

A Presentation To The Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

3 December 2009

Preview of the Sea Level Rise &
Inundation Workshop

3-5 December 2009

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**“I’ve always had an inordinate fear of sea level.”
Woody Allen, 1961**

Expectations

- Validate Outcomes
- Achieve Workshop Goal
- Produce Workshop Outputs

Desired Outcomes

- A nation well prepared to deal with sea level rise and inundation on a variety of spatial and temporal scales.
- A sustainable network—community—of people dedicated to working together to develop information and tools and to execute strategies to enable local communities to deal effectively with sea level rise and inundation in creating resilient coastal communities.

Workshop Goal

To produce a framework with ranked and sequenced strategies that address sea level rise and inundation on different spatial and temporal scales to help communities create plans to ensure resilience...

...a plan that supports the development and integration of relevant data, information, and products, and makes them readily available to communities

Desired Outputs

- **A framework** with ranked and sequenced strategies to address sea level rise and inundation on different spatial and temporal scales to help create resilient coastal communities. Elements of the framework include:
 - **Roles and responsibilities**
 - **Prioritized tasks**
 - **Descriptions of geospatial frameworks, modeling, decision-support tools, etc.**
 - **A validated list of required data, information and tools and products**
- **A preliminary “needs assessment”** developed from existing regional and sector-specific inventories before the workshop.
- **A Workshop Declaration** that inspires commitment from federal, state and local agencies; academic institutions; non-profits; and other community organizations to implement the framework and associated strategies.

Achieving Our Expectations: The Workshop Model

Plenary → Breakout Groups → Plenary
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In the Search for Robust Strategies

Achieving Our Expectations: The Workshop Model

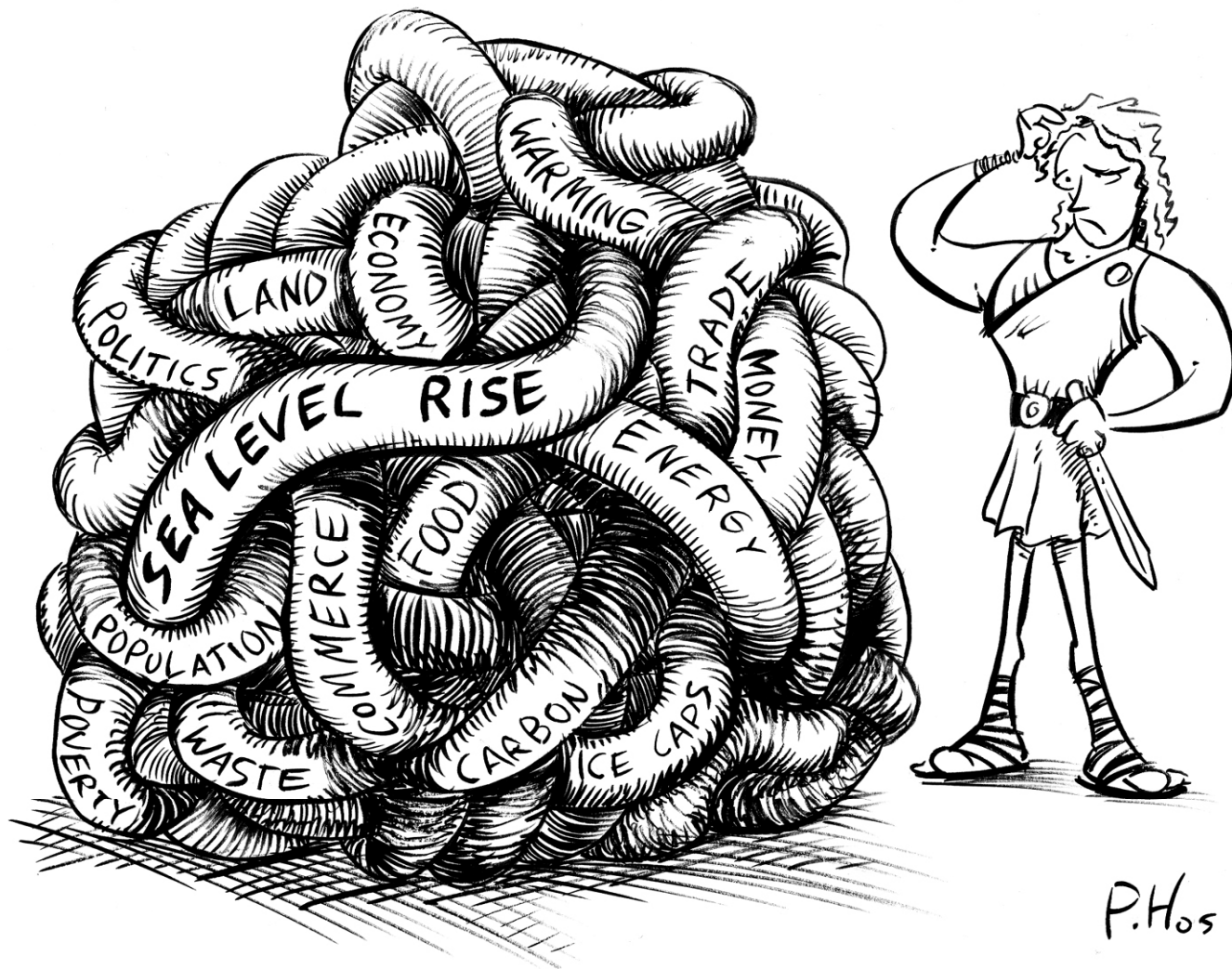
Plenary → Breakout Groups → Plenary
→

In the Search for Robust Strategies

Workbook & Worksheets

The Nature of the Problem

- SLR & Inundation = One of a Family of “Wicked Problems” ... “Swamp” Problems...
- A “Wicked Problem” is...



