

**Florida Floodplain Managers Association  
2019 Annual Conferences  
Abstracts**

---

**Title:** Pinellas County leads Region in Sea Level Rise Response

**Length:** 45 minutes

**Subject:** Sea Level Rise

**Target Audience:** Floodplain managers, planners, department heads, elected officials

**Presenter Name:** Libby Carnahan, M.S.  
Sea Grant Agent  
University of Florida IFAS Extension Pinellas County

**Biography:** Libby Carnahan is the UF/IFAS Extension, Florida Sea Grant Agent in Pinellas County. Libby is playing a leading role in Tampa Bay in helping citizens, governments, and industry make well-informed choices in the face of a changing climate. Libby facilitates the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel, is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Climate Outreach Community of Practice, and a leader of the UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Work Action Group. Libby holds a BS in Biology from Truman State University (1998) and an MS in Marine Science from the University of South Florida (2005).

**Co-Authors:** Kelli Levy  
Chris Moore

**Biography:**

**Abstract:** Pinellas County is a peninsula located on the west central coast of Florida, bounded on the east and south by Tampa Bay and on the west by the Gulf of Mexico. We have highly-populated, low-lying coastal communities with a large percentage of the residential land mass at less than 10 foot elevation.

This presentation will include Pinellas County’s planning response to Sea Level Rise including incorporation of Sea Level Rise into the stormwater code, an overview of Vulnerability Assessment, and the Guidance for Incorporating Sea Level Rise (SLR) into Capital Planning (tool and report).

The Vulnerability Assessment takes a risk-based approach to identify infrastructure assets that are likely to be exposed to future climate hazards, understand the economic impact of that exposure, and develop adaptation priorities. The project includes developing a web-based GIS decision-support planning tool and conducting facility-level adaptation assessments for a subset of assets to determine the most practicable and cost-effective adaptation options.

The Guidance for Incorporating Sea Level Rise into Capital Planning provides a framework for evaluating SLR within the capital improvement program process. The associated tool was developed in-house, however it is transferable across jurisdictions and departments. In the presentation, we will work through a case study with the tool to demonstrate its functionality and utility.