

Climate Change Committee Information Sources and Long-Range Planning

During the July 2024 meeting of the Climate Change Committee, the members discussed recommendations made to the Commissioners the previous year and also considered the potential for a long-range planning and comprehensive approach such as that in Virginia Beach and possibly other climate challenged communities. They also raised the possibility of obtaining professional consulting advice and the need for funding. The committee agreed to form a subgroup to develop the idea further and to prioritize some discrete issues that would provide a manageable start.

Subsequent discussion by the subgroup focused on efforts undertaken by other shore communities, especially Lewes, Fenwick Island, and South Bethany. They also considered the survey effort last year by the Association of Coastal Towns and questioned whether there was a continuing effort by ACT to collect information on climate change and resilience efforts. The subgroup report at the September Committee meeting noted their perception that other municipalities may be more advanced in their efforts than Dewey Beach and their desire for a central source or point of contact for such information. The Committee asked that the town provide an update on available information and sources that may be available from the town manager, building official, and others, including the status of the ACT effort.

They asked that the Commissioners consider if a central point could be established or ways in which collecting and organizing such information could be streamlined. They asked if there is a list of climate change/resiliency contacts within each municipality that the committee could access or does such a list need to be created. Some possible strategies to consider might include:

- An in-depth case study assessment of the approach taken by a specified municipality and the progress made toward the objectives and goals established by the municipality.
- A new survey effort to gather updated information from each municipality.

The Committee would like the Commissioners' input on possible strategies.