

City of Fort Collins Adaptation Workshop – Leadership Team
11/14/13

Attendance:

- Doug Ryan: Larimer County
- Lucinda Smith: Environmental Services
- Katy Bigner
- JR Schnelzer: Parks
- Gretchen Stanford: City of Loveland
- Linda Hoffman: Larimer County
- Kelly DiMartino: Employee & Communication Services
- Bruce Hendee: Sustainability Services
- Kevin Gertig: Water Resources & Treatment Operations
- John Hutto: Police Services
- Mike: Police Services
- Karen Cumbo: Planning, Development, & Transportation
- Consultants: Marni, Becky, Judy

Katy: Welcome and History

- 3rd round at the City
 - o 2008: in partnership with ICLEI – specific to water resources
 - o 2011: warming climate to utility services and capital assets
 - o 2013: other departments – risks and vulnerabilities – not the last round --
- Adaptation planning is nascent, but emergency planning has been around a long time; experiences in the last 1 ½ years
- Adaptation event in Denver – collection of professionals and stakeholders, most interesting from Colorado Cattleman’s Association; adaptation is not giving up

Bruce: Welcome from Sustainability Services (SS)

- An extension of Katy and Kevin’s work in the past
- SS look at both sides – preparedness and mitigation (Lucinda)

Introductions: What we love about Ft. Collins/Region

- 4 seasons
- Access to outdoor recreation and open space
- Sense of community
- Quality of life
- Ability to solve problems; great minds
- University, downtown, river
- Friendliness
- People care and are invested
- People: passion, resiliency, big thinkers
- Family-friendly
- Beer

- Culture
- Diverse forward thinking community
- The sun!
- High in volunteerism
- Urban life
- Open

Climate Science:

- See Marni's PPT and typed notes
- IPCC report: first update in 7 years
 - o Once higher feedback mechanisms kick in we're forced onto higher trajectory (see chart); if keep to 2°F then safe zone
- Various discussions on clarifying questions; interpretation of the data
- Storage to capture earlier runoff
- Coordination in planning as large changes are anticipated that impact multiple sectors/departments; strategies that come out of a coordinated effort are different from those out of a 'siloes' effort
- Mainstreaming

Storytelling from recent climate events:

- What worked well? All stepped up
- County Emergency Plans – people displaced, sewage systems damaged, water compromised, mold damage & cleanup = vulnerable areas
- Communications worked well when there's power – heavy reliance on electronics, so vulnerable there
- Population growth as a stressor on the system – balanced with protecting local systems – we can barely keep up with what we have
- Utilities haven't understood role of USFF on water – to understand natural systems; emphasize awareness; agency to agency – need communication; water managers not allowed to manage uplands on federal lands, for example
- Partnerships
- Infrastructure lost in flood; don't have resources for more sustainable infrastructure – only funds to rebuild what they had
- EPA should be part of the discussion; other inter-agency coordinated needed; city could work with agencies to get more monitoring – coordinate
- Planning: sustainable planning costs more; need to look at long term impacts – make the investment. Fire has changed perspectives
- Carbon sequestration at city level; emerald ash borer jumped 00 miles – mitigation or adaptation; urban forest will be devastated; cost to remove/contain
- Future events could overwhelm our capacity to plan – are our systems ready for bigger events?
- Local agency/departmental coordination with federal agencies -- forest agencies – need to understand how things work – forest health drives watershed health; etc

Vulnerability Assessment Matrix:

- Karen: felt PDT is incomplete – 40 minutes 3 people in a room; would like another opportunity to take another shot since this is so important

- Doug: 'Focal resources or populations' is confusing – list problems instead, or start with objectives
- Revised spreadsheet real-time during workshop; added column for affected departments to show overlap between departments/service areas

Mainstreaming and Directional Strategies:

- January strategic planning starting up; this plan should be an input to that – good timing; 2 year budget, 5-yr planning horizon
- Long-term: 50, 80, 100 years out – how do we include that with a 2-year budget? Plan ahead, save money for long term issues that might be experiencing
- Future Committee
- Need long term financial strategies that allow us to plan for big events
- Education and Awareness: community, city, council, need to get more information out on the need for adaptation. Awareness throughout city, including council
- Communication
- Climate Action Plan – look for strategies that are identified for adaptation, but can also be include in the CAP as mitigation
- Community Sustainability Plan; actions can be prioritized in that plan as well
- Triple Bottom Line tool being updated in 2014 – embed some of the strategies/issues from adaptation that are developed in this process
- General Fund: less conducive to long range work compared to FCU rates which has more flexibility; funding needs to be part of the discussion
- Planning – long term adaptation (preparedness); integrate into what is already being done well
- Highlight need for long-term planning
- Atmospheric contamination: radiological, chemical, etc – need to model “what if “scenarios; e.g., Mt. Ste. Helens particulates caused declines in snow. Fires have some effect
- Projected changes in wind patterns as a result of climate change?
- Need tools that analyze life cycle costs; adaptation may cost more up front but saves over long run
- Need to engage federal agencies more in local solutions

Next Steps:

- Send out the spreadsheet as well as the slide with the mitigation/adaptation diagram to the group for continued development, additions, etc
- Next workshop is all day; who should attend; Katy will send out the list of participants to this group so they can help identify themselves or others

Action Items:

- JR says he sent his workbook back to Marni (need to incorporate Parks into next round)
- Kelly – do we need one from HR side of the organization; e.g. cost of people out from the flood or unable to get to work from roads down
- Economic Health; get them to do the workbook as well
- Send the whole spreadsheet to entire team for next round of review
- Katy – provide more background to some of Karen’s departments on the process
- Send most recent version of primer and mitigation/adaptation Venn diagram with updated matrix