

Resilience Dialogues – Dubuque Pilot

Dialogue 1

Summary Report DRAFT

I. Overview

From the launch of the pilot dialogues, the Dubuque team had informative and constructive communications that shaped the deliverables for easy consensus. We held a conference call at the conclusion of Dialogue 1 to ascertain the experience of the community leaders to date, which was positive. It proved beneficial to talk and share with the experts on the call more about the city, what they have been doing so far, and their interests going forward. The team is now ready for Dialogue 2.

It is a pleasure working with a committed group of professionals, interested in helping this community, and others, to become more resilient.

II. Summary of Desired Outcomes

After their introductions, Dubuque community leaders were asked to share what outcomes they hoped to achieve in the Resilient Dialogues process. We had a good exchange of ideas on a few while others were incorporated directly in the questions developed. Cory Burbach expressed a critical need for staff and partners who are “thinking about resiliency on a regular basis, however, we lack a shared community definition of the term.” The team quickly added comments to the importance of agreed terminology and added some resources to assist with this later in the process.

Two lists of desired outcomes were created and are shared below: a condensed list followed by the full-version. Use the numbers to match the condensed version with its full counterpart, e.g. 1=1, 2=2. (The condensed version was necessary due to space limitations on the dialogue description page, but it proved helpful in discussions.)

(Condensed)

"We hope to..."

1. Gain perspectives, insights & analysis to be incorporated in ongoing community decision-making, resource sourcing, and allocations for our most vulnerable
2. Make better, actionable decisions from gathered data
3. Define resiliency
4. Develop a concise explanation of localized climate change impacts & develop a systematic process to incorporate data into planning & operations
5. Connect with technical experts, agencies, etc. who will help implement our strategic plan and make us more resilient
6. Identify community-focused "climate vulnerabilities"
7. Understand what specific disasters can occur and if mitigation plan exists

8. Learn how other communities engage most vulnerable
9. Create a tested resilience process for communities

(Full version)

1. Dubuque can gain objective perspectives, insights and analysis, on our Sustainable Dubuque model that can be incorporated in our ongoing community decision-making, resource sourcing, and allocations to benefit our most vulnerable members
2. This dialogue can help Dubuque make better and actionable decisions from data being gathered as part of our STAR Community process
3. This process can help us define resiliency for the community
4. We can develop a concise document to explain the localized impacts of climate change to staff and the community, and then develop a systematic process to incorporate that data into our planning processes and operations
5. We make connections with technical experts, federal agencies, etc. so that once we have an overall strategic plan, we can reach out to our new partners to help us implement action steps and make our community more resilient
6. Hope the Resilience Dialogues "network" can help Dubuque identify community focus "climate vulnerabilities" that may impact the community
7. Hope to understand what specific disaster(s) can happen in Dubuque and if we currently have a plan to mitigate the situation
8. Learn how are other communities are engaging their most vulnerable community members around the identified community focus climate vulnerabilities
9. I hope that through these dialogues, this pilot is useful in helping to create a tested process wherein other interested communities can work through the proposed 3-step process to become more uniquely beneficially resilient

III. Refining the Community Questions

Prior to the launch of the Resilience Dialogues, Dubuque city leaders provided a list of questions necessary to understand their local vulnerabilities and resilience options. Reviewing and refining these twelve questions became the foundation for an exchange of ideas, experience, and expertise resulting in two deliverables: an approach, and the final list of questions.

Paul Shultz wrote the first comment in reviewing the questions describing "inclusive citizen empowerment". This resonated with the team, which generated additional questions and steps throughout the process to address the need for "long-term successful community engagement and partnerships".

In the second and third comments, suggestions were made by Mari Tye to take a "broader view of your questions" and Chris Weaver to "reorder the questions to reflect a progression"

including the first three steps. This was followed by Mahmud Farooque's recommendation of the next three steps in the progression to address how "the engagement of lay citizen and organized stakeholders needs to be kept sufficiently separate by design".

The combination of these comments kick started a great discussion resulted in Dubuque's 8-step "progression" approach to which Dubuque's questions were structured and developed to fit easily within.

The final list is shown here in three different ways: Questions only; 8-Step Progression Approach only; and 8-Step Progression Approach with some Annotated Questions.

