# Planning for Resilient Coastal Communities

# WELCOME

Port Austin – October 15, 2019

#### **Tonight's Agenda**

- Introduction to Master Planning and Coastal Resilience
- Presentation What is Community Resilience
- Activity 1 Preserve, Improve, Create
- Presentation Great Lakes Coastal Shoreline Dynamics
- Presentation Placemaking for Community Sustainability
- Activity 2 Mapping assets & opportunities
- Presentation Legal Complexities: Shoreline and the Public Trust Doctrine
- Activity 3 Project prioritization
- Next steps

# A Unique Master Planning Effort Planning for a <u>Resilient</u> Port Austin

A different way of viewing the master plan process, focusing on the cooperative preparation, adaptation and the creative development of community systems in the face of changing conditions and circumstances.

#### What is a Master Plan?

A formal assessment of the strengths & weaknesses of the community

Through civic engagement, it's the expressed vision for the future of the community

A formal policy guide or "blueprint" for community development

A flexible document - should respond to changing conditions, innovations, new information





#### How is a Master Plan used?

- Basis for land use regulation (e.g., zoning)
- Guides decisions on development and public capital improvements
- Provides support and improves eligibility for potential projects
  - Grant Requests
  - Millage
  - Public/Private Partnerships

Provides a guide for the conservation of community resources and quality of life

Positions community to meet future challenges







# Building Resiliency In Coastal Communities Funding Provided By Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program



### The **PURPOSE** of this program:

- Study and analyze the potential coastal hazards along the Great Lakes
- Engage citizens, public officials and community stakeholders
- Help inform local land use policy and future master planning efforts
- Create hazard-ready coastal communities









# What is Community Resilience?

The ability of a community to anticipate, accommodate and <u>positively</u> adapt to or thrive amidst changing climate conditions or hazard events and enhance quality of life, reliable systems, economic vitality and conservation or resources for present and future generations.

**Urban Sustainability Directors Network** 

## Establishing a Framework for Building Community Resilience



Image: ARUP and the Rockefeller Foundation

#### **Resilient Systems**

- Local Governance and Leadership
- Infrastructure (green & grey)
- Transportation
- Local Food Systems
- Housing and Neighborhoods
- Natural Resources
- Public Health
- Coastal Processes
- Energy
- Economy and jobs

A System is an interconnected set of elements that is coherently organized in a way that achieves something.

Thinking in Systems, Donella Meadows (2008)

### **Establishing a Framework for Building Community Resilience**

## **Efforts at the Federal Level**

- EPA Collecting data, technical assistance, outreach and policy
- CDC Programs in Environmental health, infectious disease
- DOD Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap
- NOAA Climate information and data
- FHWA Technical assistance to improve resilience and reduce energy use and emissions
- DOE Supports research and innovation to invest in alternative energy

## **Efforts at the State Level**

- Michigan Climate Action Plan (2009)
- Michigan Army National Guard
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan State Police
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- Michigan Public Services Commission
- Michigan Public Governmental/Planning Associations (MAP, MML, MTA)

## Establishing a Framework for Building Community Resilience

### **Efforts at the Local Level**



#### EXISTING PLANS

Communities with Climate Actions Plans, Resiliency Plans, and/or Sustainability Plans, either in process or adopted as of February 2017.

- Alger County
- Baraga Township
- Bay City
- Beaver Island
- Benton Harbor
- Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center
- City of Ann Arbor
- City of Dearborn
- City of Detroit
- City of East Jordan
- City of Farmington Hills
- City of Grand Haven

- City of Grand Rapids
- City of Hancock
- City of Hazel Park
- City of Holland
- City of Kalamazoo
- City of Ludington
   City of Marquette
- City of Monroe
- City of Muskegon
- City of Southgate
- City of St. Joseph
- City of Traverse City
- City of Trenton

- City of Ypsilanti
- Coastal Macomb County
- Fort Custer Training Center
- Frenchtown Charter Township
- Grand Haven Charter Township
- Hamlin Township
- Meridian Township
- Monroe Charter Township
- Muskegon County
- Pere Marquette Charter Township
- Selfridge Air National Guard Base
- Village of Northport
- Village of Sebewaing

