

Coastal Workgroup Notes from August 5 Kick Off Event

What is needed for a sustainable coast?

- Freshwater inflows
- Spatial Analysis
- Disaster resilient communities
- Public engagement

What strengths need to be added to this group?

- Healthy communities
- Transportation
- Housing

Define Sustainability from the Coastal Perspective:

- Resiliency – ability to get back on your feet after a disaster
- Inter-generational equity
 - Regional contributions
 - Decision making abilities
- Dynamic – able to adapt to change, area constantly changing
- Balance – environment vs. economic development
- Awareness of importance of the coast to the entire region
- A happy coast
- Keep the natural areas we have – dunes, bays, healthy vibrant areas, mixed use/walkability, built environment working with natural areas
- Maintaining fishery resources
 - Gulf fish from Galveston estuaries
 - Policy decisions of local government affect the health of the estuaries
- LEED buildings – filtering runoff, maintaining natural areas
- Educated public about fisheries – what happens upstream impacts the whole gulf
- Preserved function and integrity of the ecosystem
- Communication between jurisdictions
- Tourism is not enough to support the coastal communities
 - Economic balance – more non-service jobs
 - Attract businesses not as impacted by disasters
- People feeling good about where they live to protect their environment
- Maritime shipping – can set a good example
 - Large container storage
 - Panama Canal widening
 - Good for economic development, not so good for environment
- Transparent policies, and integration of policies

Regional Plan for Sustainable Development
Coastal Workgroup Notes from August 5 Kick Off Event

- Stewardship of the environment – there is a diminishment of resources, development and natural resources are working against each other
- People are not connected to place – too much time spent indoors, need to engage in community through work
- Education needed to appreciate the coast spur action, and demand, valuation of resources
- Need more stringent regulations, raise the bar on construction and redevelopment
 - Opportunities to reconsider how things should be done
 - Zoning, setbacks, overlays
- Hazard planning needed for increased hazards
- Many unincorporated areas are without rules for additional requirements and need legislative powers
- Climate change
 - Rising sea level
 - Older communities are in more hazardous areas
- Legal environment needed that allows for immediate action
- More educated workforce is more important in more hazardous areas
 - Retaining the educated population
- Walkable/compact communities more resilient
- Natural resources that enable and encourage people to get out
- Effects of industry on water quality
- Availability of fresh produce

What makes the coast unique?

- Water
- Land Forms
- Coastal Hazards

What are the opportunities?

- Coordination of communities
- Corporate social programming and responsibility
- Natural coastal resources
- Advertising/acknowledging the coast

What are the challenges?

- Natural vs. built barriers
- Governance infrastructure
- Regulatory powers
- Lack of a coastal coalition
- Lack of awareness and coordination
- Funding
- Not valuing history

Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

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- Not seeing selves as coastal
- Perception of the coast
- Political will and public participation

What does a sustainable coast have?

- Dynamic
- Natural
- Resiliency
- Preserved
- Valued
- Connected
- Educated
- Resilient, Natural Communities
- Healthy and Functioning communities
- Educated, aware and integrated