are other regions that are ahead of us. The southeast coast especially has done a great job. I would love to see what they have done. It may be they are facing some of the same issues we are, and I would like to understand how they have approached them.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The facilitator reviewed the Possible Guiding Principles in the meeting packet and noted that those principles spoke to how the compact will do its work, rather than what it will do. He emphasized that the facilitators drafted the Principles in response to the issues and challenges raised in the interviews. The facilitators hoped the Principles would serve as a starting point for a discussion that will help the compact develop a common understanding of how it will proceed. He highlighted the following points:

- Principles A and B are based on two considerations. This compact doesn't have the authority to compel any member jurisdiction to undertake any action. The emphasis is on course of action that enjoy consensus for that reason. Principal B is a corollary to that consideration. Activities of the compact will be more compelling with consensus but jurisdictions are not compelled to participate in everything the compact might undertake.
- Principal C acknowledges that as a compact of local governments you want to represent the region. It makes sense to be inclusive.
- Principal D is based on the clear message in the interviews that members want the focus to be on projects that add value and support rather than supplant member jurisdiction efforts.
- Principle E recognizes that as representatives of governmental entities, you are working on behalf of all the residents of your jurisdictions.

Participant Questions and Comments (presenter, facilitator or meeting staff answers appear in italics)

- This captures many of my concerns – focus on how we are the same rather than differences would help us, and I think that is here – what can we do for the region, not just my jurisdiction.
- This is excellent. One of the things we want is for compact to have the support of the region, and focus on what the region needs.
- These look good if broad and inclusive. Can these change as we stand the compact up? None of us are really familiar with standing up a compact, with what the pitfalls might be or what the positives are. That could impact every decision going forward.
- I agree with everything that has been said so far, and particularly Principal D. Value added is important. We still have work to do to understand what that means. We don't yet know where everyone is in relation to these issues and this work.

- I agree these principles are broad and effective. Always good to have on the table that you will certainly encounter conflicts and that the group needs to work proactively to resolve them. Captured in A through D, but not specifically mentioned. Should add this.
- A good direction. Agree these are a good start and also that they may need to change.
- I would like to learn more about what member jurisdictions are doing and what other compacts exist in the state and what they are doing. Working collaboratively is important.
- In most strategic planning that I'm familiar with, the guiding principles are more narrow and focused. Maybe we hear from the other compacts and can revise these to guide us as to what to focus on. I don't want to reinvent the wheel.
- Compact should serve as a clearinghouse – a place we could go to get information and share resources. Marco is small, and the University is a center for information sharing. Share information and as we evolve identify what works. Also, we are all working in the shadow of the Army Corps. I would like to hear what other municipalities think of the hardening strategies that are being proposed.
- Nothing to add.
- I'm looking forward to more narrow guiding principles. It is essential to see what others have done.
- Many on the chat offering to help with reaching out to other compacts.
- As much as a year ago, the three counties agreed we wanted to meet with the Southeast Compact leadership. In conversations with Charlotte and Collier we find we are still of the same mind. We want to understand what worked and what didn't work for them so we don't have to reinvent the wheel. These are universal principles but when we start talking about working collaboratively and consensus we are worried because there is already a grant proposal out there to use a model which we may not want to use. Not sure we agree with using ACUNE model which may not be best for all in the region. As you know, there are more than a dozen models out there including the USACE model. We are concerned that this may not be as collaborative and consensus based moving forward.
- I really believe that we need to hear from these other compacts, who have worked on this for years and years. Interested to see what did and did not work to avoid pitfalls in the next year. What did they do to protect the coastline.
- Want to emphasize the need for flexibility. Once we decide what we want to be when we grow up, these are broad and may need to be adjusted.
- I agree with the guiding principles. And for Everglades City this is an important issue for us since we are on the coast.
- Certainly agree with hearing what it is happening on the east coast. Like learning from others

before making our own mistakes. It's difficult without looking at the nuts and bolts of the "what" before deciding about the "how".

- I agree that we need to look at the models and existing efforts. Understand the concern that this could be redundant. I just want to make sure we look at what others are doing and not duplicate efforts.
- These guiding principles line up with earlier discussions. These are broad and subjective, but I'll wait to see the objectives for more specific issues.

DISCUSSION OF KEY ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

Compact Objectives

The facilitator reviewed the compact objectives included in the meeting packet. He noted that the language in the packet was drawn from the MOU, and unlike the Principles, addressed what the compact is setting out to do. He highlighted the following points in the MOU language:

- The compact expresses members' intention to work together on a regional level to address and identify what they need to do.
- Members will do that by identifying vulnerabilities, using a common vulnerability assessment methodology, planning for adaptation and mitigation, learning from each other, leveraging resources, and pursuing public private partnerships.
- The activities of the compact are expected to result in a regional resiliency plan and a regional legislative strategy.

