



Federal Planning Division Autumn 2020 Newsletter

Vol. 22



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Happy Holidays

I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and all the best to you in the year to come! I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing winter season. It's been a busy year for our profession as we continue to adapt to our new environment. I commend all your efforts in planning our federal lands and facilities given the current challenges. As we explore the best methods to adapt to these changes, let's not forget two key lessons of planning: the value of empathy and communication. Let's not kid ourselves, this year has been difficult in many ways. Planning involves interpersonal relationships, whether it's creating a new vision for an installation or building consensus among stakeholders. Even with these challenges I see so many new innovations for facilitating workshops and cooperation in delivering great plans.



In November, FPD hosted a training workshop that focused on "Planning for the New Normal". This event was an opportunity for our industry leaders to share with our community ways to utilize digital solutions to conduct the planning process. I appreciate our First Year Vice Chair Abbey Ness for leading this effort with the help of Membership Coordinator Daniel Wheat, Vice Chair elect Elizabeth Perales and FPD members Steve Baird, George Foster, and James McMurray.

The planning profession continues to play an essential role in restoring our economy, rebuilding communities, and adapting federal facilities for new missions. In order to continue to strengthen our relationship with APA, we have added an additional position to the Executive Committee that will focus on engaging with APA and promoting federal planning within our profession. I'm pleased to announce Jill Schreifer will be serving in that role.

In 2021, we look forward to providing opportunities to keep our skills sharp by conducting a virtual training workshop in May and celebrating the great work completed in 2020 with our awards program. I appreciate our Second Year Vice Chair Joe Hart and all the member volunteers for tackling this event virtually. Additionally, this coming year we plan to make significant updates to the FPD website to ensure open channels of communication and increase information sharing.

The planning profession continues to play an essential role in restoring our economy, rebuilding communities, and adapting federal facilities for new missions. In 2021 we look forward to providing opportunities to keep our skills sharp by conducting a virtual training workshop in May and celebrating the great work completed in 2020 with our awards program. I appreciate our Senior Vice Chair Joe Hart and all the member volunteers for tackling this event virtually. Additionally, this coming year we plan to make significant updates to the website and add an additional position to the Executive Committee that will focus on engaging with APA and promoting federal planning within our profession.

Again, Happy Holidays from your Federal Planning Division. I look forward to the New Year and what will come.

Andrew Wright AICP, PMP
FPD Chair 2020-2021

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2020 FPD Executive Committee

Chair	Andrew Wright
Vice Chair (2 nd Year)	Joseph Hart
Vice Chair (1 st Year)	Abbey Ness
Treasurer	Celeste Werner
Secretary	Katie Lamoureux
Communications Coordinator	Rena Schlachter
Membership Coordinator	Daniel Wheat
Professional Development Officer	Joshua Schiffer
Engagement Coordinator	Jill Shchreifer
Student Representative	Alison Evans
Immediate Past Chair	Brett James

Newsletter and Publications Director David Leonard

FPD Business Business Meeting Summary

When we ask our members what they most look forward to about the FPD annual training workshop, the FPD business meeting is (shockingly!) never the first response. And yet, while perhaps not the most exciting thing that we do as a division, our annual business meeting is a valuable opportunity to talk with our members about our plans for the upcoming year and get member feedback about how we can better support them in their planning careers.

We did not get the chance to hold the FPD business meeting in person at the annual training workshop, but this turned out to be an advantage, as holding the meeting virtually ensured that a larger number of people could attend. And indeed, we had 70 people join us - a substantial increase from our normal 15 to 20 attendees!

Andrew Wright, FPD Chair, opened the meeting by introducing the Executive Committee members and giving an overview of Executive Committee activities during the 2020 calendar year. One of the biggest successes thus far has been the revival of the FPD newsletter, thanks to Rena Schlachter, FPD Communications Coordinator, and the FPD Communications Team. Our Student Representative, Alison Evans, organized a career webinar in May/June for students to learn more about federal planning careers. Additionally, Brett James, FPD Past President, coordinated the FPD elections process in the June to September time-frame.

In April, the Executive Committee issued a short survey to get feedback from members. After collecting and reviewing the results, the Executive Committee had a virtual “retreat” in May, allowing us to dig into overarching issues with more time than we normally have during our monthly Executive Committee meetings. During the retreat, we discussed the survey results; conducted a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) assessment for FPD; and clarified our vision and workplan for the rest of the 2020 calendar year. The result of the retreat was a clearer vision for the future of FPD, as well as the formation of several “tiger teams” to address key issues that required capacity beyond the Executive Committee. Andrew concluded by announcing the newly elected Executive Committee members: Elizabeth Perales (Vice Chair), Heather Mendenall (Secretary), and Celeste Werner (Treasurer).

