



TPO Annual Retreat Summary

Friday, March 3rd

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Daytona International Speedway

Bill France Room

The focus of the annual retreat for 2017 involved Proactive Strategies to Deal with Sea Level Rise. There were 88 attendees present including TPO committee members, Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD) members, city and county representatives, citizens and the press.

The event began with introductions from River to Sea TPO Chairman Marshall Shupe and VCARD Immediate Past President Shannon Julien. To begin the retreat, R2CTPO Executive Director Lois Bollenback posed a series of questions to the audience regarding sea level rise. Responses were generated through the use of interactive polling clickers (results are attached).

An expert panel then provided a series of presentations including:

- Dr. Jason Evans, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Studies, Stetson University, who gave a presentation on Sea Level Rise Planning at the Local Level. He reviewed a general timeline of sea level rise impacts on the built environment and provided case studies of areas already experiencing impacts from tidal flooding.
- Mr. Thomas Ruppert, Coastal Planning Specialist with Florida Sea Grant, whose presentation covered Sea-Level Rise and Infrastructure and how the law might address these challenges. The presentation covered the topics of sea level rise, drainage, and local government responsibilities in comprehensive planning and potential future liabilities.
- Ms. Kari Hewitt, VHB Director of Sustainability, Senior Project Manager, Environmental Planning & Sustainability Practice. Ms. Hewitt spoke about Proactive Strategies to Deal with Sea Level Rise. She explained effective planning strategies that are being used to develop proactively with consideration to sea level rise.
- Mr. James F. Murley, Chief Resilience Officer for Miami Dade County, Florida. Mr. Murley's presentation covered risk management and insurance issues facing the City of Miami and potentially the State of Florida as flooding events become more frequent.

Following the presentations, a question and answer period directed towards the expert panel was held.

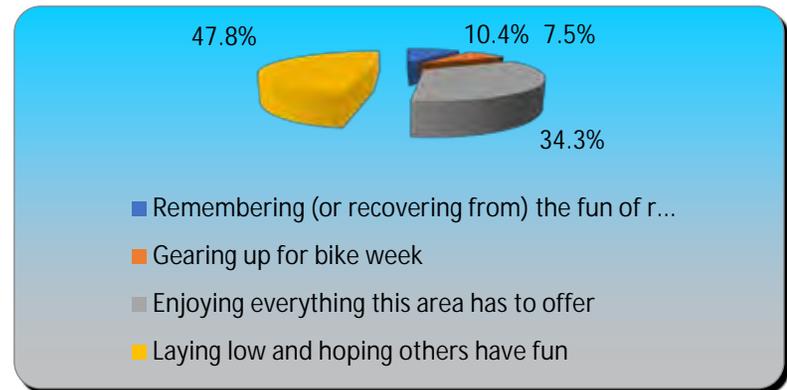
Also attached is a copy of the event flyer provided at the planning retreat as well as a News-Journal article that was printed about the planning event.

Turning Graphical Results by Question

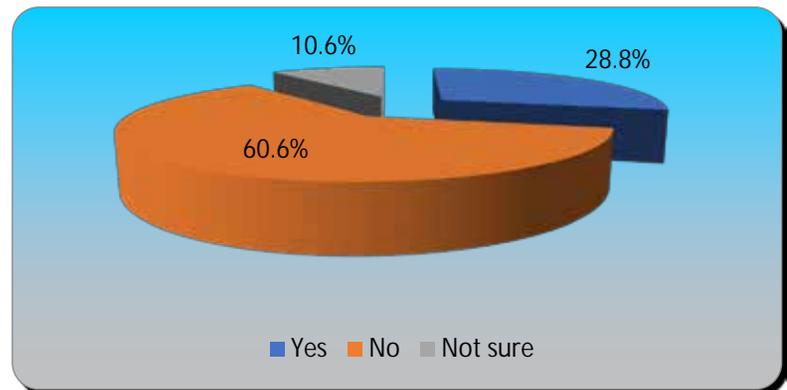
Session Name: TPO Session 3-3-2017 9-24 AM