Questions-Only:

1. How do we engage state and federal agencies and their respective resources in risk assessment and disaster planning?
2. How do we create inclusiveness and participation goals to generate a more encompassing list of relevant public values, then broaden community participation, "belonging" and buying into the relevance and importance of likely acute and chronic climate impacts?
3. How can we help craft resilient responses through community-wide collaboration, effective partnerships, equity priority, innovation, inclusive leadership, trust, good transparent governance, efficient functionality and comprehensive preparedness?
4. What type of targeted survey questions could help identify the unique goals, prioritized action and desired outcomes of various segmented demographic groups (e.g. at risk populations) related to resiliency in Dubuque as potentially impacted by climate?
5. What are the likelihood, consequences and risk assessment of Dubuque's Acute Climate Vulnerabilities: short-term, mid-term and long-term?
6. What are the likelihood, consequences and risk assessment of Dubuque's Chronic Climate Vulnerabilities: short-term, mid-term and long-term?
7. Is there a plan or process to mitigate these hazards?
8. How do we measure whether we are doing well? How do we measure adaptation? How do we identify objectives, targets, timelines, outputs and performance measures?
9. We tend to think about response to climate change as a response to acute events (flood, ice storm, etc.). How do we identify and manage the threats that are more difficult to see or could be more systemic?
10. Theoretically, this process could provide a one-time deep dive with our staff to develop an adaptation strategy. What trainings, internal processes, etc. might we need to develop to ensure that our organization can continue this work on our own in the future?
11. Which data should we be using? What is the best, localized data, and what are the key characteristics we should include (temperature, precipitation, etc.)? For what

timeframe should it be?

12. Once we have the data, in what areas do we need to complete a risk analysis (infrastructure planning, emergency response, transportation networks, human service providers, health care, etc.)?
13. How might our planning processes (comprehensive plan, zoning codes, etc.) influence this work?
14. What type of training/technical assistance do our departments need to be armed with to react to data?
15. What about the "softer" side of risk analysis (at risk populations, equity, translation services, etc.)?
16. What regional systems/infrastructure might be at risk? The one that comes to mind is the electrical grid - What role do we have in making sure that system is ready to respond?
17. How do we analyze the data and outcomes to evaluate our processes and systems?
18. What resources (e.g. grant funding) are available and can help us in our work?
19. How do we engage and empower committed knowledgeable citizens willing to volunteer for resiliency and planning type of commissions or work groups to create "inclusive citizen empowerment"?
20. How do we communicate this information with the public and engage them as partners in our work?
21. How do we identify and target priority audiences in order to better provide guidance on what messages work well for them?
22. How do we convene an informed, inclusive and deliberative public dialog process for informing decision-making
23. How do we create an effective strategy, anticipate barriers, and measure success for communications and learning?
24. What questions, shared data and responses in the first seven steps were most effective?
25. What significant gaps remain in the first seven steps?
26. What were the strengths in the process? Weaknesses? Barriers?
27. Which segmented constituencies are weaker links in community-wide resilience in the face of climate vulnerabilities?

8-Step Progression Approach Only:

- A. Create public-value discussion & engage the broader community
- B. Identify the major categories of risks faced by Dubuque
- C. Establish linkages between values and climate change variables
- D. Bring in data, information and tools to inform the public value choices the community needs to make
- E. (Expert input) Introduce potential solutions/risk mitigation strategies with cost and benefits
- F. (Stakeholder input) explore organized stakeholder perspectives with regards to (E)
- G. Set goals and priorities for communications *and learning*, then re-engage the broader

community in an informative dialog about problem and solution sets

H. Evaluate & Adjust Solutions

8-Step Progression Approach with Annotated Questions:

- A. Create public-value discussion & engage the broader community
1. How do we engage state and federal agencies and their respective resources in risk assessment and disaster planning?
 2. How do we create inclusiveness and participation goals to generate a more encompassing list of relevant public values, then broaden community participation, "belonging" and buying into the relevance and importance of likely acute and chronic climate impacts?
 3. How can we help craft resilient responses through community-wide collaboration, effective partnerships, equity priority, innovation, inclusive leadership, trust, good transparent governance, efficient functionality and comprehensive preparedness?
 4. What type of targeted survey questions could help identify the unique goals, prioritized action and desired outcomes of various segmented demographic groups (e.g. at risk populations) related to resiliency in Dubuque as potentially impacted by climate?
- B. Identify the major categories of risks faced by Dubuque
5. What are the likelihood, consequences and risk assessment of Dubuque's Acute Climate Vulnerabilities: short-term, mid-term and long-term?
Especially:
 - Extreme rainfall events with increased frequency and intensity causing flooding in local streams in Dubuque's Catfish Creek and Bee Branch Watersheds. These events cause erosion, declining surface water quality, and negative impacts on transportation, infrastructure, local food production and human health.
 - Increased heat wave intensity and frequency, along with increased humidity, leading to degraded air quality and reduced surface water quality increasing various types of public health risks?
 - High winds, tornados?
 - Mississippi River flooding overtopping the City's floodwall?
 - Potable water quality and availability from our deep underground aquifer source?
 - Atmospheric pollutants?
 - Drought?
 - Late spring freezes on natural and managed ecosystems (gardens/agriculture)?
 - Changes in pests and disease prevalence?
 - Landscape fragmentation?
 - In-creased competition from non-native or opportunistic native species?
 - Ecosystem disturbances?
 - Land-use change
 - Food security and access (acute or chronic?)
 6. What are the likelihood, consequences and risk assessment of Dubuque's Chronic

Climate Vulnerabilities: short-term, mid-term and long-term?

Especially:

- Safety net for the most vulnerable: immigrants, refugees, homeless, elderly, poor, children, people with disabilities, racial and cultural minorities
- Energy feedstock availability and cost (fossil fuels, solar, wind, municipal methane recovery, bi-fuels, hydro)
- Electricity supply systems and efficiencies
- Heating supply systems and efficiencies
- Transportation fuel systems and efficiencies
- Individual motorized vehicles, bicycling and public transportation
- Housing weatherization and efficiencies
- Business enterprises and innovation
- Banking, lending and finance
- Trading vs. cash vs. charitable donation vs. food shelters
- Business and personal income
- Jobs and job training
- Education: youth and adult
- Voting and neighborhood/community organizing
- Public Safety, crime and social disorder
- Wellness and health care and healthy food nutrition and produce sharing
- Air and land quality: toxics, radon, hazardous materials and pollution of all types
- Human migration and climate refugees
- Community collaboration and increased self-reliance and frugality
- Food supply sources: grocery store vs. grow your own, community gardens, local farms and canning/storage
- Water efficiencies: potable, rain water capture, storm water, grey water, black water
- Government regulations
- Wasting vs. resource management: redesign, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle, compost, and zero waste

7. Is there a plan or process to mitigate these hazards?

C. Establish linkages between values and climate change variables

8. How do we measure whether we are doing well? How do we measure adaptation? How do we identify objectives, targets, timelines, outputs and performance measures?

- Mary Rose Corrigan's valid comment inspired the team to incorporate evaluation in more than one place of the progression to design the evaluation into the initiative, run the evaluation, then modify the solutions based on the results. She wrote, "Critical to all of this would be analyzing the data and outcomes to evaluate our processes and systems. We always start off with a project etc. with good intentions of "evaluating" or seeing if it works, but if the evaluation piece and dedicated effort to dive in to the data is not established up front, it often doesn't happen, or it happens too late- or not in a way that's very effective. Whatever we come up with, we need to make sure there's a way to evaluate what we're doing."

9. We tend to think about response to climate change as a response to acute events

- (flood, ice storm, etc.). How do we identify and manage the threats that are more difficult to see or could be more systemic?
10. Theoretically, this process could provide a one-time deep dive with our staff to develop an adaptation strategy. What trainings, internal processes, etc. might we need to develop to ensure that our organization can continue this work on our own in the future?
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 - Bessie Schwarz, from the expert "pool", brought into the discussion elements of communications and education which helped round out the team's public outreach

questions with, “I recommend adding another sub-question...to get at priority audiences and the intended outcomes of the communication effort. This will help planners hone in on who exactly are they trying to get to do what, given limited resources.”

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