

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## Local Governments Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
NGO	Need to build significant reservoir on the Caloosahatchee, C-43 West Reservoir, for everglades restoration.
NGO	Address water quality, improve fish habitat in nearshore and gulf waters.
Local Government	Water treatment needs to be included in reservoir project, C-43 West Reservoir.
Local Government	Need organized system for suggesting and choosing projects.
Local Government	Process development needs to be dealt with. Ensure that the Federal government through this Task Force, develops a consistent process ofr issue resolution and for setting coast-wide priorities for restoration that regional and local actions can fit into. Science based decision making process needs to be in place.
Local Government	Process is in place for determining projects for the region with Army Corps project. Document nearly finished, provides for things needed regionally. Predevelopment map gave basis for direction. All habitats are equal, united by thread of hydrology.
Local Government	Use the south west Florida watershed study as an example of how to prioritize projects. Combination project of Army Corps, and water management districts.
Local Government	Prioritization is key. Would take more of a regional standpoint. Funnel money towards region. Formula for priorities needs to be decided on. Participate in CAP Community Impact Assessment program. Supportive of block grants to distribute funds at the regional/local level, helps avoid big vs. small community.



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Local Government	Should not use block grants. Remove states from it. They have a different system than the federal system.
Local Government	Conceptual ecological models included in Army Corps document. If funding and support is provided, CERP is capable of providing a model. Vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, transferable methodology. Plans need to be implemented. Need a focus on climate change.
Local Government	Implementation can be delegated into other agencies.
Local Government	People want ecosystem services evaluation, help develop models. Spend money on resiliency building.
Local Government	Good data in Everglades Restoration program. Need to get federal funding to start implementing projects.
Local Government	Restoration is a moving target. Land acquisition needed to buffer coastal lands, help restore terrestrial and estuarine ecosystems. Ecosystem migration due to climate change needs to be taken into account.
Local Government	Florida taking initiatives, partnerships for government and private land owners, adaptation to climate change, incorporating land owners into big picture. Punta Gorda Adaptation Plan should be looked at. A great example of a community that has developed a plan but has no money to implement it.
Local Government	Economic value, and intrinsic value placed on lands needs to be determined.



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Local Government	Science based decision making needs to take place, implementation should be based on science. There should be a variety of sizes for projects.
Local Government	Value for beaches and tourist economy, dollars and cents. What is the value of clean water and clean beaches.
Local Government	Strong outreach component necessary, what is the importance of the Gulf of Mexico. Ensure that you have proper strategy and personnel to ensure that the public is fully engaged. Value of resource. STEM, educate students, give education that links environment to everything else.
Local Government	Florida is defunding environmental projects. Need to raise standards across the Gulf of Mexico. State of Florida functional assessment of wetlands is not acceptable. Should use HGM (hydromorphic geologic model), which is used by the federal government. Army Corps needs to hold all states to higher standards usings HGM model.
Local Government	Public lands acquisition should be revitalized: hydrologic restoration, water quality and habitat benefit from this. Public investment has dropped, private lands have improved. Southwest Florida Water Management District has a plan that recaptures surface water and fertilization. Reduces energy costs, linked to water use permits. Incentive to participate.
Local Government	Ensure that there is a connection between the restoration of public lands, land acquisition, and work done on private lands, e.g. South West Florida Management District fertilizer reduction ordinances. Urban fertilizer ordinances have caused precipitous drops in phosphorous levels. Incorporates buffers and blackout periods.



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NGO	Associate water quality with related watersheds and water in the Gulf. Needs to be baseline data.
Local Government	Climate change vulnerability assessments need to be done.
Local Government	Major criteria for project selection should be based on impacts to Gulf of Mexico.
Local Government	All plans should address root causes of the problems in Gulf.
Local Government	Ensure that success stories are captured, like the business partnerships that are developed in urban areas of Florida. For example, nitrogen management: Tampa Bay, businesses worked together for major reductions. Business partners in urban areas are successful.
Local Government	People support Everglades restoration because it seems like one project. The Gulf is a more diverse place. Need to develop an image of the Gulf that brings out the richness of the area; need to "sell" the Gulf across the nation in the same way that the Everglades are recognized nation-wide and folks across the nation donate money to help restore it.
NGO	Primary concern is what's happening nearby. Government oversight needs to be consistent for water quality protection - standards need to be raised across the Gulf. Problems need to be resolved at higher levels. Smaller needs should be consistent with larger goals.
Local Government	Everglades successful because all entities have a say, moves process forward. Public buy in. Projects need to be engineered and peer reviewed.



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Local Government	Punta Gorda adaptation plan brought together citizens to come up with plan. Used public participation. Let people build plan. Worked very well. CERP moved forward when they allowed public interaction. Coastal America program effective. USFWS and EPA are effective. Should use local agencies to make this happen.
Local Government	Research versus restoration. Need to get the restoration done, not all funding should be aimed at research. Combine research and restoration: test new restoration techniques while on-going restoration is happening.
Local Government	Fisheries need to factor into the equation. Disjointed fisheries practices. Seafood is unifying.
Local Government	Monitoring has to be important part Need to be able to access information on other projects in the Gulf. Stop reinventing the wheel.
Local Government	Intergovernmental coordination needs to take place. Share data. Need status and trends monitoring that includes elements like water quality and sea grass. Build it into the Water Atlas being developed by the University of Florida.
Local Government	University of Florida's Water Atlas links watershed information, connects projects.
Local Government	National Estuary Programs (NEPs) and National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) have comprehensive conservation management plans. Partner NERRs with Gulf projects.
Local Government	NERRs collect weather data that is not accessible; ensure access to their data and information.
Local Government	Look for best indicators for Gulf. Can't choose an indicator because it's convenient. Look for more appropriate and telling species.



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Local Government	Agricultural community needs to be encouraged to take part. Balancing incentives and regulations and being consistent between goals and regulations.
Local Government	Essential fish habitat, unifying concept. Exists as a tool between habitat restoration, water quality, and hydrology changes.
NGO	Snook Foundation, buying snook stamps puts cash into habitat restoration.
NGO	Marine protected areas are not always effective. When they are not regulated, they are not effective. Pole and troll is effective when it is enforced. Indian River Lagoon protected area successfully helped fisheries. Need funding to make it happen.
Local Government	With federal rules in place, its not easy to build living shoreline. Barrier/shoreline regs are currently allowing development in the wrong places.
Local Government	NEP coming up with plans for living shorelines. Ensure that living shorelines (oyster bags vs. vertical concrete shoreline) are included as a key action in the plan.
Local Government	Northwest Florida is working on permitting for living shoreline. Working with agencies around the state to discourage sea walls. Trying to make the process easier.
Local Government	International coordination? Unless we get partners, we can't be effective.
Local Government	NRDA impacts should be shared with others.



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Local Government	Federal funding has been challenging due to match requirements. Funding qualifications are challenging.
NGO	Presentations or webinars should be available to encourage participation for non-technical people.
Local Government	Air quality should be looked at.
Local Government	Need long term monitoring in place. Need to look at long term effectson individual species: shore birds, turtles, grouper, shrimp, tuna.
Local Government	Artificial reefs are not ideal. Should not be used.
Local Government	Meetings need to be webcast.