Participant Questions and Comments (presenter, facilitator or meeting staff answers appear in italics)

- There are those in the room that are not a municipality or county. They have resources that cities and counties don't have. Is there a role for them?
- I'm looking for some design parameters and projections to come out of this group. If we do something to protect the city, but are using a different model, we may push onto others without even realizing it.
- The issue we are having right now is that there are changes every year to the building code. The building code requires someone to work within the parameters of a parcel. But that has implications for the adjacent parcels. We need our updated maps and flows for neighborhoods to be able to plan. On the governance side it is very important that the CHNEP and the SFWMD are members. Those two members are key because they have been doing the work the longest.
- Want to make sure the common methodologies are also accurate and acceptable to the state.

Governance and Operational Framework (decision-making, organization and support)

The facilitator reviewed the Governance and Operational Framework materials in the meeting packet. He noted that the material was developed by the facilitators using the language in the MOU and responding to concerns raised in the interviews. He also noted that as with the other materials in the packet; these were intended as starting point for discussion, and not to constrain the direction compact members may choose to take in the future. The facilitator highlighted the following aspects of the material:

- A Leadership Committee comprised of one representative from each jurisdiction, each with one vote is outlined in the MOU. Because the compact cannot compel or constrain action on the part of its members, simple majority votes would have little or no effect on dissenting members. The materials suggest a decision-making guideline that focuses on activities that enjoy consensus among members.
- The provisions that describe how the compact will organize focus on flexibility with relatively little formal structure. Other compacts have varying levels of structure. The flexibility is intended to let members explore through experience what kind of organizational structure makes the most sense for Southwest Florida, while providing the minimum structure needed (in the form of ad-hoc workgroups) to begin working together.
- The guidelines suggest non-member organizations and members of the public may offer comment at meetings of the compact and may participate on workgroups. Any products of the workgroups would have to be brought back to the Leadership Committee for review, refinement and approval.
- For the first year of the compact, any necessary staffing and support could be provided by the Water School and one of the state grants.

Participant Questions and Comments (presenter, facilitator or meeting staff answers appear in italics)

- We have trepidation about creating a governance structure without first talking with the East Coast compact. We would like to suggest for all three counties to get with the compacts on east coast to learn from their experience rather than attempt something new and make our own mistakes. What were the decisions you made that you wish you didn't, how did you grow the compact into something successful? Put the governance structure on hold until next meeting.
- How many members in the MOU? Fifteen. Give them each one seat at the table – operate as a public meeting – set agenda for public comment at end of each section. We don't have an organizational structure but common interests. It will take a long time to evolve into something more than information sharing. Use it as an information sharing venue. The necessity of regional communication is absolutely necessary and that is lacking. I don't expect it to evolve into an organization with staff and grant writers and managers – would be duplicative.
- I agree with Lee County. We need time to talk to neighbors on other side of state. The three

counties meet with counterparts on southeast coast and bring information back to the next full meeting. I think that would actually save us time in the long run.

- Wasn't there a plan to connect with the Southeast Compact even before Covid? Let us organize that conversation and bring that information back to the next meeting.
- I agree. It would be enlightening if they would give us a power point on projects that worked and what did not in southeast. You learn from mistakes even more than from successes.
- Wouldn't it make sense instead of going individually to the Southeast Compact, we invite the other compacts to come to us to talk? That would be less onerous for them. I absolutely agree we need to learn from all of the compacts.
- Southeast Compact will be willing to help and have helped us already. Jim Murley has talked to us and has a lot to say about structures that create unintended consequences.
- Agree that we need municipalities in the conversation too. Considering the collaborative nature of this effort, it would be better to bring other compacts here so we could all hear what they have to say and work together to synthesize the information. That wouldn't preclude us from also individually reaching out to those we know.
- TNC works with other compacts around the state. I serve on steering committee that brings together all the compacts. I would suggest not just talking to the Southeast Compact but also to East Central and Tampa Bay. They have learned quite a bit from the Southeast and improved on the Southeast model. That would be very beneficial in terms of lessons learned and where to take this.
- I've talked to municipalities in other compacts in terms of what they are doing and how they are interacting with those compacts. It has been a very positive experience for them.
- Why is the NEP not here?
- *They are here but not a signatory – resource for future discussion.*
- *The facilitator asked if any participants had reservations about moving in the direction suggested earlier – i.e. continue the discussion of governance, but defer setting a direction on governance structure to the next meeting, and reaching out to the other compacts to learn from them. No participants expressed reservations.*
- NEP is a federal organization in that the bulk of our funding comes from EPA, but we are also hosted by a local government in this compact, Punta Gorda. As such, we are already eligible to receive funds and act as a coordinator for federal and state funds. The benefit is that the local and state funds we receive can be used as a match for federal funds, and there is an enormous amount of federal funds becoming available. We are aware of all the partners and we work with all pots of funding. I just wanted to offer that.
- Just wanted to offer that it might better for us to go to one of the bigger compacts to learn

from them first-hand. Need to do this now, not have more meetings and then do that in three months.

