



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 24, 2021

Media Contact

Name: Lauren Kolodij

Phone: 252-393-8185

Email address: laurenk@nccoast.org

North Carolina Coastal Federation Event Highlights New and Proposed Resilience and Water Quality Initiatives

OCEAN, N.C. - Across North Carolina, leaders are taking on the persistent challenge of stormwater flooding with innovative approaches that use natural designs to lower risk and pollution. A North Carolina Coastal Federation webinar highlighted the support for nature-based solutions statewide, from the North Carolina General Assembly and state agencies to city halls and universities.

Storms big and small flood homes and disrupt businesses while also harming water quality and downstream habitats. Landowners, business owners, engineers and government agencies recognize that this destruction can be reduced when the landscape is designed and managed to slow flood water and allow it to soak into the ground. The Action Plan for Nature-based Stormwater Strategies, developed by the North Carolina Coastal Federation with the support of The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a roadmap for wider and more consistent use of these techniques. "From installing rain gardens in subdivisions and shopping centers to restoring thousands of acres of wetlands across

the countryside, investing in nature-based solutions reduces pollution and flooding. This is being acknowledged across North Carolina in an unprecedented way," explained the federation's executive director, Todd Miller.

Recent legislation passed by the North Carolina House of Representatives contains several flood resilience provisions, including a watershed planning initiative and \$100 million fund to upgrade and maintain stormwater infrastructure that can support nature-based projects. Similar legislation has been approved by the North Carolina Senate. Lawmakers are expected to approve final investments in flood resiliency in budget legislation now being negotiated in Raleigh

“The House budget is a historic investment in flood resilience across the state,” said North Carolina Rep. John Bell, a lead sponsor on flood legislation incorporated in the budget. “I look forward to working with the Coastal Federation and the Action Plan stakeholders to support communities and complete effective resilience projects on the ground.”

North Carolina Sen. Jim Perry has joined Bell and other lawmakers in calling for new investments to make flood prevention efforts stronger across the state. “We will continue to work with stakeholders and various subject matter experts to ensure we make wise investments in our resiliency efforts, Perry said during the webinar. “The Action Plan has provided invaluable information during our efforts to date.”

Community leaders, university researchers and agency officials that supported the Action Plan are also now leading the way in implementing it. Kevin Boyer, Water Quality Manager with the City of Raleigh’s Stormwater Management Division, presented the plan that Raleigh City Council recently approved to use more nature-based approaches in city development projects that will help improve water quality. “Our goal is to lead by example in protecting our streams and lakes and reducing water pollution. With this plan, we are focused on developing in greener ways and creating processes that help others do the same,” he said. “Working with the community on these efforts can save money, make development more resilient, and showcase better ways for protecting the environment.”

There is more work to be done to keep infrastructure above water, the doors of businesses, schools and hospitals open, and North Carolinians safe in the next storm and in the coming decades. The nature-based stormwater stakeholder work groups continue to support these critical efforts at the state and local level. The Action Plan for Nature-based Stormwater Strategies, and relevant supplementary materials and case studies can be accessed on the North Carolina Coastal Federation website [here](#).

About the North Carolina Coastal Federation

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is a nonprofit membership organization that works to keep the coast of North Carolina a great place to live, work and play. Through a variety of programs and partnerships, the federation provides for clean coastal waters and habitats, advocates to protect the coast and teaches and

informs people about the coast and what they can do to protect it.

The federation has offices in Ocean, Wanchese and Wrightsville Beach, N.C.

To learn more, please visit nccoast.org or call 252-393-8185.