Next, Daniel Wheat, FPD Membership Coordinator, discussed new membership goals for FPD, including ensuring members-only access to some of FPD’s more valuable offerings in order to entice people to join. Our goal to increase our membership stems from our desire to engage a broader swath of federal planners, and to have a means of communicating with them regularly through email, social media, and our events. Daniel has also been reaching out to new and old members to share information about the benefits of FPD. There are numerous opportunities for members to volunteer; please reach out Daniel Wheat at daniel.wheat@parsons.com if you would like to be involved.

FPD 2020 Activities



Rena Schlachter, FPD Communications Coordinator, followed with an overview of recent communications initiatives, including the revamped newsletter, coordinated social media outreach, and more consistent email communications. The communications team was formed this year to support FPD becoming the “go to” federal planning source and to promote awareness and benefits of FPD. In addition to Rena, the FPD Communication Team is comprised of David Leonard (Newsletter and Publications Director), Katie Benzel (Communications Integration and Support), Heather Mendenall (Website Director), and Ras Cannady (Social Media Director). If anyone would like to serve on the Communications Team, they should reach out to Rena at rena.schlachter@gmail.com.

Andrew Wright then discussed the success of the new monthly webinar series, which was created after the 2020 FPD Annual Training Workshop was canceled, and announced that the Boston workshop will likely not be held in person in 2021. FPD is moving forward with planning a virtual format for the workshop and needs volunteers to help support the workshop planning. Andrew closed out the meeting by sharing a bit about the legacy of Kim Toufectis, a valued member of FPD who passed away a few weeks prior to the board meeting. FPD is deeply grateful to Kim’s commitment to federal planning and developing leadership in the future leaders of the federal planning industry.

The business meeting ended with time for questions from participants. There were several comments indicating support for the recent efforts to engage students and sharing ideas for how the virtual workshop could work. Members also suggested engaging more with similar professional organizations like SAME and ASCE.

The minutes from the business meeting will be posted on the FPD website in the next few weeks and are available upon request from Katie Lamoureux at Katie.Lamoureux@dot.gov. FPD encourages members to reach out to federalplanning@gmail.com at any time with comments or suggestions.

Abbey Ness, AICP
Vice Chair First Year

The Uncertainty Challenge: Planning Our 2021 FPD Budget

FPD ended fiscal year 2020 with approximately \$79,000, an increase of over \$4,000 compared to the previous year. This budget will support the division's future efforts through 2021. The annual FPD budget is developed with contingency to account for unforeseen events that would impact our organization's mission. This contingency was in place when the COVID-19 pandemic began affecting travel and conferences, and this positioned FPD to adapt to the changing situation. Early in the summer, the FPD Executive Committee officers re-evaluated the 2020 annual budget to adjust to the unprecedented situation of a global pandemic, evaluating how the canceled National APA Conference would impact the financial health of FPD.

Due to the foresight of our division leaders, the 2020 budget was not heavily impacted. The 2021 budget projects that most of the income will come from membership dues and award application fees, with minimal expenses. Any expenses associated with conducting a virtual training conference and virtual regional forum will be covered by sponsorships. Our 2021 budget positions us comfortably to navigate another year of unknowns driven from the COVID-19 pandemic challenges and uncertainties while meeting our division's value to our members. The FPD Executive Committee plans on re-evaluating the 2021 annual budget mid-year to recalibrate, if needed, pending external global impacts. A special thank you to all our loyal members and our sponsors who continue to financially support our organization. Our commitment is to carry out, to the best of our ability, the division's Goals and Objectives for all our members.

Celeste Werner, FAICP
Treasurer



Welcome

In addition to the re-election of Celeste Werner as FPD Treasurer, FPD would like to welcome Elizabeth Perales as the new Vice-Chair and Heather Mendenall as Secretary. They will assume the roles of these positions on January 1, 2021.

Vice-Chair

Elizabeth Perales, AICP, is an Associate and Master Planner at HDR. She assists clients in planning and executing remote and in-person stakeholder engagement programs. She specializes in preparing resiliency infrastructure plans that meet statutory requirements while balancing operational, environmental, social and fiscal goals. In 2020, Elizabeth graduated from USC's Urban Planning Masters Program with Magna Cum Laude honors. She lives in San Diego with her husband John, son Caleb and pets Kiki and Biscuit. When she's not reading, drinking strong coffee, or watching the latest Marvel movie, you'll find her outdoors (hiking, biking, rollerblading).



Secretary

The last 14 years of her career has been dedicated to federal planning and architecture-engineering (A-E) team management. Heather's DoD master planning experience has taken her around the world working for all branches of the military. Most recently, her master planning work has expanded to include Federal entities such as FEMA and the DOE. Her project experience includes compatible use studies, IDPs, project management, workshop facilitation, ADPs, resiliency planning, vision plans, requirements and capacity analysis, GIS, web integration, and GPS surveying. In addition to her AICP, she has completed charrette facilitation training with the National Charrette Institute.