- I think it would be negligent not to reach out to see what others have done, before we put governance structure together. It is better to do it right than fast. We have an opportunity to do this right. And, look at more than one compact. In the end, I think we will get there quicker.
- I agree – it has taken two years to get here with this compact. We can take the time to make sure we do this right. It will be a huge benefit to the region. I was part of the committee that drafted the MOU. We did look at the MOUs of other compacts. A lot of the MOU you see comes from those.
- My comment is about staffing and support. As the work of the compact grows, it will need that. It says here that the Water School can provide some of that initially. We need a summary of what that might look like in order to set expectations.
- The Water School stepped up and made a modest commitment to support the compact financially to honor the pledge not to ask local governments for financial aid during the compact's early years. We remain committed to that. Water School has funding to move this forward – it is paying the facilitators for example. It has funding of at least \$20,000 to cover initial administrative costs and is willing to provide space in the new building, if needed. It is also working with the philanthropic organizations around our region to try to raise private money to find sustainable donations. Working with Charlotte County, we also submitted two proposals for the compact. One was for administrative costs and management. Those monies will be available short term, through the end of June 2022. Those funds cannot be used for staffing, they have to be used to produce deliverables. The Water School does not envision using any of those funds to pay existing staff: it is about bringing in other people. Those are resources intended to help jump start the compact. You have heard offers of help from the CHNEP, NGOs and others in the room. We view the Water School as another resource. We hope to keep the burden of the purse away from local government. That said, anything we do will require in-kind resources in the form of your time.
- Charlotte County partnered with the Water School on those two grants because the deadline was August 31, which was prior to our being able to meet as a group. Listening to the proposal, it seemed “no harm no foul.” We are very committed to keeping the compact moving forward as well as we can, doing the right thing, but we certainly didn't want to make decisions on behalf of all the other members, but the grant proposals had to be in by then. The second grant around the ACUNE model was trying to get a head start on getting those funds available.

The facilitator asked if any members had reservations about proceeding in the direction outlined in the discussion – i.e. reaching out, as individual jurisdictions and collectively as a compact, to other compacts to understand what worked and what did not in their experience, and deferring any decisions about governance until after members have had a chance to discuss and understand those experiences. No members expressed reservations and the facilitators indicated they would work with members to bring that information to future meetings of the compact.

Initial Focus Areas and Workplan

Participants identified potential 2022 focus areas or activities for further discussion at Meeting 2. Participants offered the following suggestions.

Participant Questions and Comments (presenter, facilitator or meeting staff answers appear in italics)

- One of the biggest things we would like to see in the first year is design guidance: what storm model, what year, what intensity, what are we going to look to do? Ft. Myers is starting our vulnerability study next week, working with Floodwise Communities to do that, and it will be about an eight-month process.
- It would be very important to do an asset-based analysis of what we want to preserve – what is wonderful in our community. Be able to say, “these are the things we want to protect.”
- Understand the process and the roadmap for this group to get things done.
- Looking for the value in compact. It seems to be communication between the different groups, standardizing the models we use and the way we do the vulnerability assessments, and a system wide look. Most of the time most of us are pretty busy trying to keep our heads above water, and the ability to look longer-term down the road would also be a benefit.
- Make sure we have standard vulnerability assessment compatible across the region.
- Standard design storm is important. Right now what we have is very unrealistic. Look at examples of what others have done, maybe in electronic format so that everyone can look at them on their own.
- A gap analysis to see what each jurisdiction has done on its own regarding sea level rise risk assessment.
- Get together with other compacts before end of year to guide us in the governance. After that, make a decision on our governance. Have a strategic goal in place – unified methodology and projection. By the end of the year define leadership and workgroups.
- Look at infrastructure planning for those who have assessments and what those next steps are. After you have the gap analysis, bring those together and focus on what implementation would look like, especially green infrastructure.
- Define purpose of the compact – that is very important to me. And what do we do in the interim while the legislature is meeting.
- I would absolutely agree we need a gap analysis in the region to see where we are. I think we are all in different places in our region and using different tools. Once we have our government structure in place, look at whether the fifteen members make sense. Should we expand that to include NGOs and inland communities? Because we are one region.

