

From: Craig Weaver <crater1@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:23 AM
To: Diana Mezzanotte <dmezzanotte@kiawahisland.org>; Stephanie Tillerson <stillerson@kiawahisland.org>
Subject: sea level rise issues

Diana / Stephanie

I think the sea level rise group was looking for some additional detail on comments I made at one of their last meetings regarding my hope that this effort provides a better understanding of the island's vulnerability to flooding resulting from tropical storms.

Specifically, my concern stems from the fact that in South Carolina local officials do not have authority to require an evacuation of the community in the advent of a storm. Consequently, our need is to be able to provide individuals with reliable and accurate information about what the storms impact may be, so that they can individually make proper judgements about leaving the island, protecting their property, and, if they leave, when it is appropriate to return. We also need to be able to provide commercial interests like the resort and rental companies with this information so that they can make decisions about their operations and guests.

Looking back at our experiences with the recent two tropical storms and the major rain storm of a couple years ago, here is the kind of understanding of our vulnerability to flooding that would have been helpful.

Street Flooding - 1) better understanding where the island is most vulnerable to street flooding that would impede vehicles leaving the island, that would cut off ingress or egress to a part of the island, or impede emergency vehicles, and having an appreciation of at what level of storm activity (rain intensity, storm surge, tidal action) we might see an impact. 2) understanding the post-storm recovery expectations of our roads from flooding - I need to be better able to assess whether a road flooding event is likely to be measured in hours or in days.

Property Flooding - I would like to be better able to educate property owners about the vulnerability of their property to minor flooding - so they can better recognize whether they might experience localized flooding (such as homes near marshes) and be able to make decisions and take actions to protect personal property in garages, decide to sand bag garage doors, etc. This would be useful also for the many non-resident property owners that we have who would benefit from knowing whether they should be having local contractors or representative making protective measures for their homes.

What would be especially helpful in the future is to have a more specific appreciation of how different parts of the island might be impacted. Today, we provide general island-wide guidance, but invariably then our residents experience something different - because either their home saw lesser or worse conditions than was predicted - and so the credibility of our advice is diminished in that event and in future events. Or we have the situation where several parts of the island can be impassable and unsafe, but residents in those areas do not listen to the town of KICA advising them not to return because residents in other parts of the island are out on social media describing contrary conditions.

Thanks - craig