She joined FPD in 2012 and her first FPD conference was that year in Los Angeles, this year, she volunteered in FPD and co-chaired the agency committee preparing for the annual training workshop. During that time, she realized that this organization is one that she would like to devote more time to and help FPD achieve its long-range vision. We are excited for her to serve as FPD Secretary!



2020 Membership Survey Results - You Made a Big Difference!

During the past few years, FPD has conducted an annual survey directly after the annual training workshop to solicit feedback about the workshop and FPD in general. After the 2020 Annual Training Workshop was canceled due to COVID-19, the Executive Committee decided to distribute a shorter survey that would help inform how we could meet member needs in absence of the workshop. We were specifically looking for assessments of our current initiatives and ideas for how to improve FPD in advance of the Executive Committee virtual retreat.

We were pleasantly surprised to receive our highest response rate ever, with over 100 people offering thoughtful responses to questions about why they joined FPD, what FPD currently does well and could do better to serve its members, and the types of trainings that FPD should offer in the future. The majority of respondents reported working for consulting firms (52%), with 25% working for a federal agencies. There was a fairly even split in the lengths of careers of respondents and how long they had been members of FPD. Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they joined FPD primarily because they worked on federal projects and for its unique networking opportunities (92 and 72 responses, respectively). Learning about federal projects and taking advantage of FPD's training priorities were less frequently cited responses (44 and 48 responses, respectively).

When asked about the value of current FPD offerings, there was notable enthusiasm for the annual training workshop, the regional training workshop, and free webinars offered in partnership with the APA Ohio chapter. Many respondents stated they appreciated how well FPD communicated with

members and lauded the revamping of the FPD newsletter. Some also suggested helpful ways to improve the awards program and do a better job of making members feel welcome.

All of these responses and suggestions were considered by the Executive Committee during our retreat held in May, thus directly informing our plans for the upcoming year. Some key questions we discussed included:

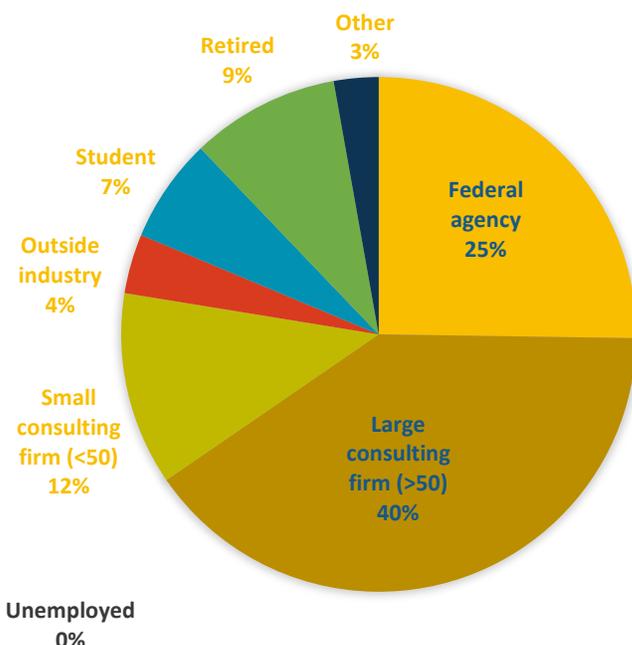
- What should FPD's mission be?
- How are we currently meeting the needs of FPD members, and how can we do that better?
- How can we better communicate the value of being an FPD member and retain members in the long term?
- Where does the Executive Committee need additional volunteers to be able to execute its vision?

The results of the retreat included a SWOT assessment, an updated work plan and calendar, and the identification of "tiger teams" that could focus on issues that needed more discussion. These teams formed around membership goals, membership value, student engagement, awards program refinement, virtual business meeting planning, and the FPD mission statement. Members heard about some of those initiatives during our business meeting and will continue to learn more about them as we roll out future initiatives.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, thank you to everyone who took the time to provide responses. We deeply appreciate your feedback and the chance to serve you as you pursue your career goals and lead the federal planning industry to a bright future.

Daniel Wheat, AICP
Membership Coordinator

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



Why choose an FPD Membership?

Offering Category	Incentive	Non-Members	Members
WORKSHOPS & LIVE EVENTS	Access to FPD's annual training workshop	✓	✓
	\$40 savings on annual workshop fee		✓
	Access to FPD's regional workshop	✓	✓
	\$20 savings on regional workshop fee		✓
	Access to FPD regional live events	✓	✓
DIGITAL RESOURCES & COMMUNICATIONS	Access to annual business meeting		✓
	Access to FPD's monthly webinar series	✓	✓
	Access to the FPD website	✓	✓
	Receive FPD's quarterly newsletter via email		✓
SERVICE & RECOGNITION	Receive FPD e-blasts		✓
	Access to FPD Facebook page	✓	✓
	Access to FPD LinkedIn Group for networking		✓
	Eligible for Annual FPD Awards	✓	✓
	Eligible to volunteer with FPD committees	✓	
SERVICE & RECOGNITION	Eligible to serve on the FPD executive committee		✓
	Provide/receive mentorship support to build the federal planning community	✓	✓

Joining FPD provides an opportunity to learn about exciting projects, network with federal planners, enhance your career, and help build the professional federal planning community.