## Establishing a Framework for Building Community Resilience

Chapter {2} Climate Impacts on Michigan Communities

Planning for Community Resilience in Michigan: A Comprehensive Handbook

#### SIX CLIMATE-CHANGE CONCERNS FOR MICHIGAN



## What is <u>Coastal</u> Community Resilience? Responding To:

 Shocks. Shocks are typically considered single event disasters, such as a severe storm and flooding (impacts associated with climate change) Metro Detroit – August 2014



Houghton – June 2018



Photo Credit: Sonya Lampre Detroit Free Press

2. <u>Stresses.</u> Stresses are factors that pressure a community on a daily or re-occurring basis, such as fluctuating lake levels





# **Great Lakes Observed Regional Changes**



----

# **Projected Great Lakes Regional Changes**



## Current Coastal Dynamics and Climate Trends



# **Great Lakes Water Levels Are Influenced by Three Factors**

- 1. Rain and Snowfall Over the Lakes
- **2. Evaporation Over the Lakes**
- 3. Runoff the Enter the Lakes from the Surrounding Land through rivers and Tributaries

## Persistent Upper Air Pattern Is Bringing Active Storms and Heavy Precipitation Across the Midwest Basin



Issued: 5/19/20196:13 PM Eastern 

More Information available at: www.weather.gov/up



June 2019

https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/20/us/western-michigan-football-stadium-floodingtrnd/index.html

# Michigan Climate Trends



# Activity One

Preserve, Improve, Create

#### Economy

Port Austin is not currently capitalizing on the winter months Weather has a direct influence on the economy "Great place to live, tough place to make a living" Not enough seasonal workers in the summer because permanent job growth largely in Bad Axe

#### Low number of businesses Seasonal residents not looking for new development Well-attended farmers market Development in Bad Axe is drawing money away from Port Austin

Seasonal economy<sup>Manufacturing becoming more automated</sup>

Many Port Austin residents are employed in Bad Axe Many people leave during the winter

Manufacturing industry - difficult to find employees

#### **Coastal Resilience**

Invasive species potential Ordinance does not address seawalls No data on septic systems in the Township, Village is on sewer Health department closes beaches often after holiday weekend because of contamination Community is accustomed to the fluctuating lake levels Nothing in the zoning ordinance on setback requirements from water

Seawalls are failing

Runoff into creeks, harbor from farms

#### Housing

#### Low number of permits applied for to build Cost of new construction is high

Seasonal residents want to stay in their home or downsize Almost no affordable rental housing during peak tourism for seasonal workers A lot of recent upgrading of the housing stock More new builds – demand is high for new housing Lack of affordable housing for young families County allowing pole structures to be built as housing Local ownership (year-round) is increasing while non-local ownership is decreasing Blighted properties - both commercial and residential

#### **Community Amenities & Services**

Two public art galleries Turnip Rock

Three hospitals within 30 miles Strong non-resident tax base to support millages Low civic participation from young people

Community does not have many young people to staff emergency services Ambulance is a satellite location; police is paid position; fire department is volunteer **Not enough staff for ambulatory services North Huron School recently redone/upgraded** 

Community has strong recreational assets – beaches, ball fields, library, playhouse, museum, golf Community lacks swimming pool, gym, sporting facilities

Transportation

Repaving every year

Home to a number of trails – bird, water, preserve, Barn Quilts Trail "Local public bus system is like Uber" – Thumb Area Transportation Community connected by two state highways

Community wants to work with external transit agencies to make transfers outside the region easier

#### Great road commission Huron County residents largely support road millages Lack of bicycle paths, trails

## **Great Lakes Coastal Shoreline Dynamics**



## February 20, 2014

### (92.5% Ice Coverage)



# February 19, 2017

(19.4%)



