



100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org

Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

***Bringing Communities Together***

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JUNE 4, 2019

**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

**RE:** SINKING CITIES

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On Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, WJCT hosted an event called Sinking Cities: A Community Discussion. This discussion centered around the effects of sea level rise in Northeast Florida and what communities are doing to adapt. The panel included:

- Ellen Glasser, *Mayor, Atlantic Beach*
- Erik Olsen, *Coastal Engineer & Member, Adaptation Action Area Working Group on Flooding*
- Elizabeth Payne, *CEO NEFRC*
- Lisa Rinaman, *Riverkeeper, St. Johns Riverkeeper*
- John Upton, *Journalism Partnerships Editor, Climate Central*

It provided the Council an opportunity to discuss their Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding that is being used to create a Regional Exposure Analysis and a community survey designed to ask questions on the public's perceived vulnerability and potential community-based solutions. Both the analysis and survey are designed to foster community conversations about sea level rise, with the Council offering to assist in these efforts as needed.

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# Does Your Community Want to Talk About Sea Level Rise?

- NFWF and NatureServe did a Coastal Resilience Assessment of the St. Johns River watershed in early 2019.
- NEFRC, assisted by local partners and Taylor Engineering, used the Coastal Resilience Assessment as a baseline and created a regional exposure analysis for Northeast Florida. This data, when considered with the critical facilities, development patterns, special features and vulnerabilities of each community, will allow communities to consider what approaches will work to make them more resilient to storms, natural disasters and sea level rise.

Communities that are interested may ask NEFRC to facilitate a community conversation to review the exposure analysis and discuss strategies that might be used to address local vulnerabilities. Communities can use this as a first step in developing a plan for the actions that will work to make their community more resilient.

*The Regional Exposure Analysis will be available  
on June 10th at the website below:*

<http://www.buildcommunityresilience.com/NortheastFlorida>



*Interested?*

*Contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org)*

*904-279-0880 ext.161/ [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org)*