- Just a twist on what has already been said. Agree we need to look at what jurisdictions have done, then see whether there is a place that information could be stored only so that we can draw upon it. A repository of information that we could all draw from would be important. Some may have identified early projects, and the repository might help us understand those. I also think the methodology discussion is an important one. See if ACUNE needs to be modified to help mitigate impacts, and the mapping system and identify what other tools we need.
- Just want to emphasize the importance of understanding where everyone is.
- Include consideration of Comp plans in understanding of where we are in the region in terms of vulnerability.
- Would strongly support the standardization of assessment methodology. Next, for those still waiting to do vulnerability studies, develop those in such a way that they represent the geographical area of the entire compact, so we have a voice as we go after project grants. And there cannot be enough information sharing, so that we can learn from each other quickly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- This has been an incredible place to live for thousands of years. How can we include protection of archaeological and historical sites in the discussion?
- What exactly was done by the Southeast Compact? What was done, look at documents, talk to staff, is everyone playing by the rules? Other compacts' lessons learned.
- Need to set planning horizons: 2030, 2040, 2060, 2100.
- This is a high-level board, but we also need functional working groups. For example, categories of mitigation strategies, LDR, unified changes what we need to do if we need to abandon.
- In addition to storm surge and flooding, consider impact of wind from more frequent and stronger storms, including inland effects, for example trees and roots.
- November deadline for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) federal grants. FEMA and Stafford Disaster Relief Section 203. There may be other deadlines to consider.
- South Florida Water Management District has robust technical resources to support the Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact in identifying vulnerabilities and the effects of climate change in communities, and identifying common and accurate vulnerability assessment methodologies. For example, water and climate metrics trend analysis and data on future rainfall, sea level rise projections etc. Also advanced hydraulic and hydrologic models to assess vulnerabilities to sea level rise and flood adaptation and mitigation strategies at the regional and local levels. It is also advancing toward cost analysis of project alternatives.
- I represent a non-profit that has not been at the table yet but hopes to be. I am the Energy Chair for the Southwest Florida Sierra Club Calusa Group, which has about 2000 members in Hendry, Glades, Lee and Collier Counties. I put in the chat that it is incredibly important not only for all of

the elected officials in this room, and I am so excited to see as many as there are, I think it is very important to set out real, hard goals for climate resiliency. I would like to see the word “climate” included in there, and would also like to see the word “mitigation” as opposed to “adaptation”. The inland counties have not only a lot to lose in terms of impacts, for example deepening cycles of flood and drought and wildfires, but they also have a lot to contribute. As we know, one of the major mitigation techniques that we are experimenting with nationwide and worldwide is carbon sequestration of carbon in soils and bio-enrichment. The inland counties of Hendry and Glade can certainly make a big contribution to that. So, I would like to know when they are going to be invited to the table.

- So much of what we deal with is our freshwater resources, which are our inland counties, how much salt we have. If we are going to talk about this they have to be included, otherwise we are just talking around the periphery. We are not going to have Kissimmee and Orlando in our conversation and they affect us very directly, so I think at a minimum we should have our entire region at the table, and that includes our inland counties.

NEXT STEPS

- Individual jurisdictions and the facilitators will reach out to other compacts and explore ways to bring the experience of those groups to future meetings.
- Wait before setting a date for the next meeting to allow time for coordination with other compacts.
- The facilitators will prepare an agenda for Meeting 2 of the compact based on participant comments in the Initial Focus Areas and Workplan discussion. Potential topics for discussion at Meeting 2 include (but may not be limited to):
 - Review of outreach to or information from other compacts
 - Compilation of existing vulnerability assessments across the region
 - Gap analysis based on the compilation of assessments
 - Establishment of a resource repository
 - Sea level rise projections and other resiliency considerations for use in planning and design
- The facilitators will prepare and distribute a summary of today’s meeting, including key discussions and conclusions.

