



# 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	<b>Welcome</b> – <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> <b>Introductions and agenda review</b> – <i>Hal Beardall and Rafael Montalvo, FCRC Consensus Center</i>
2:00	<b>Review and discuss interview summary</b> <b>Overview of key issues to be addressed in operationalizing the compact</b> Compact objectives, Governance and operational framework (decision-making, organization and support), Initial focus areas and 2021-2022 workplan <b>Possible guiding principles for the compact</b> – review and discussion <b>Sunshine briefing</b> <b>Review of SB 1954 requirements</b>
3:00	<b>Break</b>
3:15	<b>Discuss, refine and rate approach to</b> Compact objectives Governance and operational framework (decision-making, organization and support) Initial focus areas and workplan <b>Review public comment</b> <b>Next Steps</b>
4:30	<b>Reception and Tour of Emergent Technologies Institute and the Water School</b> <i>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.</i>

## DIRECTIONS

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

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



Those wishing to join the meeting virtually, should contact: [msavares@fgcu.edu](mailto: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*

	<i>Wholehearted Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Minor Reservations</i>	<i>Major Reservations</i>
<i>No. of Members</i>				

## 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)** [Michael and Ana, the statements in this section are placeholders for discussion]

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*

	<i>Wholehearted Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Minor Reservations</i>	<i>Major Reservations</i>
<i>No. of Members</i>				

**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*

	<i>Wholehearted Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Minor Reservations</i>	<i>Major Reservations</i>
<i>No. of Members</i>				

# 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
<b>1. Please assess the following aspects of the workshop.</b>					
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
<b>2. Do you agree that each of the following meeting objectives was achieved?</b>					
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
<b>3. Please tell us how well the facilitators helped the participants engage in the workshop.</b>					
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
<b>4. What did you like best about today's meeting?</b>					
<b>5. How could the meeting have been improved?</b>					
<b>6. Do you have any other comments that you would like to add (Please use back of form if needed)?</b>					

## 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.