Created: 3/3/2017 12:50 PM

1.) A. This week I'm: (multiple choice)	Responses	
Remembering (or recovering from) the fun of r...	7	10.45%
Gearing up for bike week	5	7.46%
Enjoying everything this area has to offer	23	34.33%
Laying low and hoping others have fun	32	47.76%
Totals	67	100%

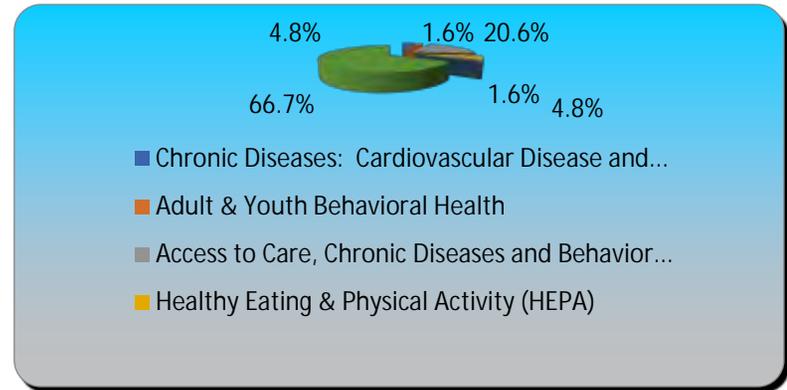


2.) B. Are you aware a collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted in 2016? (multiple choice)	Responses	
Yes	19	28.79%
No	40	60.61%
Not sure	7	10.61%
Totals	66	100%



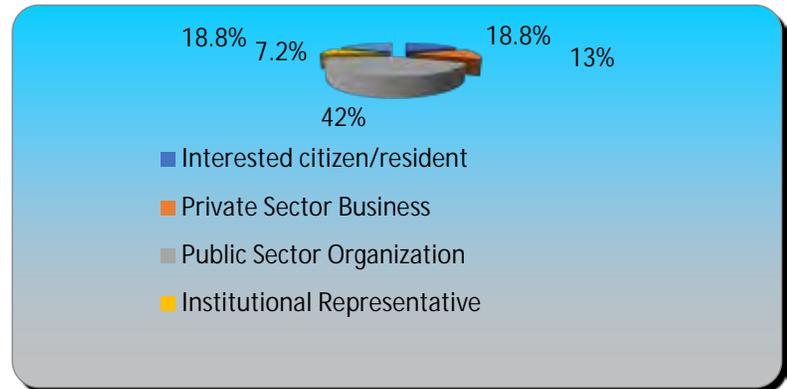
3.) C. Which current Priority Health Issues were identified by the CHNA? (multiple choice)

	Responses	
Chronic Diseases: Cardiovascular Disease and...	3	4.76%
Adult & Youth Behavioral Health	1	1.59%
Access to Care, Chronic Diseases and Behavior...	13	20.63%
Healthy Eating & Physical Activity (HEPA)	3	4.76%
None of the above	1	1.59%
All of the above	42	66.67%
Totals	63	100%



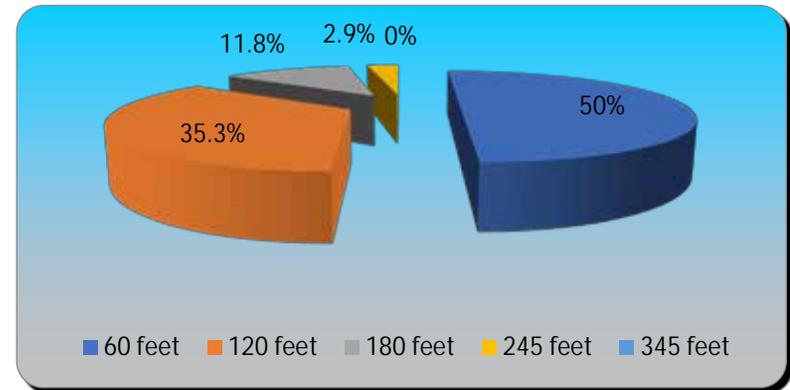
4.) D. What group do you represent with your attendance today? (multiple choice)