APPENDIX A – PARTICIPANT LIST

Name	Organization	Position	Virtual or in Person
Governments:			
Penny Taylor	Collier County	Commissioner, Chair	V
Bill McDaniel	Collier County	Commissioner	P
Amy Patterson	Collier County		P
Sean Callahan	Collier County		P
Trinity Scott	Collier County		P
Ian Barnwell	Collier County		P
Kevin Ruane	Lee County	Chairman	P
Roger Desjarlais	Lee County	County Manager	P
David Harner	Lee County	Deputy County Manager	P
Joan LaGuardia	Lee County	Performance Analyst	P
Steve Boutelle	Lee County	Natural Resources	P
Roland Ottolini	Lee County		P
Glen Salyer	Lee County		P
Betsy Clayton	Lee County		P
Bill Truex, Chair	Charlotte County	Chair	V
Claire Jubb	Charlotte County	Assistant County Administrator	P
Brandon Moody	Charlotte County	Water Quality	P
Teresa Heitmann	Naples	Mayor	V
Dana Souza	Naples	Interim City Manager	P
Katie Laakkonen	Naples		V
Dr. Rich Blonna	Marco Island	Council Member	V
Tony Pernas	Everglades City	Council Member	P
Fred Forbes	Bonita Springs	Council Member	P
Jacqueline Genson	Bonita Springs	Planning & Zoning Manager	P
Jennifer Nelson	Cape Coral	Council Member	P
Maya Robert	Cape Coral	Environmental Resources Manager	P

Katy Errington	Estero	Mayor	P
Jaha Cummings	Punta Gorda	Council Member	P
Joan LeBeau	Punta Gorda	Urban Design Manager	V?
Mitchell Austin	Punta Gorda	Coastal Resiliency Planning	V
Marty Lawing	Fort Myers	City Manager	V
Richard Thompson	Fort Myers	Stormwater Resource Manager	P
Bill Veach	Fort Myers Beach	Council Member	P
Chadd Chustz	Fort Myers Beach	Environmental Project Manager	P
Holly Smith	Sanibel	Mayor	P
Richard Johnson	Sanibel	Vice Mayor	P
Holly Milbrandt	Sanibel	Natural Resources Manager	P
Joel Caouette	Sanibel	Natural Resources	P
Dan Munt	CEPD	Technical Director	P
Brian Zepeda	Seminole Tribe	Tribal Council Naples Liaison	V
Jill Horwitz	Seminole Tribe	CRO	V
Agencies:			
Akin Owosina	SFWMD	Hydrologist	V
Lisa Koehler	SFWMD		V
Charlette Roman	SFWMD Board	Board Member	P
Jennifer Hecker	Coastal & Heartland NEP	Executive Director	P
Carolina Maran	SFWMD	District Resiliency Officer	P
Philip Flood	SFWMD		P?
Kevin Godsea	NWR		V
Jeremy Conrad	Ding Darling NWR		V
Sara Ayers-Rigsby	FPAN	SE & SW Regions Director	P
AJ LaVallie	North Captiva	Fire Commissioner	V
Noah Valenstein	FGCU Fellow		P
Alec Bogdanoff	American Flood Coalition	Florida Director	P
David Miller	Chamber of Southwest Florida	Executive Director	V
NGOs:			

James Evans	SCCF	Policy Director	P
Carrie Schuman	SCCF	Coastal Resilience Manager	P
Halle Goldstein	Audubon Florida	Conservation Coordinator	P
Beth Alvi	Audubon Florida		V
Brad Cornell	Audubon Florida	Policy Associate	P
Ana Puzskin-Chevlin	Growing Climate Solutions		P
Rod Braun	The Nature Conservancy	Climate & Coastal Resilience	V
Donna McGinnis	Naples Botanical Garden		P
Bob Moore	Climate Reality & Renewable Energy Working Group		V
Gerri Reaves	Audubon SW FL		V
Rhonda Roff	Sierra Club Calusa Group		V
Harald Beardall	FCRC Consensus Center		P
Rafael Montalvo	FCRC Consensus Center		P
Natalie Hardman	MA Environ Studies Student		P
Michael Savarese	Water School		P
Ex Officio:			
Charles Dauray			P
Howard Cohen			P
Kathleen Passidomo	State	State Senator	V
Julie Inman	State	Botana staffer	P
Sally Woliver			V
Judy Hushon	Collier LWV		P
Vee Leonard	FGCU	General Counsel	V
Press			
Beverly Bidney	Seminole Tribune		V
Stephanie Byrne	WINK		V

APPENDIX B – AGENDA AND MATERIALS PACKET



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
REGIONAL RESILIENCY COMPACT**

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 1

October 8, 2021

Florida Gulf Coast University
16301 Innovation Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33913

Objectives:

- Review results of initial interviews – common themes and key questions
- Discuss and evaluate possible Governance and Operational Framework for the Compact, in preparation for possible adoption at Organizational Meeting 2
- Begin identification of focus areas and possible activities for 2021-2022

