

Florida Division of Emergency Management
Bureau of Mitigation
and Florida Atlantic University

Watershed Master Plan Peer Review Team (PRT)

Watershed Master Plan Peer Review Team Purpose:

FDEM and FAU asks this ad hoc peer review team to review and provide comment on the Watershed Master Plan design elements, research approach, screening tool, community prioritization for funding, efficacy of findings, suitability to meet or exceed floodplain management plan requirements of Local Mitigation Strategy plans, and most importantly, assess whether the model plans and content meet established requirements for watershed masterplans required for advancing in the Community Rating System.

Peer Review Team Composition:

The PRT includes a diverse membership of volunteer participants who by bringing their specialized roles and knowledge together will collectively help ensure that the master plans prepared under this contracted project meet the intended goals of the Watershed Master plans intended to serve the goal of improving flood resiliency in Florida communities, and as a model for communities across the nation. The below list identifies proposed participants that DEM and FAU ask to share their expertise through guided review of key project deliverables, meet by virtual conferencing, or by attending in-person meetings, if possible, considering the nation's response and recovery to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Schedule and Format of PRT Meeting:

Florida Atlantic University has specified late September as the earliest date that they could submit the specified documents and would like to give the PRT 2-3 weeks to review the documents before meeting, making the ideal PRT meeting time sometime in mid-October, with October 21st being the latest date that the meeting would ideally be conducted. Due to ongoing in-person restrictions from the covid pandemic, FAU and FDEM agreed on doing a 3-4 hour online meeting to talk through any of issues, concerns, or critiques that PRT members have.

September 15th – September 30th – Timeline for deliverables to be submitted to PRT by FAU

October 7th – 21st – Preferred PRT meeting timeline.

Anticipated Project Elements to be Reviewed by PRT:

The peer review team will be reviewing documents that are required deliverables for the completion of Task 2 and Task 3 of the Watershed Master Plan Pilot Program. Participants of the PRT will have access to all the documents and can choose to review as many of the

documents as they choose, but detailed review of one or more documents that each PRT member has specific expertise in is appreciated as well. Below is a list of the documents being reviewed, with a brief description of the contract requirements of each document included for reference.

1) Task 2.1 Community Engagement/Statewide Program Implementation Strategy Document

a) Per the Scope of Work, the sub-recipient is required to:

“identify entities that may be responsible for WMP development and develop an effective local engagement strategy for the purpose of statewide program implementation... will determine appropriate entities and skill sets of community stakeholder candidates to create a statewide listing with contact information to be included during comment solicitation and methodology validation... will include recommendations on the most appropriate entity and skill set to complete WMPs with a cost range for WMP development and proper structure for implementation.”

2) Task 2.2 Recipient Selection and Prioritization Methodology

a) Per the Scope of Work, the sub-recipient is required to:

“The Sub-recipient will develop a selection and prioritization methodology and apply it to the 29 Florida Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Basins. Utilizing the information collected and analyzed in Task 1, the Sub-recipient... will determine an appropriate study scale for WMPs (e.g., watershed vs sub-basin vs sub-sub-basin or river vs tributary, etc.).”

3) Task 2.3 Screening Tool Validation

a) The screening tool used for this project is the Cascade Routing Model, which was developed by the South West Florida Water Management District. Below is a flow chart of the Cascade Routing Model process for the Pilot Program. Per the Scope of Work, the sub-recipient is required to:

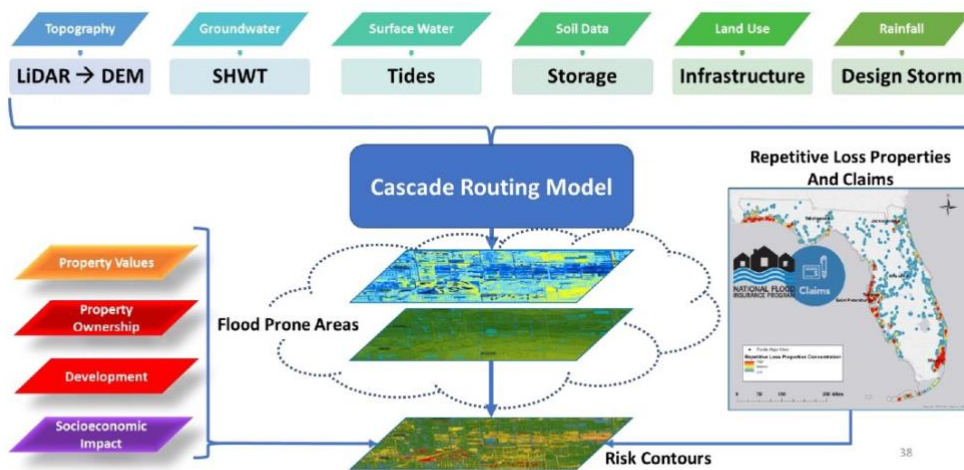


Figure 5. Screening tool development and application

“...conduct the first run of the screening tool for Basin 28: Lake Worth Lagoon – Palm Beach Coast... comparison with repetitive loss property maps (in GIS) would be used to assess the accuracy... screening tool will highlight areas that are “vulnerable,” “potentially vulnerable,” or “less vulnerable” using the definitions of the Army Corps of Engineers... will focus at a tile level coarser than 10x10 ft.... an inland area will then be selected to validate the methodology for non-coastal watersheds... will use the boundary conditions derived from the coastal areas... be on water quantity at this screening level.”

4) Task 2.4 Validate Higher Resolution Scale Screening Methodology for Determining Most Vulnerable Areas.

a) Per the Scope of Work, the sub-recipient is required to:

“Based on the basin-wide effort in Task 2.3, the LiDAR data can be reduced to 3 ft. x 3 ft. tiles for high-resolution screening. In order to prioritize sub-basin level vulnerability, a flood risk scoring system or relative needs index with appropriate criteria will be developed by the Sub-recipient. In this task, the basins analyzed in Task 2.3 will be re-evaluated at the higher resolution which will be determined to be most useful by the Sub-recipient.”

5) Task 3.1 Screening Tool Implementation Guidance Document

a) Per the Scope of Work, the sub-recipient is required to:

“Based on the results of Task 2, the Sub-recipient will develop a guidance document/instruction manual that outlines how to implement the screening tool methodology and flood risk scoring system for users.”

6) Task 3.2 Watershed Management and Best Practices Guidance Document

a) Per the Scope of Work, the sub-recipient is required to:

“Based on the data gathered from Tasks 1.1 and 1.2, the Sub-recipient will create a template to identify best practices for WMP integration into existing Local Mitigation Strategies and provide support data and mapping. As a part of the template, the Sub-recipient will collect and organize best practices for achieving CRS points. The Sub-recipient will present and discuss the information to FDEM before proceeding with development of a draft plan for a community chosen by the parties herein.”