Virtual Training Workshop and Webinars

FPD Fall Workshop: Planning for the New Normal

Since the U.S Government proclaimed a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak on March 13, 2020, Americans have worked in home offices, agency or corporate office spaces, job sites, and hybrids of these work place locations. Innovation in virtual work environments since this declaration has shown that the benefits of virtual engagement are here to stay. FPD's Autumn 2020 Conference "Planning for the New Normal" invited agencies and the Architecture and Engineering (A/E) community to share hacks and lessons learned while executing federal projects and programs during the global COVID-19 pandemic. The sessions held on November 13 highlighted challenges and opportunities that virtual engagement presented for federal planners during national crises. Virtual meeting platforms, stakeholder engagement, and design collaboration tools are common technology solutions used by federal planners to bridge the gaps created by physical distancing requirements.

To achieve optimum results, clients and A/E teams are tailoring virtual meeting, engagement, and design platforms, hardware and in-person surveys to unique scope, client and stakeholder requirements.

- **Meeting platforms** (Cisco Webex GoToMeeting, Google Meet, Adobe Connect, DISA, Defense Collaboration Services, and Microsoft Teams) are connecting federal agencies and A/E communities in online meeting rooms to improve the quality and cyber security of communication in virtual environments.
- **Stakeholder engagement** tools (Mentimeter, Microsoft Forms, MURAL polls, Turning Point, and Survey Monkey) are empowering teams to collect focused and representative feedback from affected communities and project proponents.

- **Design collaboration** platforms like MURAL, combined with design tools (Sketchup Virtual Reality, Morpholio Trace, Procreate Art) are connecting A/E teams, clients, and key stakeholders in virtual design environments to identify issues, evaluate alternatives, and select preferred solutions by engaging teams in highly efficient, creative, and effective ways.

Case studies and technology demonstrations helped to tell meaningful stories about how these virtual meeting and collaboration platforms and stakeholder feedback loops provide meaningful engagement and human-centered approaches to planning and design projects and programs. Although there are common hardware and software technology tools used to execute best virtual planning practices, federal agencies and A/E communities lessons learned for navigating the "new normal" are primarily human strategies focused on establishing and maintaining effective communication and building relationships throughout project execution.

Although broad adoption of new technologies during COVID came with its own list of challenges (i.e. network failures, poor wi-fi connections, muted mics, web meeting fatigue, interruptions by kids or pets), virtual engagement or a combination of in person and virtual engagement has changed how, when and where we collaborate. After the COVID vaccine is available to all Americans, our personal relationships and projects will be more resilient as virtual collaboration empowers us to stay more connected to each other throughout project lifecycles.

Black and Veatch (Workshop Sponsor), HDR and Cardo (Session Sponsors), HB&A, KTU&A, AECOM, the Schreiber Group, JG&A, the Anchor QEA, Burns McDonnell, and Atkins sponsored the FPD Fall Conference, which raised \$1,400 for the annual college scholarship program. FPD members attending the training event rated the content as extremely useful (14%), very useful (48%), or useful (24%), and more than 90% would recommend using the MS Teams Live Event platform for future workshops.

Elizabeth Perales, AICP
Vice-Chair Elect



FPD Virtual Collaboration 2020



2020-2021 Webinar Series

Since the cancellation of the April 2020 annual training workshop, which was to be held in Houston, FPD created a free monthly webinar series from the prospective workshop sessions. All sessions keep our membership informed on current federal planning issues and best practices. Additionally, each session has been approved by the APA for AICP Certification Maintenance credit. To date we have held six live monthly FPD webinars, with an average of 51 members in attendance per webinar. In all, FPD has delivered over 300 free CM credits to its members. The slides are also made available to participants of most sessions as a future reference.

FPD has held webinars on a broad range of topics, including wind energy; F22 Area Development Planning at Joint Base Langley-Eustis; Suicide in the Barracks – The Mental Health Impacts of Design; NAWS China Lake Disaster Recovery; Planning for Energy and Water Resilience; and our most recent webinar held on Friday November 20, 2020 – Smart Cities to Smart Bases: Implementing Public Sector Technologies on Military Installations. FPD has an exciting remainder of the program, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming webinars.

Upcoming Webinars

- December 11, 2020 – Rethinking Security and Access in Public Spaces
- January 29, 2021 – Sweat the Small Stuff: Habits of Effective Writers
- February TBD, 2021 – Media Monitoring
- March 12, 2021 – Future Proofing Federal Planning: Leveraging Data and Emerging Technologies

Joshua Schiffer, AICP
Professional Development Officer



Photo by
Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Nicholas Burgans

FPD 2020 WEBINAR SERIES

October 2nd 11am-12pm MDT

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES TWICE: NAWS CHINA LAKE DISASTER RECOVERY

Learn how planning efforts helped NAWS China Lake recover from severe damage due to multiple earthquakes in 2019.