	Responses	
Interested citizen/resident	13	18.84%
Private Sector Business	9	13.04%
Public Sector Organization	29	42.03%
Institutional Representative	5	7.25%
Elected Official (a.k.a. representing all of ...)	13	18.84%
Totals	69	100%



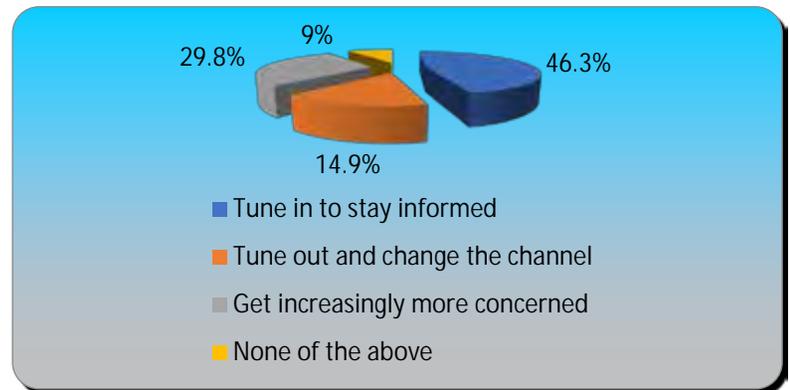
5.) E. The highest point in Flagler and Volusia County is how many feet above sea level? (multiple choice)

	Responses	
60 feet	34	50%
120 feet	24	35.29%
180 feet	8	11.76%
245 feet	2	2.94%
345 feet	0	0%
Totals	68	100%



6.) F. When I see television shows on Sea Level Rise and Climate Change, I: (multiple choice)

	Responses	
Tune in to stay informed	31	46.27%
Tune out and change the channel	10	14.93%
Get increasingly more concerned	20	29.85%
None of the above	6	8.96%
Totals	67	100%



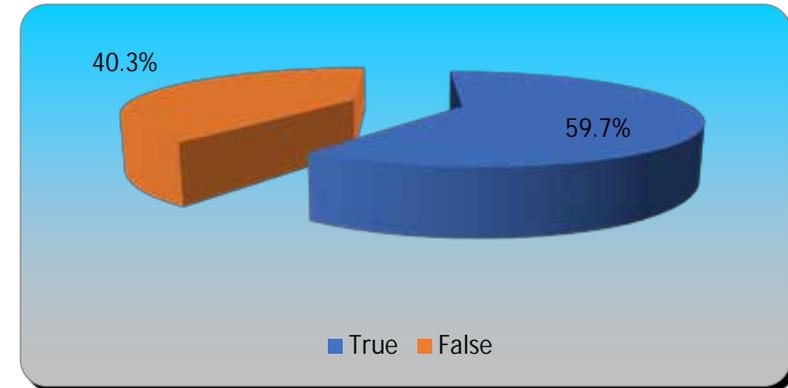
7.) G. Issues resulting from Sea Level rise: (multiple choice) Responses

Issue	Count	Percentage
Are impacting us now	43	66.15%
Will begin to impact our community in the nex...	8	12.31%
Will impact our community in 10 to 20 years	10	15.38%
Will impact our community in 20 or more years	3	4.62%
Will not impact our community	1	1.54%
Totals	65	100%



