

Scaling Up Nature-based Solutions (SUNS) Working Group Session 3

September 30th, 2021

10:00 am CT – 11:30 am CT

OBJECTIVES

- Review final *Existing Planning and Projects Footprint Map*: Participants are aware of planning and project efforts that are already underway across the three-county area
- Accelerator Projects update
- Review and discuss fish and wildlife habitat data layers
- Participants develop prioritized list of Regional Strategies for developing NBS project ideas

Attendees: Anna Jane Jones, Chris Shepard, Jessica Graham, Anita Grove, Kiera O'Donnell, Jim Muller, Chester Butler, Rick Durbrow, Joseph Schmidt, Randall Hughes, Kaci Rhodes, Jeff DeQuattro, Marian Hanisko, Tori Tomiczek, Darryl Boudreau, Erin Griffith, Douglas Baber

AGENDA

ICE BREAKER OPENING ACTIVITY (10 min)

SUNS WORKING GROUP PROGRESS TO DATE (5 min)

- Presentation: Review Process and Working Group participation

REVIEW *Existing Planning and Projects Footprint MAP* (10 min)

- Review projects and planning efforts on the *Existing Planning and Projects Footprint Map* and Spreadsheet
- <https://arcg.is/1bX0C10>

ACCELERATOR PROJECT UPDATE (10 min)

- Resilient Florida portal submissions
- Discuss potential Accelerator projects

NOTES:

Accelerator:

- Project team obtained application summary information from DEP. In the SUNS area,
 - o 19 proposals from SUNS region:
 - 9 within Bay County
 - 2 within Franklin
 - 7 within Gulf
 - 1 in Gulf/Franklin (ARPC's application)
 - o Vulnerability assessments (6 applications total):
 - Gulf County (ARPC, entire county); Port St. Joe
 - Franklin County (ARPC, entire county); Apalachicola
 - Bay County (Bay County submitted); Lynn Haven, Panama City
 - o Additional projects include:
 - Mexico Beach (2 applications for Stormwater related improvements)

- Parker (Inland Flooding retention pond)
- Panama City Beach (Public Works Asset Inventory, Drainage improvements on Randy Road)
- Apalachicola (Wastewater Plant Repairs)
- Gulf County (New Water Treatment Plant, Roads & Stormwater Repair, post-Michael, Channel Dredging, New Wastewater Treatment Facility, Airport Runway Paving, Storm-hardening of Jail)
- Bay County (Surface Water Discharge Study)
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- Targeting 2022 application cycles for Resilient Florida (and possibly BRIC) for SUNS projects
 - Chester – So to clarify: if a community does not have an immediate project in the pipeline, they should target the funding for vulnerability assessments?
 - Chris – Yes, but ARPC’s application should cover county and municipalities in Franklin and Gulf
 - Darryl – the state is currently standardizing methods + requirements for vulnerability assessments with the aim of having a state-wide vulnerability assessment
 - Rick D. – Did Bay County submit a proposal for a vulnerability assessment?
 - Jim M. – Yes; not sure if Bay would be contracting that out, but likely the public works dept. would handle it. Bay County does not currently have projects on the drawing board, but in general, they are interested in larger-scale projects. Scaling up how NBS might be used so that engineers see them as a real tool that can be leveraged as a part of the process of project development
 - Darryl – I think the regional stormwater concept really illustrates this scale – not site specific, but thinking about mitigating stormwater at a larger and regional scale. Parker and Springfield are working on this.

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT PROCESS DISCUSSION: Habitats, Regional Strategies, and Priority Areas (50 min)

- Feedback on Portfolio process:
 - How is the SUNS Project identifying priority fish and wildlife habitats? (10 min)
 - Review and suggest data layers

NOTES:

- Jim – Amy Knight at Florida National Inventories – worked closely with FWC; very familiar with CLIP; would be a good contact
- Rick – Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy – built on CLIP. Advantage because of federal buy in (30x30).
 - If looking to get projects on the ground with federal funding, makes sense to look at SECAS
 - Rick – contact person
- Jessica – Beth Stuyts at FWC – deep understanding of Florida data, which is more refined/robust than data across the wider southeast region/gulf. Recommends that SUNS talk to Beth
- Rick – Do our habitat considerations include pollinator habitat?
- Chris – Not currently; also sounds like data set Rick is working on would not be ready to integrate into SUNS this year, but possibly for future applications
- Jessica – Also worth looking at the Southeast Biodiversity Assessment by Duncan Elkins

- What are the top Regional Strategies for developing NBS project ideas? (40 min)
 - Brainstorming session
 - Vote
- Q&A

NOTES:

- Review brainstorming session results (PDF); next session we will be refining regional strategies and prioritizing them
- Initial vote available here: <https://www.menti.com/jqa7xwjjik>

CLOSING & NEXT-STEPS (5 min)

NOTES:

- New website! www.nature.org/SUNS
- Next Meeting October 28th – last meeting to hammer down portfolio development process
- Any updates, edits to the map? General comments? <https://arcg.is/1bX0C10>
 - Email Anna Jane at annajane.jones@tnc.org

SUNS NBS Strategy Brainstorming

Brainstorming for all three breakout groups

Breakout Group 1	Votes
FEMA CRS- protecting the floodplain to earn CRS points and reduce flood risk	2
Identify multiple locations for similar projects so that implementation can be done efficiently by one entity	1
Community Stormwater Management	1
NBS to protect Critical Infrastructure	1
climate adaptation, sea level rise resilience	1
Fisheries - rec species and oysters, supporting fisheries through NBS	1
To use ideaboardz: 1) View section: Breakout Group 1; 2) Click "+" to add a sticky note and start typing; 3) click on a sticky note to upvote ("thumbs up" / "like"), edit, or delete	0
Regional Recreation Economy- where can NBS advance recreation-based economic development-link to Rick	0
Green Buffers/Wetlands	0

Breakout Group 2	Votes
Getting comprehensive vulnerability assessments done for whole regions	2
Flood resiliency	1
Watershed-wide planning	1
Consider vulnerable communities	1
Stormwater management	1
Reduce construction costs by having larger scale projects	1
Enable monitoring of results in a more cost-effective manner	1
shoreline protection	0
To use ideaboardz: 1) View section: Breakout Group 2; 2) Click "+" to add a sticky note and start typing; 3) click on a sticky note to upvote ("thumbs up" / "like"), edit, or delete	0

Lumping whole suites of projects into a comprehensive permitting process.	0
Wastewater management	0
Multi-site funding strategies in which several smaller projects can be combined in one funding proposal.	0
Integrating NBS projects with conservation areas to obtain human and natural system benefits.	0
Consider all conservation and restoration tools including acquisition and improved management along with restoration	0
Regional approach may allow for more equity considerations	0
Improve and expand habitat for T/E species	0
Integrate NBS into public works plans early	0
Increasing access to resources through recreational opportunities esp in underserved communities	0
Pre-permit projects that can use beneficial use materials so they can be implemented when the time comes to do dredging	0
Larger / regional projects may open up more funding opportunities	0
Fill data gaps	0
Provide room to better replicate natural processes and functions including in response to climate change and sea level rise	0
more opportunities for community engagement / education	0

Breakout Group 3	Votes
<p>To use ideaboardz:</p> <p>1) View section: Breakout Group 3;</p> <p>2) Click "+" to add a sticky note and start typing;</p> <p>3) click on a sticky note to upvote</p>	0
Shoreline protection	0
Road Protection	0
Alligator Point (road flooding issues)	0
Natural Landscaping	0
Clean Drinking Water	0
Community Coordination	0

Turtle Preservations	0
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