Speaker:

R. Brett James, LLA, AICP NAVFAC SW
Laura Lavelle, AIA Jacobs
Jill Schrefler, AICP, PMP The Schrefler Group
Katie Stevenson, AICP Blue Origin

This webinar will be eligible for 10 AICP CM Credit



FPD 2020 WEBINAR SERIES

November 20th, 12PM EST

SMART CITIES TO SMART BASES: IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC SECTOR TECHNOLOGIES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Learn how Smart City technologies can be translated to transform military installations.

Speakers:

Dan Lukasik, Parsons
Patrick Wallis, AICP, GISP, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP
Randy Carbone, Parsons
David Leonard (moderator), ASLA, AICP, GISP, LEED Green Assoc.

This webinar will be eligible for 10 AICP CM Credit



Photo by Sasha Pivovarov on Unsplash

FPD 2020 WEBINAR SERIES

September 30th 1PM EST

SUICIDE IN THE BARRACKS: THE MENTAL IMPACTS OF DESIGN

Learn what the research tells us about the relationship between urban design and mental health, with a particular focus on barracks design.

Speakers:

Maj. Sean-Michael Kelly 8th CES Deputy Commander, Kunson Air Base
Abbey Ness, AICP The Schrefler Group

This webinar will be eligible for 10 AICP CM Credit

RELAXATION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



FORT HOOD

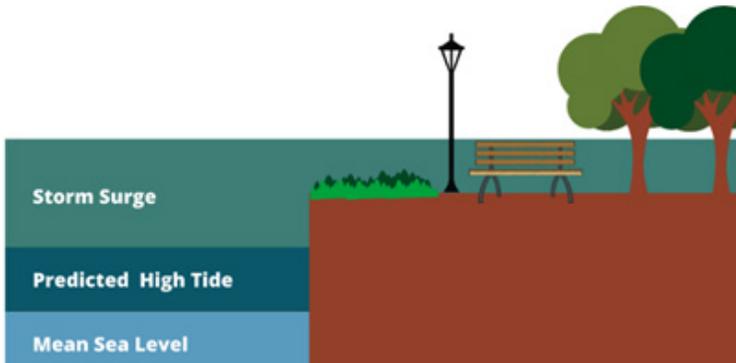
IEWP PROCESS



Storm Impacts: Designing with Nature Along the Gulf Coast

Over the past decade, sea level rise and storms have caused significant damage to habitat and communities along the Gulf Coast. Shoreline marshes and natural barriers have been deteriorated, leaving habitats unprotected; shorelines have eroded; and flooding has impacted coastal communities. These impacts to habitat and people are only expected to increase as the effects of sea level rise intensify.

A primary cause of shoreline damage and flooding is storm surge, which is a coastal flood due to a rise in seawater level caused solely by a tropical storm. A storm surge is measured as the height of the water above the normal predicted astronomical tide. There is a clear water-level difference for storm surges and a normal predicted high tide, as compared to sea level. Storm surges and resulting wave action along the Gulf Coast have caused significant property damage and loss of life.



Storm surge is the rise in seawater level caused by a storm, measured as the water level above the predicted high tide.

Potential future changes to sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of coastal storms pose a significant threat to nearshore infrastructure and natural resources. In order to protect human and natural habitats alike, planning and engineering projects in affected areas need to include design criteria and risk management strategies based on future conditions, which are uncertain and constantly changing.

Stabilizing Coastlines with Sustainable, Living Shoreline Design

When developing sustainable designs, it is crucial to design and construct the appropriate shoreline protection measure to protect from future erosive forces. One innovative technique to providing long-term coastal protection is to create living shorelines, which are protected, stabilized coastal edges made of natural materials such as plants, sand, or rock. This management practice protects and stabilizes the shoreline while creating a sanctuary for fish, improving water quality, promoting shellfish growth, and offering erosion protection. Living shorelines also reduce wave energy and buffer the effects of storms, helping prevent future damage to coastal ecosystems and loss of property.



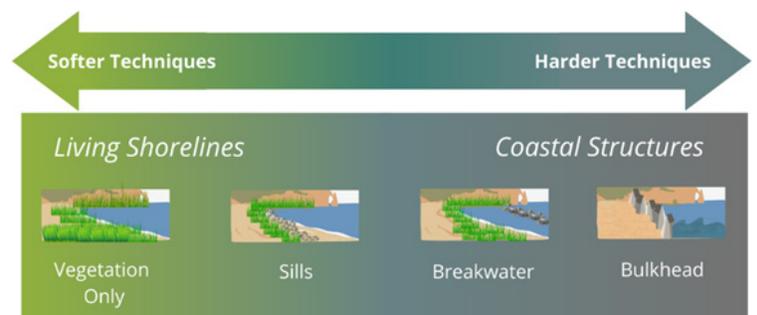
A living shoreline design decreasing the threat of flooding impacts during storm events.