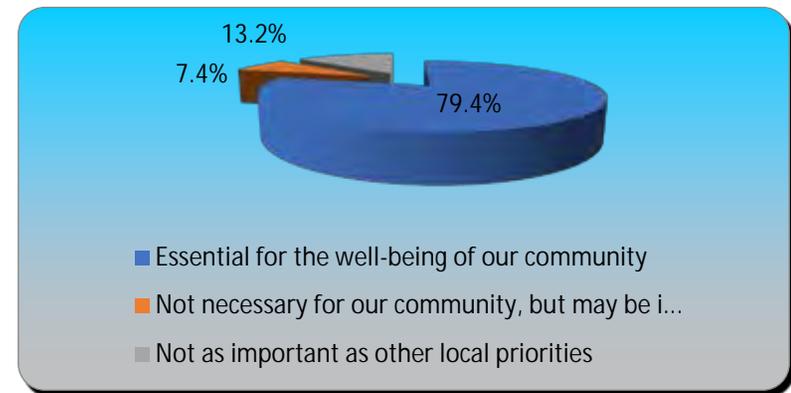
8.) H. I have taken action personally or professionally as a result of concerns over Sea Level Rise: (multiple choice) Responses

Response	Count	Percentage
True	40	59.70%
False	27	40.30%
Totals	67	100%



9.) I. Preparing for Sea Level rise at this time is: (multiple choice)

	Responses	
Essential for the well-being of our community	54	79.41%
Not necessary for our community, but may be i...	5	7.35%
Not as important as other local priorities	9	13.24%
Totals	68	100%



Most officials agree: Rising sea level a concern for Volusia-Flagler

Monday

Posted Mar 6, 2017 at 4:48 PM

Updated Mar 8, 2017 at 10:18 AM

By

[Follow](#)

DAYTONA BEACH — Rising sea levels are already impacting Volusia and Flagler counties, agreed most of the 80-plus people attending a River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization meeting on Friday.

Of the local government officials, transportation planners and developers who attended the meeting sponsored by the TPO and Volusia County Association for Responsible Government, only five said the don't believe sea level rise is a concern.

Their viewpoints were collected during an instant survey at the beginning of the meeting, which focused on the issue of sea level rise. Nearly 80 percent of those attending the summit in the Bill France Room at Daytona International Speedway agreed that planning for sea level rise is essential for the community's well-being.

And that was before Jason Evans, an assistant professor of environmental science at Stetson University, and other speakers pointed out specific instances where rising seas already are causing flooding problems on the Florida and Georgia coasts — especially in south Florida.

"We're already seeing it. It's already happening," said Evans, as he showed photos and charts detailing the increase in flooding events in the Florida Keys over the past several years.

"Accelerated sea level rise is a really big deal for Florida," added Evans, whose research focuses on sea level rise. Among his examples of the dramatic increase in nuisance flooding events, Evans pointed to the 33 nuisance flooding events last year in Marathon in the Keys.

The projections for sea level rise in upcoming decades range from eight inches to about 6.6 feet, he said. He added that few development decisions being made in vulnerable coastal communities are considering the worst-case scenario by 2100.

Evans said he could go to any local government along the coast and ask if they're already having problems, "and they say yes."

Evans co-authored a national study published last year that showed the influx of people moving to the U.S. coastline and concluded that rising sea level could impact up to 6 million Florida residents by 2100.

The other three speakers at the meeting discussed how local governments are going to be responsible for protecting against sea level rise and what some are doing now to prepare.

Florida had "\$44 billion in weather disasters between 1980 and 2016. There's clearly an economic risk here," said Kari Hewitt, director of sustainability and senior project manager for VHB, an engineering and planning consulting firm. "We need to be thinking about this now."

"Seas are going to rise. There's going to be flooding," she said. The question is resiliency, she said. "How do we bounce back from that as quickly as possible."

Local governments across South Florida are talking about and taking action to protect against rising seas, said Jim Murley, chief resilience officer for Miami-Dade County.

Sea level rise is a "force-multiplier," he said, amplifying the effects from natural weather events.

Thomas Ruppert, a coastal planning specialist with Florida Sea Grant, discussed some of the legal implications for local government when rising seas impact private properties.

He pointed to efforts in St. Petersburg to relocate a low-lying mobile home park that had to be evacuated at least four times last year. "The county is looking for a way to react permanently because they can't protect those people," Ruppert said.

But overall, he said, local governments "aren't good at making really difficult political decisions until we're backed into a corner."