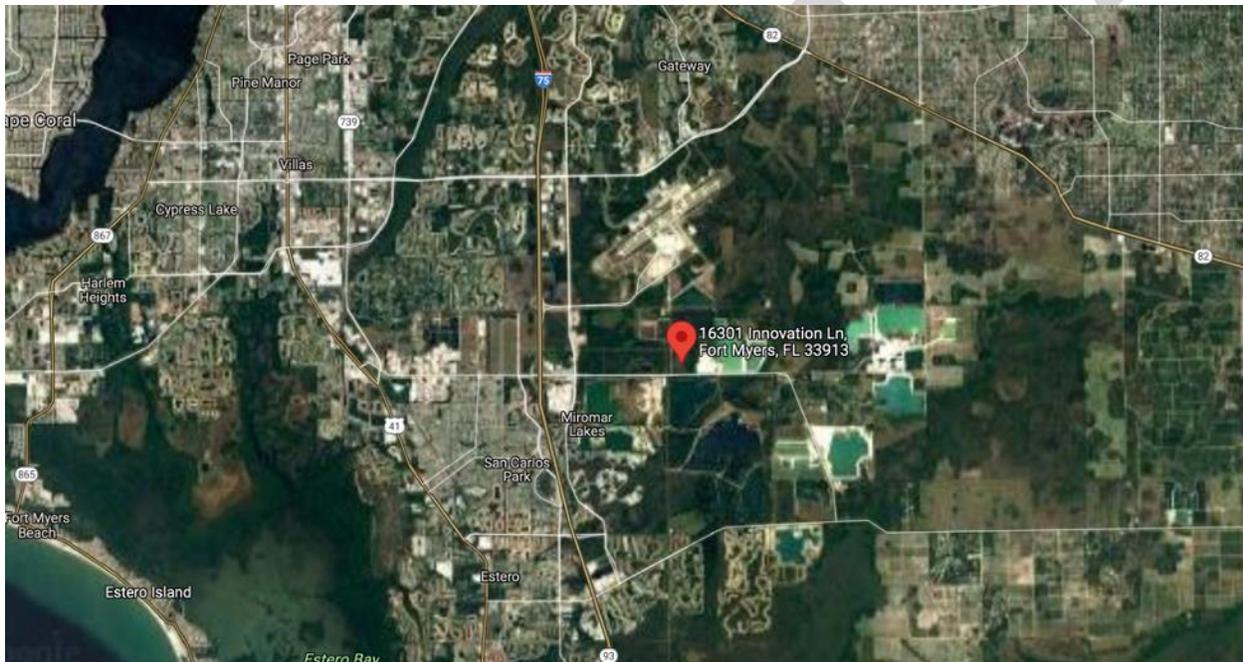
1:30 pm	Welcome – <i>Dr. Greg Tolley, Water School Executive Director and Professor of Marine Science</i> <i>Noah Valenstein, J.D., Presidential Fellow in Water Policy</i> <i>Dr. Michael Savarese, Distinguished Professor of Coastal Resilience and Climate Adaptation</i>
	Introductions and agenda review – <i>Hal Beardall and Rafael Montalvo, FCRC Consensus Center</i>
2:00	Review and discuss interview summary
	Overview of key issues to be addressed in operationalizing the compact Compact objectives, Governance and operational framework (decision-making, organization and support), Initial focus areas and 2021-2022 workplan
	Possible guiding principles for the compact – review and discussion
	Sunshine briefing
	Review of SB 1954 requirements
3:00	Break
3:15	Discuss, refine and rate approach to Compact objectives Governance and operational framework (decision-making, organization and support) Initial focus areas and workplan
	Review public comment
	Next Steps
4:30	Reception and Tour of Emergent Technologies Institute and the Water School

Thanks to the Wayne Smith Family Foundation, the College of Life Foundation, Howard Cohen, and the FGCU Foundation for providing financial support of the Compact’s development. Thanks also to Sharlene Brodman for her administrative services.

DIRECTIONS

Florida Gulf Coast University
16301 Innovation Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33913

The meeting site is located on the north side of Allico Road, approximately 2.5 miles east of I-75 Exit 128



Those wishing to join the meeting virtually, should contact: msavares@fgcu.edu.

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

- Expect and respect differing perspectives.
- Listen to understand.
- Speak to be understood (at least at first – persuasion comes later)
- Clarify your assumptions, for yourself and others.
- Ask questions.
- Offering an idea for discussion indicates a desire to explore the idea, not necessarily support for it.
- Speak one at a time.
- Focus on issues, not personalities.
- Share the air-time !!! (We don't have much of it.)

WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

This worksheet provides a framework for discussion of key issues Compact participants will need to discuss and address for the Compact to begin operations.

The Leadership Committee may make decisions on some of these issues at future meetings. For today, the purpose of the discussion is to help participants explore how the Compact might best address organizational issues and begin operation.

Some of the material in the worksheet is drawn from the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Compact. This material is presented for review, clarification and discussion.