When developing strategies for shoreline protection and constructing coastal restoration projects, it is important to evaluate the nearshore marine environment to ensure selection of the most appropriate approach. Coastal hazard identification, such as extreme flooding and intensity of storms, impact minimization, and adaption management strategies are also part of the design evaluation process.

Designing with the Natural System

A living shoreline has a footprint that is mostly made up of native material, incorporating vegetation or other natural, “soft” elements. Nature-based structures are typically used in lower wave energy environments, whereas harder structures are typically used in areas of higher wave energy and erosional forces. However, often, the best approach to improving coastal resiliency is to incorporate both natural processes in combination with harder, traditional stabilization methods.

The type of material used to construct these structures can vary greatly, from manufactured materials such as precast and processed concrete products, to aquatic materials such as oyster bags. Other natural materials can include anything from rock, coir logs, or even trees and woody stem materials. Infrastructure made of materials such as concrete and rock provides additional benefits, such as valuable habitat for oysters, clams, fish, and other organisms. Living shorelines that mimic natural landforms and support the



A living shoreline design decreasing the threat of flooding impacts during storm events.

coastal processes both provide long-term protection and enhance the local ecosystem. Additionally, nature-based living shorelines provide many benefits to the community: They improve water-based recreational activities, support the local economy, and foster ecological activities.

Restoring Tidal Marshes for Increased Resiliency

Another method for improving coastal resiliency and protecting shorelines is through wetland restoration. The creation of tidal marshes can increase resiliency by providing added habitat and absorbing energy from storm surges.

Tidal marsh creation and restoration is ideal for repairing



The wetland restoration helps to protect the Deer Island shoreline.

subsiding coastal ecosystems that are prone to rising sea levels. In a barrier system, the marshes provide natural shoreline protection and stormwater filtration. Thin-layer placement of dredged material to eroding marshes that have been damaged by storms is one example of marsh restoration. Essentially, these natural infrastructure solutions like tidal marsh creation and living shorelines will support the local ecosystem while simultaneously providing long-term protection to coastal areas.

Preserving and Protecting Shorelines

Anchor QEA is working on multiple living shoreline projects along the Gulf Coast, restoring and creating resilient coastal habitats and communities. In 2015, Hancock County marsh was the fastest eroding marsh in Mississippi, with erosion losses from 3 to 10 feet per year, an actual loss of 7 acres of intertidal marsh per year. Anchor QEA designed a 6-mile segmented rock breakwater of living shoreline to preserve and protect existing habitat while providing shellfish habitat that would increase shellfish productivity.

This living shoreline structure design not only reduced wave energy, but re-established habitat along the coastal area, protecting the shoreline and providing aquatic sanctuary for decades to come. The Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline breakwater has provided protection to the shoreline from several storms, including recent storm surge from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Early monitoring



Living shoreline design protecting Hancock County marsh and providing aquatic sanctuary.

results show reduced erosion, sedimentation behind the breakwater, and new marsh growth.

Ongoing Resiliency Efforts in the Gulf Coast

Water and wind are eroding the shoreline along the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge's Dagger Point. The primary causes of the erosion are low-frequency, high-energy storms that drive waves onto the shore annual storms, and high-frequency wave action caused by offshore winds. As an example, when Hurricane Harvey made landfall in the area, in 2017, approximately 40 feet of shoreline was lost. Meanwhile, as climate change and relative sea level rise increase, the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge shoreline is predicted to become even more vulnerable to erosive forces from low-frequency, high-energy storms.

The goal of the project is to increase coastal resiliency by protecting the shoreline, stabilizing the bluff, and enhancing and creating habitat. Anchor QEA is developing breakwaters that will provide shoreline protection, create conditions for sediment deposition, and improve stabilization and restoration. The protection and creation of this aquatic sanctuary will also provide and enhance oyster, other shellfish, and fish habitat; sections of the living shoreline will also serve as bird nesting habitat. In addition to habitat creation, Dagger Point will continue to be an accessible, beautiful spot for recreational activities like fishing, hiking, and bird watching—a place for the community to come together.

Ultimately, designing living shorelines that mimic natural landforms, in addition to wetland creation, are optimal for improving coastal resilience and protecting the environment and the community against storm impacts. These shoreline protection measures benefit the coast and protect habitat by reducing wave energy and shoreline erosion, buffering the effects of storms, and even connecting diverse animal habitats. While habitat restoration along the Gulf Coast is critical, implementing strategies that incorporate both nature-based features in combination with traditional stabilization methods is key to making the coast more resilient in the long run.

