

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Workshop Session 3

Time of Session: 1:30-3:00PM

Session Title: Mixed Session

A. Managing Risk in a Changing Climate

Speaker: **Anna Schwab**, Center for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B. Transportation Safety and Access: A Case Study of the St. Claude Bridge in New Orleans

Speaker: **Earthea Nance**, The University of New Orleans

Room: 257

Head Count: 17

Note Taker: Nandini Seth

Managing risk in changing climate

Presenter: Anna Schwab¹

In this presentation Ms. Schwab discusses the severe challenges from the changing climate. As a solution, future coastal planning and management endeavor must reflect a commitment to the concept of resilience.

Impacts of climate change:

Climate change along with rise in sea level and changes in weather-storm pattern is a major concern for the planners. Schwab talks about tactics of planning ahead in the changing climate.

One of the most alarming effects of climate change is the rising sea-level rise which is impacting the low-lying coastal communities all across the nation and world. In comparison to the other disasters in the coastal zone, sea-level rise has a gradual impact, over a period of years.

Secondly, climate change causes loss of land in form of wetland loss and erosion of land (beaches and dune). This will lead to property damage along the coastal shoreline.

Thirdly, climate change produces other effects such as changing of offshore current, greater wave-velocity, saltwater intrusion, higher water table and intensified flooding. These can result into negative impacts such as habitat loss due to increased salinity in estuaries, bays and wetlands. Climate change and rising sea level may also cause vulnerability of the coastal areas.

Response to the risk of changing climate:

A good hazard mitigation plan should talk about the issue of climate change. Apart from just retreating and shifting more inland, major policy changes could be helpful for the planner to plan ahead of time.

Question & Answer session:

What is the difference between 100 year storm and 100 year flood? And what are risks associated with it?

The major risks associated before a major storm or flood event is to appropriately communicate and make public understand what the consequences of the same are.

¹ Anna Schwab: First presenter of the workshop session