### Ice as an Indicator of Storminess Frequency and Intensity of Storms



## Storms Are Increasing Everywhere September 2017



## Fall Storms of 2017 Lake Superior

#### Wave energy is 25% greater when lake levels are high



Station local time (EST)

## Fall Storms of 2017 Lake Superior

🕒 Blackrocks Waves on 🛛 🐠 🗙 🔪

2 623 views





DISLIKE

LIKE

▲ 🎼 🛱 💷 🖣 9:16 PM 8/26/2018

3.12

## Meteotsunami – Grand Traverse Bay 18 – inch increase in water in ½ hr. June 2018



Clinch Park, Traverse City

# Great Lakes Water Levels (1918 – 2019)



Elevations are referenced to the International Great Lakes Datum (1985)

Water levels have been coordinated through 2017. Values highlighted in gray are provisional.

# Water Levels Recent History





## Water Levels Are High Again Especially Lake Superior

- April 2019: Just 3-inches below all-time high (602.11 feet)
- Expected to meet or exceed record high in June, July and August



### **Great Lakes Water System** It starts in Lake Superior



Graphic: Ohio Department of Natural Resources
## **Historic Survey Data**

- 45 Survey Sites
- 31 on Lake Michigan
- 1988-2008 (periodically)
- Primarily MDEQ funded
- Referenced to known bench marks (vertically and horizontally)





## Sample Survey Data



Summit Township Park, Mason County

### Lake Michigan Beach in 1988 Summit Township Park, Mason County



### Lake Michigan Beach in 1988 Chikaming Township Park, Berrien County



### Lake Michigan Beach in 1988 Ludington - North



### Lake Michigan Beach in 1988 Buttersville Park - Ludington South



### Ludington (Juanita Street): 1989



### Ludington (Juanita Street): 1989



### Ludington (Juanita Street): 2008 and 2019



### Summit Township Park: 1989 & 2008





## Lake Michigan Beach in 1988

Near Michigan/Indiana State Line



## Lake Michigan Beach in 2008

Near Michigan/Indiana State Line





## Lake Michigan Beach in 2018

Near Michigan/Indiana State Line



### New Buffalo, Michigan – Historical Beach Profile



## Water Levels

May 21, 2019: 580.35 feet



## Arial Photo: 1998

Water level very close to 580.5 ft.

Shoreline

Ordinary High Water Mark

## Arial Photo: 2008



## The 80 Year "Look"













#### Legend

2015 Coastal Photos Oblique Photography

1938 (Water Elev: 57 1938 Shoreline

1938 Bluffline

2016 (Water Elev: 58 2016 Shoreline

2016 Bluffline







## Beaches Change Quickly...And Will Forever Continue to Do So

- Above the water
- On the water
- Below the water



# Placemaking for Community Sustainability

Presented by Zach Vega



Source: MLive

Source: Michigan Municipal League

Source: Michigan Municipal League

#### What is Placemaking?

Placemaking is the process of creating **quality places** where people want to live, work, play, shop, learn or visit.



The Second Globe Theatre in Auckland, New Zealand

WHY must we do Placemaking? People want more urban choices than presently available!



They want more choices in **housing** and **transportation**; they want more variety in entertainment, **cultural** offerings, **green space**, and recreation; they want more **diversity** in ages, races, sexual orientation and cultural heritage; they want Quality Places with *allure*, *pizzaz* and *interest*.





### What are Quality Places?

Quality places are places with good form function and social



### Characteristics of a Quality Urban Place



#### Comparison of Walkable Urban with Auto-oriented Sub-urban



Photos by Kurt H. Schindler, AICP, MSU Extension.

Wide street

### Placemaking Can Help Create Quality Places

So, how does Placemaking create quality places? How can a community go from being auto-dominated to being walkable and having other quality characteristics?

- Most change is *incremental* and takes place over a long period of time.
- Sometimes change is *physical*, like projects that result in new buildings or infrastructure.
- Sometimes it is new activity in an existing place.
- Sometimes it is *both*.
- Often it is *transformational* as illustrated on the next three slides.

Photo by Steve Price, Urban Advantage.

