INCREASING COASTAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCY THROUGH FACILITATED LAND USE TRAINING, ASSESSMENT, AND AMENDMENTS[1]

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Introduction

and natural resources are developed and preserved, and how disaster resilient communities are created.[08] Local land use policies, plans and law control where and how buildings and other development are placed on a community's landscape. Zoning laws often have allowed landowners to build in coastal areas and ¯oodplains that are now at heightened risk for hurricanes and other extreme weather events, but this trend can be reversed. Because the addition of substantial new building stock and inS-22.162(n)-.245n06(a)-14.789125.9 m 2450.1776(d)-782824645n06(un)-22.106(t)-22.1562y6(d)-78282467836(


.[11] Municipalities can use the C-RISE Local Assessment Tool to help incorporate resilience into their land use plans, regulations, and policies in part by breaking down typical planning silos to create cross-dialogue between departments, staff, and boards.

As a ®rst step to using the tool, a community forms a steering committee or review group with three to six (or more) members with access to key community information and who can serve as ongoing champions of building resilience. The steering committee should include local of®cials, staff, and board members; federal or state agency personnel; and representatives from local interest groups and organizations. This participation ensures access to necessary baseline information and helps secure buy-in from local of®cials, as well as com-

Building the Human Infrastructure: Training and Education to Begin the Process

Even with access to a resource like the C-RISE Local Assessment Tool, localities will struggle to plan for and implement land use resiliency initiatives if they lack leaders with sound technical knowledge and understanding of the relevant issues, as well as the ability to build community support. In many communities, land use decisions have become a battleground that polarizes neighbors, frustrates developers, and paralyzes local of®cials. In addition, land use issues, especially those focused on creating resiliency, have become increasingly complicated, and it is often dif®cult for public of®cials to balance the competing forces of environmental protection, economic and sustainable development, and preservation of community character. To manage resiliency through land use strategies, the decision makers and stakeholders involved must have knowledge of and understand effective strategies and must have the capacity to build consensus.

At Pace Law School's Land Use Law Center, the Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Program (LULA) provides local leaders with the technical and facilitation expertise they will need to successfully lead a local resiliency initiative using the C-RISE Local Assessment Tool. The Center created the LULA program in 1995 to educate local leaders about land use law techniques and collaborative decision-making. [12] Each LULA brings together 40 local leaders for a three- to four-day training experience. The program employs an intense and deliberate process to recruit participants who are broadly respected, practical, and innovative and who will use the legal and procedural tools they

trained by the LULA program, participants were

low-lying areas. This information should then be integrated into the Town's comprehensive plan and any relevant area plans. The Town can access two resources to help implement this strategy: the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-sponsored step-by-step guide to conducting a social vulnerability hazard assessment [14] and the Center for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index, which analyzes a variety of risk factors at a census

incentivizing communities to implement adaptation measures that mitigate flood hazards at the community level. It gives local authorities the flexibility to implement a comprehensive approach to floodplain management that is tailored to a community's specific needs. CRS provides premium discounts for communities that exceed the minimum floodplain requirements. Discounts are distributed through a tiered system, whereby communities accumulate points by implementing adaptation measures to qualify for a certain level of discounts. [24]

The Town is well positioned to participate in CRS but first must meet requirements pertaining to public information disclosure. Local jurisdictions that have attained national recognition as the most flood-prepared localities in the country have heav-

achievable. Contiguous dryland access should be provided from a proposed principal structure on residential and commercial property to land outside of the ¯ood hazard area, when it is readily achievable. Dryland Access means a vehicular access route that is above the base ¯ood elevation and that connects land located in the ¯ood hazard area to land outside the area, such as a road with its surface above base ¯ood elevation and wide enough for wheeled rescue and relief vehicles. The City of Whitewater, Wisconsin de®nes dryland access as ªa vehicular access route which is above the regional ¯ood elevation and which connects land located in the ¯oodplain to land which is outside the ¯oodplain, such as a road with its surface above the regional ¯ood elevation and wide enough to accommodate wheeled vehicles.º[30]

Due to severe impacts from Superstorm Sandy, the Town also prioritized Strategy 7.4, which

regulate land use, local governments are in a position to help their communities become more resilient by guiding where and how future development is built. Decision-support tools like the LULA and C-RISE Local Assessment Tool help local governments with this task by providing a framework for assessing a community's existing codes, plans, and

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