Other material in the worksheet is based on the initial facilitator interviews with representatives of member jurisdictions. Participants will be asked to discuss, refine and when appropriate rate this material using the following scale:

- Wholehearted support – this is something what I would do
- Support – this may not be what I would do, but it is good, and I can support it (or live with it)
- Minor reservations – I may be able to live with it or even support it, but I need clarification or refinement first
- Major reservations – I cannot support as currently drafted

Use of the scale is not a vote: rather it is a way to test the sense of the group on the issues it will discuss.

Guiding Principles

The facilitators have drafted the following possible governance and process arrangements for the first year of the Compact, based on the initial interviews with potential participants.

- Potential Principle A: Collaboratively discuss concerns and seek consensus on decisions
- Potential Principle B: Member participation in Compact initiatives and projects is voluntary
- Potential Principle C: Open and inclusive process
- Potential Principle D: Focus on activities and projects that add value to, support or complement the efforts of member jurisdictions
- Potential Principle E: Work to fairly address impacts and needs across all residents and communities within member jurisdictions

Key questions for discussion:

What would it mean for the Compact to operate under each of these principles?

What additional principals might be needed?

Please indicate your reaction to the potential principles as a whole, and as modified during the discussion

	Wholehearted Support	Support	Minor Reservations	Major Reservations
No. of Members				

Compact Objectives

The following compact objectives are drawn from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the Compact.

Compact Members each join the Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact as an expression of their intent and commitment to work together on a regional level to identify and address the effects of climate change. (MOU Section 8)

The Compact Members shall work together to maximize their efforts to adapt to and work to mitigate the effects of climate change by (from MOU Section 2):

- identifying vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change in their communities;
- identifying common vulnerability assessment methodologies;

- planning for adaptation and mitigation actions that will enhance the resiliency of their communities; learning from each other and their prior efforts and planning documents;
- leveraging their resources; and pursuing public-private partnerships.

The Compact Members shall develop a Regional Resiliency Action Plan which shall include strategies for coordinated regional preparation for and adaption to a rapidly changing global environment. (MOU Section 3)

The Compact Members shall develop a legislative strategy which recognizes the region-specific vulnerabilities of Southwest Florida to the impacts of climate change and includes recommendations for the allocation of state and federal resources. (MOU Section 5)

Key questions for discussion:

Do any of these objectives need clarification?

Which would you emphasize?

What else do you hope the compact will accomplish?

Governance and Operational Framework

The facilitators have drafted the following possible governance and process arrangements for the first year of the Compact, based on the initial interviews with potential participants.

The purpose of the arrangements is to provide enough structure to support activity and decision-making, while allowing flexibility to respond to changing circumstances during the start-up phase of the Compact.

Decision-Making

The Leadership Committee will seek consensus whenever possible on activities and projects of the Compact.

General consensus is a participatory process whereby, on matters of substance, the members strive for agreements which all of the members can support, accept, live with, or agree not to oppose.

The Leadership Committee will use the majority vote provision of the MOU as a fallback decision-making process.

Workgroups

The Leadership Committee may establish Workgroups as it sees fit to further the work of the group.

Workgroups may include Leadership Committee members, participating jurisdiction staff, non-participating jurisdiction or organization representatives, and members of the public.

Workgroups may include members appointed by the Leadership Committee and at-large collaborators (self-selected volunteers who are not appointed by the Leadership Committee).

Any Workgroups established by the Leadership Committee will bring emerging products or recommendations to the Leadership Committee at least twice for review, refinement and approval by the Committee.

Public and Non-Member Participation

The Leadership Committee will ensure that interested organizations or jurisdictions and members of the public have opportunities to participate or offer input to the Leadership Committee or Workgroups, through opportunities for comment at regular meetings, through at-large participation on Workgroups, or at stand-alone workshops.

Staffing and Support (Year 1)

The Water School at FGCU will provide initial staffing and support for the work of the Compact.

Additional support may be provided as grant or award funding becomes available.

Key questions for discussion:

Is this approach appropriate for the first year of the Compact? Is the level of formality appropriate?

Are refinements needed to any of the components of the framework as described here?

Are there other issues related to how the Compact will operate that should be addressed in the framework?

Please indicate your reaction to the Governance and Operational Framework as a whole, and as modified during the discussion

	Wholehearted Support	Support	Minor Reservations	Major Reservations
No. of Members				

Issues and Workplan

Possible Initial Focus Areas

The following three possible focus areas are from the Summary of Facilitator Interviews. They are presented here only as a starting point for discussion of what should be included in the Compact’s workplan

during 2021-2022. They do not limit what the Leadership Committee may choose to undertake over the coming year.