Castan

Graphic by Steve Price, Urban Advantage.

Graphic by Steve Price, Urban Advantage.

111

### **Quality Places are Attractive to Business**

- Businesses attracted to: good schools and access to amenities.
- Several quality places downtown and at nodes along key corridors.
- Largest small towns in region need quality places.
- Start in the Downtown!



Photo by the Michigan Municipal League/<u>www.mml.org</u>.

### Quality Places Improve Quality of Life for Everyone

- Placemaking is a low-risk proposition.
- New/improved trails/parks, community infrastructure, mass transit,






•1110

Soul Gallery



6P



MML, Kalamazoo Mall

features...

#### ....at appropriate scale, depending on the setting.

Tischler, Mackinac Island

Nature is a place with form, too...

Pure Michigan, Sleeping Bear Dunes







MSHDA











MSHDA



# The People – Place Connection

# ...naturally sustains Activity...

Good Form...

# ....yields Positive Feelings ....and results in Economic Activity

Traverse City, MML

#### Quality Urban Places are....

#### Walkable & Bikeable



#### **Transportation Friendly**

#### Pedestrian-Oriented



Mixed-Use





Photos by the Michigan Municipal League/ www.mml.org; Boyne City downtown (top right)

#### Full of Housing Options



1 Urban Advantage, 2013 (bottom left); MDOT (bottom right)

.....

nnn

THURSDAY

111

Carr Tr

Photos by Michigan Municipal Leaguer www.mml.org (top row); NCI and Dover, Kohl & Pr



# Placemaking helps meet the triple-bottom line



Photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triple\_bottom\_line#/media/File:Triple\_Bottom\_Line\_graphic.jpg

### Credits

#### Content provided by:

- MSU Land Policy Institute
  - <u>http://www.canr.msu.edu/landpolicy/</u>
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation
  - <u>https://www.miplace.org/</u>
- Based on Placemaking Curriculum 5.0, Dec. 2015
- Based on Placemaking Guidebook, Dec. 2015



Mapping assets and opportunities

# Legal Complexities – Shoreline & the Public Trust Doctrine

Richard Norton, PhD, JD Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

# Scientific and Legal Uncertainties <u>Two</u> Ordinary High Water Marks:

- 1. "natural" (beach walking)
- 2. "elevation" (regulatory)

*Glass v Goeckel* (MI S Ct 2005) "The point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other easily recognized characteristic."

"Public Trust Beach"



## Scientific & Legal Uncertainties

## <u>Two</u> Ordinary High Water Marks:

"natural" (beach walking)
"elevation" (regulatory)

**MIGLSLA (1955)** Elevation-based mark set by statute for Lake Michigan and Huron at 580.5 ft. (IGLD 1985)



## Scientific & Legal Uncertainties



### **Potential Consequences of No Local Control**











#### MAY 1960 AERIAL PHOTO

GRAPH: LAKE LEVELS in the 6 months before and after the survey















#### APRIL 2002 AERIAL PHOTO

GRAPH: LAKE LEVELS in the 6 months before and after the survey







June 1938











future scenario: projected conditions1996


### **Potential Consequences of** No Local Control



April 1985 May 1960

future scenario: under past conditions



# Looming Legal / Policy Problem Shoreline Armoring



# Looming Legal / Policy Problem Shoreline Armoring



### The Bluff Will Look the Same from the Beach, but... It's Moving!



# Looming Legal / Policy Problem Shoreline Armoring



### Looming Legal / Policy Problem Shoreline Armoring



### Planning for Great Lakes Coastal Community Resilience Planning Issues & Considerations

#### <u>lssues</u>

#### Climate change

- Increased droughts
- Increased heat waves (tempered by lake effects)
- Increased storminess (frequency, intensity)
- Ecosystem storminess/public health effects

#### Layered upon natural lake level fluctuations

#### **Additional Considerations**

- Community & social vulnerabilities
- Economic sustainability (tourism, facilities, industry
- Fairness (disaster mitigation, recovery, equity in opportunities & impacts)