A Wicked Problem

Characteristics of Priority National Issues

- People think the problem is real
- They think it is human caused, at least in part.
- They think the net effects will be harmful
- They think we can “solve” the problem
- People are certain about their views

Public Perception of The Reality of the Problem

- WSJ...24 Nov. 2009

“ Global Warming With The Lid Off...

The emails that reveal the effort to hide the truth about climate science.”

Somewhere there's a river in Egypt overflowing...



P. Hos '09



*“Some day, lad,
all this will be yours.”*



P. Hos '09

The Wicked Problem: *A Place to Start?*

- What combination of strategies will be most effective in dealing with sea level rise and inundation, particularly from storm surges of all kinds, to minimize the social, economic, and environmental impacts on communities, regions, and the nation? What data, information, and tools will contribute most to these strategies and who should be responsible for them?
- The Framework is a roadmap to get there...

The Revised* Draft Framework

Define The Problem & State It Richly

- I. Develop A Shared Community Vision
- II. Identify Geographic Scope & Time Scales
- III. Recruit Partners & Clarify Roles

Gather The Data, Information & Tools

- IV. Characterize SLR & Inundation For Project Area...Present & Future
- V. Identify Critical Data, Information, And Tools
- VI. Secure Or Develop The Necessary Data, Information, And Tools

The Revised* Draft Framework

Identify & Explore Alternative Solutions

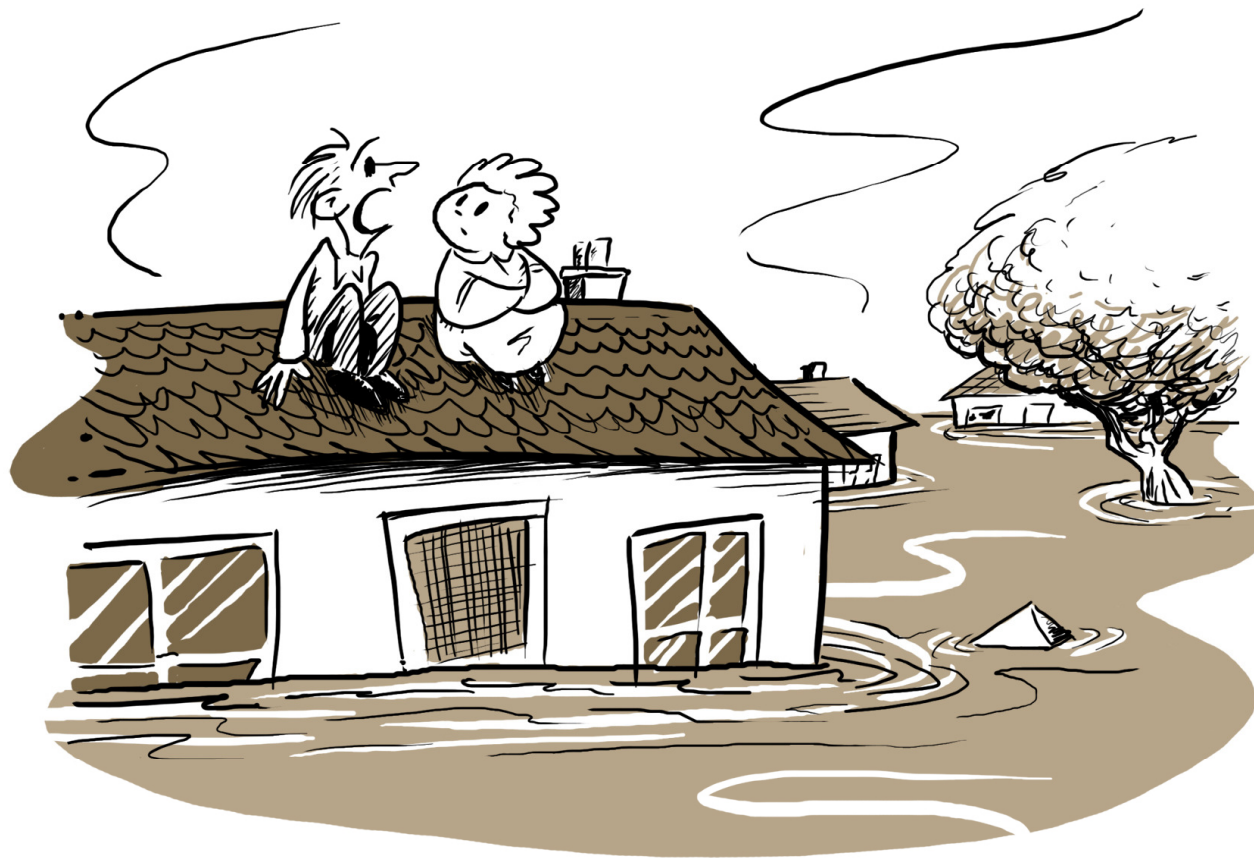
VII. Identify And Evaluate Strategies

Build & Sustain Capacity and Support

VIII. Build Institutional Capacity & Political Will

IX. Develop Communication Strategy

X. Institutionalize Program



“Don’t worry, Mildred. Our Federal Flood Insurance will cover it as long as we rebuild right here.”