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## Community Resilience Listening Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Local Government	Right goals? Need to add economic side: have to evaluate the economic damage done by the events. Different areas of the gulf use their resources differently. We rely heavily on tourism drawn by the ecosystem. A working coast in some areas. Blend of both across the gulf. Also need to add local governments. Get as much work done that will make improvements and make positive change
Local Government	Success? A series of vibrant communities across the gulf. Well rounded communities taking care of ecological, human, and economic assets.
Local Government	A lot of things already in there that will lead to success.
Nongovernmental Organization	Thinks that economic issues - development and consequences - are important. These states use their sections of the coast differently, some uses are more harmful, extractive activities like oil, have own incentives built in. Perhaps some kind of incentivization oriented toward economic development as a way to motivate restoration activities. Economic development projects that are a reward system attuned to long-term restoration and maintainance of ecosystem.
Nongovernmental Organization	Success? Been working on community based resilience index, which includes 42 indicators in community self assessment. Organized around 6 categories, dealing with built environment as well as natural environment.
Nongovernmental Organization	In March, 119 people 53 organizations developed a set of broad goals they'd like to see met. Community development and economy: How do these plans create a restoration economy that can benefit the people of the coast, including giving jobs and other benefits to the people here most impacted? Avoid folks from outside the community getting the jobs that will be created.
Nongovernmental Organization	Goals: Is resiliency really one of the right goals? Implies acceptance or expectation of calamity from which one has to recovered. Bouncing back hurts. Resiliency is a call to learn how to bounce repeatedly and smile while doing it.



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Nongovernmental Organization	If you learn from previous disasters to do things differently, the focus would be from improving or changing based on what you learned, rather than focusing on allowed/expected disaster. I.e. move away from fossil fuels, stop taking risks with precious resources, etc. If you cannot escape some of the effects, like sea level rise, rather than perform futile efforts, acquire land and move infrastructure away from at-risk areas. Do something different
Nongovernmental Organization	Resiliency and restoration: the economy and the environment are one for people who live on the coast. Success means involvement of ALL populations, i.e., those non-English speaking populations such as SE asian population. They represent 1/3 of all shrimpers, and have had very little representation. Please ensure non-english speaking communities are included (with translators) in discussions regarding the health of the people and marshes.
Nongovernmental Organization	Cannot speak of restoration without using word HEALTH, both human and environmental. People, dolphins, turtles, fish have to be treated for the illnesses in order to have a successful recovery.
Nongovernmental Organization	Success can only be defined by local communities acquiring a diversified economy able to control the resources in their community - addressing their own illnesses and having necessary resources. Training and expertise need to be provided in local communities. Industry should provide resources including expertise to address any potential health impacts resulting from their activities.
Local Government	So many people have been through the devastation of the oil spill; too many people afraid to ask for help to recover from the devastation. Need to mention mental impacts folks suffering from the events, people too proud to ask for help, need to include this in the strategy - e.g. fishermen lost livelihood, homes, jobs - also affecting their family, especially their children.
Nongovernmental Organization	Thank you to the TF for background document. Happy to have the discussion document to have something to respond to. Please provide more meat on the bone, so that the public could engage in the TF in meaningful ways.



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Nongovernmental Organization	In light of community resilience, this goal feeds into the other goals. But the community needs to agree what these goals mean, how to define them. There are some community indicators that help communities determine if they are resilient. We need to understand the definition of resilience. Need to accept the risks associated with living here, and need to be able to adapt to changes in landscape as needed.
Nongovernmental Organization	Policy: hard to implement living shorelines, protecting their lands, much easier to put in a bulkhead. Policy changes are needed to help understand and protect the Gulf. How can we change this to make it easier to do it the right way?
Nongovernmental Organization	Whether or not we believe in sea level rise, we need to recognize there are processes beyond our control, and that we need to be prepared to respond to those in ways that make sense. More recognition at a local and state level that we cannot politic our way out of what is happening; there are processes out of communities control.
Academia	MsCIP program: a GREAT example of a way to get support to get a program through. Happened quickly and easily, though they still need funding.
Academia	Ocean.us worked on establishing an ocean observing, established regional associations across US with diverse membership. But not mentioned at all today. In pursuing the goals of this effort, recommend this regional association be involved.
Nongovernmental Organization	Oil is all over the beaches and marshes; The gulf was lost prior to the oil spill. It has been lost for decades prior, and the Gulf may be lost for generations to come.