Coastal Hazard Threats (inundation, high-energy waves)

### Introduction to Scenario-Based Planning Scenario-Based Planning Framework

Management Options	Climate Futures		
	Lucky	Expected	Perfect Storm
Current Development	Scenario 1A	Scenario 1B	Scenario 1C
Current Zoning Build-Out	Scenario 2A	Scenario 2B	Scenario 2C
BMP Build-Out	Scenario 3A	Scenario 3B	Scenario 3C

### Introduction to Scenario-Based Planning

### Helps Navigate Uncertainty

• Plot different, but reasonable future narratives against each other (e.g., climate futures and growth management options).

Assumptions from available data / info in order to craft these narratives

• For example, use 100 years of observed water level data to estimate future low, "average", and high water elevations.

### Can complete planning analyses from framework

 Such as, potential structures at risk of flooding under each combination of climate futures and management options (i.e., under each "scenario").

Possible climate futures (*not predictions*) Lucky = low storminess (~ 50-year storm) + low water levels Expected = increased storminess (~100-year storm) + average water levels Perfect Storm = very stormy (~500-year storm) + all-time high water levels

### Varying

- Storminess
- Great Lakes still water levels

### Derived by combining

- FEMA FIRMs
- Coastal inundation areas (FEMA)

### Coastal inundation areas determined by overlaying

- Great Lakes still water levels (GLERL/NOAA) + storm surge elevations (MTU)
- Topography of coastal community (available DEMs)



#### Lucky

- All-time low lake water levels, no wave action (i.e., no VE)
- Current FIRM floodway + Proposed 2% coastal base flood elevations ("coastal floodway")
- Planning (~50-year) storm = current 2% storm



#### Expected

- Long-term mean lake water levels
- Current FIRM base flood elevations ("coastal floodplain") + elevationderived storm surge extent
- Planning (~50-year) storm = current 1% storm + VE (more stormy)



#### Perfect Storm

- All-time high lake water levels
- Current mapped .2% flood area (Shaded-X) + elevationderived storm surge extent
- Planning (~50-year) storm
  = current 0.2% storm +
  VE (super stormy)

**Possible build-out futures** (*not predictions*)

- **1. Current Development** = current structures & infrastructure
- 2. Current Zoning Build-Out = current structures & infrastructure + full build-out under current zoning code
- **3. BMP Build-Out** = current structures & infrastructure + build-out if BMP's are adopted

#### Varying

- Zoning regulations & other growth policies
- Allowable development in or near high risk flood areas

### **Derived By**

- Community master plan, zoning ordinance, and other ordinances (e.g., stormwater management ordinance)
- Spatial avoidance best management practices

### **Build-Outs Mapped With**

• CommunityViz Software (an ArcGIS extension program)







### Using Coastal Data + Scenario-Based Planning to Inform Local Planning

### Potential Structures at Risk in Grand Haven

	Lucky	Expected	Perfect Storm
Current Development	17	142	189
Current Zoning Build-Out*	+2	+182	+234
BMP Build-Out*	+2	+25	+41

\* Additional potential structures at risk



Project prioritization

# Next Steps

- We will review tonight's input and put it into a summary document
- Week of October 21 (Date & Location TBD), join us for a joint planning commission meeting to begin drafting goals and objectives
- 3. Attend planning commission meetings to provide more input into the master plan update

# Contacts

Matt Cowall LIAA P: 231-929-3696 Email: mcowall@liaa.org

Zach Vega LIAA P: 231-929-3696 Email: zvega@liaa.org Stay up to date on the *Resilient Port Austin* master plan update by visiting:

resilientmichigan.org/portaustin

### **Coastal Resilience Team**



Guy Meadows, PhD Director, Great Lakes Research Center Robbins Professor of Sustainable Marine Engineering Michigan Technological University



Richard Norton, PhD, JD Professor, Urban and Regional Planning Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning University of Michigan





Matt Cowall, Acting Executive Director Zach Vega, Community Planner Land Information Access Association (LIAA)