Matt Henderson, PE
Dr. Joshua Burnam
Renee Robertson, PE
Anchor QEA, LLC

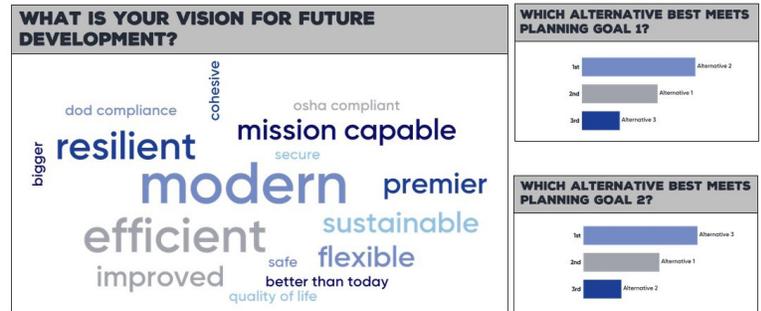
Planning at a Distance

The ongoing global pandemic has created a dramatic shift in the way we interact with others. Across the country, homes have become offices, conference rooms, and classrooms. Employees and customers in every industry sector are faced with the challenge of modifying business practices and communication styles to achieve successful outcomes. Within the federal planning industry, opportunities for traditional hands-on, community-based planning workshops are extremely restricted. However, the need for planning does not disappear when external factors impact our traditional methods. So how can we keep the mission moving forward and foster collaboration if we can't physically get to where we need to be?

As planners, we can put our own practices into action to rise to the challenge – creating a plan for a resilient planning process that is flexible and provides the capability to effectively develop community-driven planning products within established budget and time constraints. Considering current health guidelines, planning workshops must provide a safe environment for collaboration, which in some cases means little to no in-person interaction. To adapt to this need, planners are implementing virtual resources that bring the interactive workshop environment directly to the stakeholder, regardless of their location. General steps to adapt the planning process for a virtual environment include:

- **Coordination with stakeholders to capture technological capabilities and limitations:** Varying factors such as software availability and familiarity, network access, and cyber-security measures may require a unique combination of technologies: software platforms, computers and personal devices, cameras, microphones, network connectivity.
- **Establishing a preferred virtual meeting platform:** Understanding stakeholder limitations, ensure that the platform (e.g., Microsoft Teams, Cisco WebEx, GoToMeeting) selected is accessible to most stakeholders. For a truly interactive user experience, select resources that provide multiple methods for accessing both audio and visual components of the meeting.
- **Modifying typical hands-on planning exercises with digital alternatives:** For exercises that require anonymous stakeholder input or voting, utilize online survey tools (e.g. Survey Monkey, Mentimeter). These resources should allow users to provide input through multiple types of devices (e.g., computers, cell phones, tablets) and display results in real time. Additionally, facilitation of map analysis and site planning exercises through digital mapping products (e.g., Adobe, ArcGIS Online) that can be shared live via your selected meeting platform.

Conducting collaborative work sessions within a virtual environment, however, potentially introduces both technological and inter-personal challenges. The particular mix of tools may vary from user to user, providing innumerable opportunities for incompatibility that disrupts



Sample Survey Results

the process. Additionally, many collaborative software platforms are designed to support a presenter vs. audience dynamic. “Audience” members may vote, comment, or even share their screens, but few software platforms provide each participant equal ability to create, manipulate, or contribute to a commonly shared work product.

On the inter-personal side, no virtual communication platform can fully replicate the complexity of true human interaction. The now-familiar mantra of “mute your microphone until you are speaking” leaves little room for the more varied and subtle communication tools of body language, facial expressions, or eye contact. Additionally, regardless of conducting a “camera-on” or “camera-off” style meeting, facilitators can never be certain they have the full attention of participants. The temptation for participants to multitask can undermine the quality of the collaboration.

Despite these limitations, the development of a truly resilient planning process has also produced several serendipitous outcomes. Free from geographic limitations, virtual planning allows those typically constrained by distance to participate; a long-distance collaboration may now fit easily into your daily routine. This enormous leap in inclusiveness opens previously exclusive work sessions to a much wider pool of participants, ultimately benefiting the planning process.

Hosting a virtual planning session does require an investment of time and money to acquire, learn, prepare, coach, and troubleshoot new technologies. However, that loss may be offset by lessened dependence on travel. This may reduce some of the travel time and expenses (and carbon footprint), allowing more focus on the planning process.

The benefits of increased inclusiveness and efficiency are desired outcomes even in times of stability. Because of this, of the tools utilized to facilitate socially distant meetings will likely endure beyond the end of the current health crisis. Planning, at its core, is the charting of a dependable path forward through an uncertain future. Faced with infectious disease, natural disasters, or political instability, the planning profession should lead in innovation. As we navigate future turbulence, planners must rise to the challenge. Our practice requires an agile and adaptable process, and now, through the tribulations of 2020, we have one.