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Nongovernmental Organization	The bigger picture is the sustainability options and health is a big issue that is being overlooked. HHS told us to come and tell the Gulf Task Force that we are having health issues. Toxics are still being used all over the Gulf. Sustainability options and resilience: health is a big issue that is overlooked here. 11,000 people with health effects from dispersants. Expect that they will still be used. Truth should be major outcome here, and policy changes is how.
Nongovernmental Organization	Success? Success would look like we have a healthy Gulf; oil is not all over the marshes. No more dead wildlife coming up everyday, clean air and water. Success would look like a future for my children.
Nongovernmental Organization	Tap into local resources, local workforce.
Nongovernmental Organization	When you start implementing plans, make a seat at the table for local NGOs who have already established networks that we can use.
Nongovernmental Organization	Reach out more effectively to minority/non-english communities: no vietnamese fishermen here today. (Applaud translators though.)
Nongovernmental Organization	Try to get funding directly to the local communities, avoid diverting money for administrative or other non-related expenses.
Business and Industry	Came here to work the spill clean up. I am a captain. We had a lot of health effects, i.e., fungal infections and heat exhaustion. I googled the symptoms and BP oil spill kept coming up. I am back here seeing doctors (came from Hawaii). People are sick; they are going to doctors getting antibiotics. No one is talking about health effects. Need to address the health and quality of citizens. The other problem that exists is doctors are not treating people for their symptoms, i.e., I was given medicine for a tooth ache. People are sick out there! We need to recognize the tragedy that we have.

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Nongovernmental Organization	Health economy does not always mean healthy ecosystem. Extractive economies historically leave behind impoverished communities. Sustainable fishing or logging are possible: shell mounds on Dauphin Island are thousands of years old. Absentee owned extractive industries such as oil and gas or mining are the concern. Need to create an alternative economy that relies on sustainable extractive industries.
Nongovernmental Organization	Health issue is fundamental and key to resilience. Should be no industry that brings in a technology without the capacity to mitigate adverse impacts. Don't want it or need it in our community. Diversify, encourage green economy, be good stewards.
Nongovernmental Organization	Right goals? Yes. But none of us have a long track record for working with all the perspectives that are involved in the process. Mistakes may be made along the way in the name of inclusivity. For example, one community that rarely flooded, until recently due to insufficient infrastructure by current government. "Restore levee to original condition and revegetated to make it part of the greenway" USDA offered funds but needed a local government to manage the funds to do the restoration. Project morphed into a 2-phase expansion that would include taking of additional wetland to build bigger levee that would not probably be effective. Turned into an excuse to get more funds for a longer term activity.
Nongovernmental Organization	When we outline our projects and when they are presented, we have to make adjustments for what is best for the community. When grassroots organizations are involved in the process, there is clarity. We can take this information back to our communities; we want respect for communities.
Nongovernmental Organization	Health is a huge issue down here; we need money for health and for health clinics. Monies need to be provided to each Gulf State effected by the oil spill for health clinics.

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General Public	I absolutely agree that we need health clinics. I don't have the money to pay for doctor visits every single day; we need to provide qualified doctors that understand the issues people are dealing with; whether the TF agrees or not. There needs to be resources staffed with people who are in touched with the CDC.
Nongovernmental Organization	My organization is holding fund raisers to establish health clinics; we have data to back up the need for health clinics.
General Public	Reputable doctors are needed.
Nongovernmental Organization	A lot of the nonprofits have been working on and discussing what projects need to be implemented. What projects will move us further down the line. Beach Re-nourishment, without looking at what is depriving our beaches, is not a way to make us more resilient.
Nongovernmental Organization	People who have been sick are not being treated because there are not enough doctors. NIH is conducting a Gulf Coast study to see if any toxins are present, but this will not happen immediately. The federal agency needs to realize that this is a problem and it is not going away and should not be ignored. There are no RfPs out that focus on health issues. How can people get together on the health issue? When projects are selected for funding they should focus on more than one issue. Projects need to be all encompassing, thereby, exposing people to various trades and increasing partnerships.
General Public	I would like a billion dollars to put towards bioremediation. We need bioremediation that can clean the sand. There are people scared to buy shrimp. We need marsh remediation. We need to put people back to work.
Nongovernmental Organization	How easy might it be to rescind a general permit? Developers need to act in harmony with all this hard work we are doing.



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Nongovernmental Organization	If resilience and sustainability are to be the guides of the TF then the TF should pay attention to the Mobile Commissioner, but her remarks were completely ignored. She said that attention needs to be given to the vulnerable, poor folk.
Nongovernmental Organization	Ludgood's childhood community was blamed for somehow causing the waters to rise. They were downstream from new developments and had no compensation for the unforeseen impacts, for which the developers were not held accountable. Not a resilient sustainable community, and these issues need to be addressed in order to create such a community.
Nongovernmental Organization	When trouble is coming, poor folk cannot afford to evacuate and are forced to ride it out in place. After residence/community wrecked, faced with the challenge of how to recover without adequate resources. The general pattern for the vulnerable poor are their communities are not restored due to lack of adequate resources. Need to address this concern. In neighborhoods where people had resources to rebuild, they did and in other places where they did not have resources, they did not rebuild. The poor will be left behind. The community felt like it had been purposely flooded; there was no compensation for the damage done to those communities.
Local Government	What policy changes would improve the restoration process? We need to look back at our federal regulations, because it appears that no one qualifies for federal money. We turned down money, because of all of the paperwork; it is not the way to get people to bid on funding. All the guidelines, paperwork required to meet requirements is overwhelming and impossible to address: 8 inches of requirements for applications to comply to multiple federal laws. Had to turn back on an application for \$750,000 opportunity.
Nongovernmental Organization	Wants to stress occupational hazards and training for people in their professions. Try to develop inexpensive bloodwork panels that everyone can access to.

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