Water Quality This was by far the most frequently mentioned issue, and mentioned by almost all participants. Respondents who mentioned water quality focused on different aspects of the issue and related it to resiliency in different ways. Some emphasized harmful algal blooms and their effect on health, the environment and the economy. Others pointed to increasing saltwater intrusion and its effects on drinking water supplies. Still others pointed to the role of stormwater from heavier and more frequent storms on water quality in the region.

Storm Surge and Flooding These were the next most frequently mentioned issues. Most participants believed that residents increasingly have direct experience or knowledge of storm surge and flooding, and may be willing to consider measures to address them.

Education and Communication Many participants mentioned the need for greater understanding of resiliency issues in the region, and believed that the Compact might undertake education and communication about these issues. Some members drew a distinction between education and advocacy for particular measures.

Possible First Year Schedule

2021 The Leadership Committee will meet twice in the fall of 2021 to agree on a governance framework, develop a workplan for 2022, and provide initial direction regarding the formation of Workgroups as appropriate

2022 The Leadership Committee will meet quarterly during 2022 to provide direction to the Compact, oversee Workgroup activity, and begin development of the Regional Resiliency Plan.

The Leadership Committee may schedule additional meetings as it deems useful or appropriate.

Key questions for discussion:

What activities should the Compact consider for 2021-2022?

Please indicate your reaction to the Issues and Workplan section as a whole, and as modified during the discussion

	Wholehearted Support	Support	Minor Reservations	Major Reservations
No. of Members				

Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact

October 8, 2021

Meeting Evaluation

Please rate each of the following statements using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree.

	Disagree				Agree
1. Please assess the following aspects of the workshop.					
The agenda packet was very useful.	1	2	3	4	5
The objectives for the workshop were made clear at the outset.	1	2	3	4	5
Overall, I am very satisfied with the workshop.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Do you agree that each of the following meeting objectives was achieved?					
Review results of initial interviews – common themes and key questions	1	2	3	4	5
Discuss and evaluate a possible Governance and Operational Framework for the Compact, in preparation for possible adoption at Organizational Meeting 2	1	2	3	4	5
Begin identification of focus areas and possible activities for 2021-2022	1	2	3	4	5
3. Please tell us how well the facilitators helped the participants engage in the workshop.					
The facilitators made sure all perspectives were heard and respected.	1	2	3	4	5
The facilitators helped us arrange our time well.	1	2	3	4	5
The facilitators helped participants clarify and refine ideas and and highlight or move toward consensus	1	2	3	4	5
4. What did you like best about today's meeting?					
5. How could the meeting have been improved?					
6. Do you have any other comments that you would like to add (Please use back of form if needed)?					

THE FCRC CONSENSUS CENTER

The Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium (FCRC) Consensus Center assists public and private interests in designing and conducting inclusive and participatory consensus-building and dispute resolution services for public issues throughout Florida, across the nation, and internationally. The Center was created by the Florida Legislature more than 30 years ago. Since then, its successful projects have addressed a broad range of public issues including transportation planning, wildlife management, water resources, regulatory negotiations, land use and growth, and county, municipal, and community concerns. The Center is based at Florida State University and has a regional office at the University of Central Florida.

Harald (Hal) M. Beardall currently serves as the Director of the Consensus Center. He has 24 years of experience designing, facilitating and mediating numerous large- and small-scale processes to build consensus around complex, often controversial public policy issues, and training participants in public policy discussions or consensus building, in Florida and nationally.

Current and recent cases include facilitation of a multi-agency effort to develop the Florida Python Control Plan, facilitation of an inter-agency process convened by the Florida Legislature to transfer oversight of septic tank regulation in Florida from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection, engaging public and private stakeholders to collaboratively develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program, and development of the Strategic Policy Plan for Florida's Oceans and Coasts through facilitation of a steering committee comprised of federal, state and local governments, NGOs, academics, and ocean and coastal industry and businesses.

He holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida, a Master of Science in Planning from Florida State University and a Bachelor of Arts from Florida State University.

Rafael A. Montalvo is Associate Director with the Central Florida Office of the Consensus Center. He has more than 30 years of experience facilitating and mediating large and small-scale processes to build consensus around complex, often controversial public policy issues, and training individuals who participate in public policy discussions or consensus-building. He has worked in Florida, nationally, and in South America.

Current and recent cases include facilitation of a multi-agency effort to develop a python control plan for Florida, facilitation of a process convened by the Legislature to transfer oversight of septic tank regulation in Florida from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection, and a federal, state and local effort to renegotiate airspace allocation and use over the Florida Panhandle and Gulf of Mexico.

He has a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Rollins College.