Aaron Ryan, AICP, LEED AP ND
Kate Woods, GISP
Pond and Company

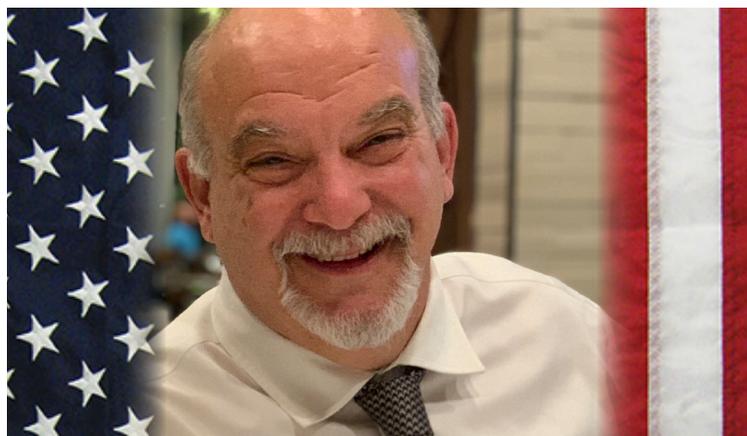
Congratulations!

As a profession we would like to recognize the individuals that make up our organization. If you have any announcements of members receiving their AICP, promotions, or retirements please let us know.

Happy Retirement

For over 30 years, Mr. Jerry Zekert clearly demonstrated sustained and significant contributions to the federal planning profession and provided significant leadership in promoting and encouraging planning at the federal level. As Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Military Master Planning Program, he led a vibrant program that guides the planning and development of military installations worldwide. Jerry led the Army's Master Planning Community of Practice, and he championed a broad professional planning development and training program, leading a worldwide community of planners that provide base planning services to installations. As the primary Army advisor on base planning for the Office of the Secretary of Defense and he served as the founding Director of the Department of Defense (DoD) Master Planning Institute, an award-winning continuing education program for planners that has raised the bar for planning throughout DoD.

While there are many ways to measure effectiveness over the extent of a career in planning, two clear measures are publication of peer-reviewed articles and peer recognition of projects. Jerry has been a prolific author and has published over 20 articles in a variety of publications including The Military Engineer (Society of American Military Engineers) and The Public Works Digest (U.S. Army). In addition, since 2009, Jerry has been the direct government lead on many award-winning projects.



Jerry has been a long-time supporter of FPD. He was involved with FPD at its inception, and he still has all of the files from the division's formation over 25 years ago. He was very active in the division's first meeting in San Francisco in 1994 and he served as the FPD Chair in 1999. He has delivered dozens of presentations at FPD training workshops and he has been actively involved in planning numerous workshops, including serving on program committees for FPD national and regional workshops in Seattle (1999), Denver (2011), Los Angeles (2012), and Washington, DC (2016). His longstanding support for FPD has helped the division grow into a vibrant community of federal planners. In 2018, Jerry received the FPD Rik Wiant Award honoring his contributions to the profession.

We wish Jerry the best in his retirement and would like to thank him for all of his dedication throughout the years to FPD and our profession as a whole.

FPD 2021 Virtual Training Workshop

Dates: 11-13 May 2021

The annual workshop is the premier training and networking opportunity for federal planners.

Participants hear from agency representatives, consultants, and experts about recent federal projects and emerging trends.

Stay tuned to our workshop website for details:
www.planning.org/divisions/federal/workshop/

Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements on **awards package** and **training session** Submissions...

FPD Membership= Reduced Cost to Attend!

Questions? Ask the 2021 Workshop Chair at Joseph.hart@us.af.mil



Good Bye and Thank you

Kenda Lundgren, age 77

Kenda Lundgren, wife of past FPD chair Mark Lundgren, died on September 6, 2020, from complications of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Kenda was an active participant in both APA and FPD throughout the years alongside her husband. She was a cheerleader both for him and for professional planning, always a cheerful and vibrant participant in events and meetings. The division was greatly saddened to hear of her diagnosis with ALS, and even more devastated to learn of her passing.



Post your condolences here: <https://www.ruckfuneral.com/obituary/7129898> The family is also collecting donations to work toward a cure for ALS. Click the link above for instructions.

Kim Toufectis, age 59

Kim Toufectis, longtime NASA facility planner and program manager, died Thursday, August 6, 2020, after a long battle with cancer. Kim was a valued member of the APA Federal Planning Division, giving multiple presentations at workshops over the past 20 years. Many members expressed condolences and fond memories of the conversations they had with him at FPD workshops. He spent the bulk of his career at NASA, helping elevate master planning at the Agency and developing the NASA Master Planning Handbook in alignment with other federal master planning guidance, e.g. Unified Facilities Criteria 2-100-01. He was also a longtime volunteer at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.



View his official obituary and add your own message here:

https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=kim-william-toufectis&pid=196641996&itid=sf_local-obituaries

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