



# MEMORANDUM

## Town of Nags Head

### Planning & Development Department

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To: Board of Commissioners  
From: Michael Zehner, Director of Planning & Development  
Date: June 25, 2019  
Subject: Update on Coastal Resilience Summit (*Attachment G-1*)

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Staff of the Planning & Development Department (Michael Zehner, Kelly Wyatt, Deputy Director of Planning & Development, Holly White, Principal Planner, and Todd Krafft, Environmental Planner) recently attended the North Carolina Coastal Resilience Summit in Havelock on June 11 and 12; general information may be found here [HERE](#), the agenda and presentations may be found [HERE](#), and a further summary of the Summit and photographs may be found [HERE](#).

As noted by the North Carolina Coastal Federation in the pages linked above “the Summit will inform the development of the North Carolina Coastal Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan (“Plan”) under [Governor Cooper’s Executive Order 80](#) so as to propel the coastal region’s preparedness for the effects of climate changes including rising sea levels, increased frequency and severity of coastal and riverine flooding, increasing extreme weather, changing groundwater conditions and other shifting natural conditions. The Summit will also showcase a gamut of existing solutions to address the identified challenges.” Prior to the Summit, the participating organizations held workshops in the Northeast (Elizabeth City) and Southeast (Wilmington), to help inform the Summit as well as to collect stakeholder input for the development of the Plan; information on the workshops may be found [HERE](#).

The Summit was valuable to Staff, providing updated information on changing natural conditions, the effects of such conditions, and the best practices that communities are using to address such conditions. Additionally, both Mr. Krafft and Ms. White served as presenters at the Summit, Mr. Krafft as part of a panel titled *Smarter Critical Systems and Built Environment: Infrastructure Solutions* where he discussed the Town’s Septic Health Initiative, and Ms. White as part of a panel titled *Synthesis and Next Steps: How to Build Partnerships for Success* where she discussed the value of the Town’s collaboration with academic research initiatives and groups such as North Carolina Sea Grant. It is also important to note that during opening remarks, Secretary Regan of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality specifically referenced the Town and Ms. White’s initiative as a reason for the workshops and the Summit.

Staff will continue their involvement in the development of the Plan, coordinating on behalf of the Town’s interests.