

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager

From: Allen Parsons, AICP
Director, Planning, Zoning and Building Department

Report date: October 23, 2020

Meeting date: November 2, 2020

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition

Recommended Action

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition.

Background

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) is coordinating an initiative called, the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition (Coalition). The initiative is similar to the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, which has been working to address sea level rise and climate resiliency in the Southeastern part of the State.

Currently, 29 local governments have signed on to the Coalition's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), including our comparable counties of Manatee, Hillsborough, and Pinellas. Other members include Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco Counties, and 21 municipalities in the area including both the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County. The signed MOU from Manatee County is attached as an example.

The Coalition is a regional collaboration that was formed to:

- Coordinate climate adaptation and mitigation activities across county lines;
- Advance local and regional responses to and preparations for economic and social disruption projected to result from sea-level rise, and
- Provide State and local agencies with access to technical assistance and support in addressing the effects of climate change.

Coalition Members come together to discuss complex regional issues, develop strategic regional responses for resolving them, and build consensus for setting and accomplishing regional goals.

To join the TBRCC, local governments, including Manatee and Sarasota counties, have been invited to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and agree to partner with coalition members to help develop a regional climate action plan based on science, prepare joint legislative policy statements on climate issues, and ensure community involvement in any policy or project recommendations.

The MOU reflects that the only commitment is cooperation. No funding from participating governments is required. The effort will be funded and operated with existing staff from the TBRPC. The intent is, following the formation of the Regional Coalition, to pursue grants or other resources. Formation of a Coalition will improve funding opportunities.

The Coalition is designed to support counties, cities, and stakeholder organizations in gaining a better understanding of changing risks and best practices and policies for increasing resiliency. Joining the Coalition would present a beneficial opportunity for staff to connect with others in the region and work on issues of priority to individual local governments, including the Town.

Should the Commission support the Town's participation, the only action necessary would be approval of the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

Staff Recommendation

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition.

Attachments

- A. Manatee County Memorandum of Understanding, Signed (Available in Town Clerk's Office)
- B. Memorandum of Understanding with Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition (Available in Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item