



# Building a Network for Regional Resilience

## Presentation of Findings

September 28, 2023  
Savannah City Council Meeting



# What is CERN?

Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission applied for a grant through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (GADNR CRD) in 2020.

Mission: CERN will engage regional community partners, municipal staff, and policymakers to coordinate equitable strategies to address the physical, economic, and social challenges Coastal Georgia communities face due to a changing climate.

## Benefits to Local Jurisdictions:

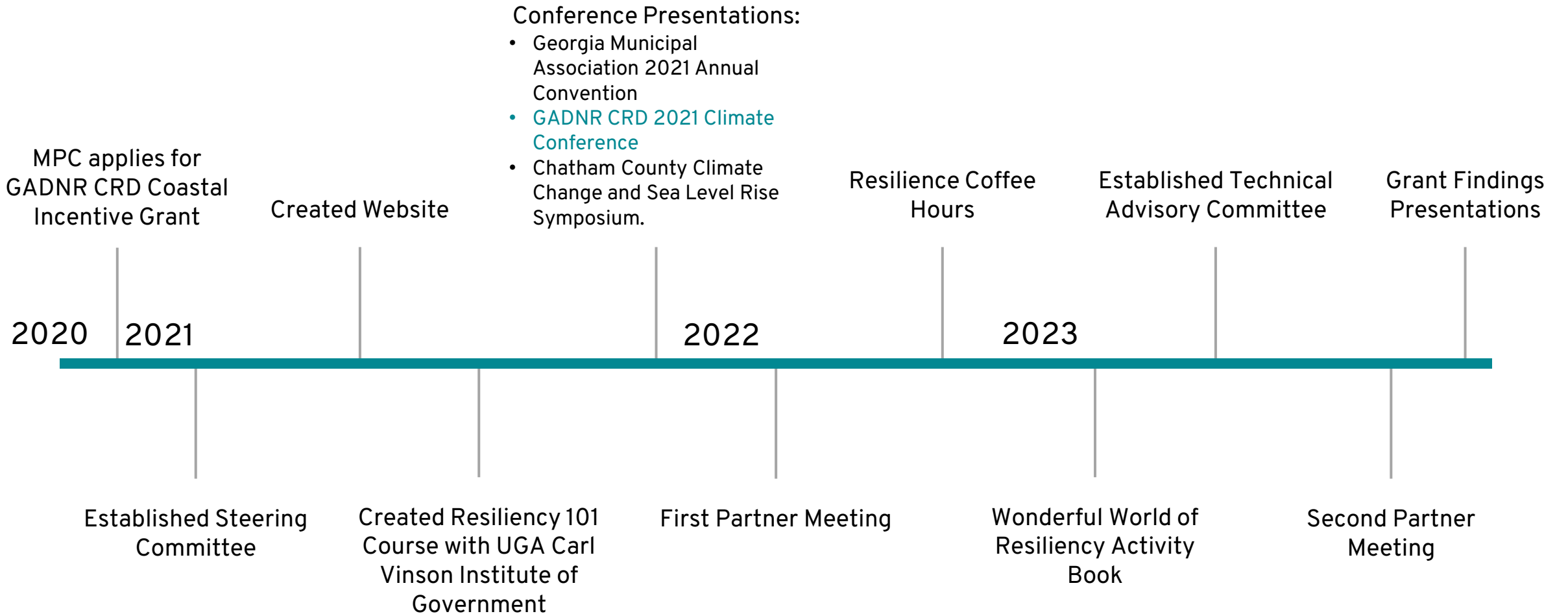
- Collaboration through a coast-wide network to promote resiliency
- Creation of a forum for information, data, and experiences to promote community resilience, and develop a common framework for planning for resilience
- Strengthening the ability of the region to prepare, adapt, and respond to both short-term and long-term complex climate and weather-related challenges



# Resilience:

the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events.

*National Research Council 2012. Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/1345>*



# 2022 Partner Meeting

## Discovering & Visioning

**SAVANNAH TECH**  
SCCPSS

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**  
Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

MASTERS STUDENTS IN URBAN PLANNING

**mpc**  
SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION  
GEORGIA 1922

SCAD

step up savannah

**Sapelo Island**  
NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

**GEORGIA**  
DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**cern**  
COASTAL EMPIRE RESILIENCE NETWORK

**CLIMATE RESILIENCE:**  
THE CAPACITY OF OUR SYSTEMS TO **PREPARE FOR, ABSORB, & RECOVER FROM** THE IMPACTS OF **CLIMATE CHANGE**

**WE'LL BE ABLE TO BOUNCE BACK** ❌

**WE WANT TO ELIMINATE THE CONDITIONS THAT LEAD TO DISASTER & MAKE PEOPLE VULNERABLE** ✅

**PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC, & SOCIAL CHALLENGES COASTAL GA COMMUNITIES FACE DUE TO A CHANGING CLIMATE**

**WILL ENGAGE REGIONAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS, MUNICIPAL STAFF, & POLICYMAKERS TO COORDINATE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC, & SOCIAL CHALLENGES COASTAL GA COMMUNITIES FACE DUE TO A CHANGING CLIMATE**

**GA PORTS**

**COASTAL GA INDICATORS COALITION**

**GA SOUTHERN**

**CITY OF SAVANNAH**

**EMORY UNIVERSITY**

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CHATHAM COUNTY**

**2.23.22**

**INKYBRITANNY.COM**



# 2022 Resilience Coffee Hours

Learning & Connecting

**RESILIENCE COFFEE HOUR**  
March 4, 2022



Insect Vectors and the Growing Impacts on Our Community  
Rosmarie Kelly, PhD MPH



**RESILIENCE COFFEE HOUR**  
April 1, 2022



How Property Insurance Rates Along the Coast Are Impacted by Climate Change  
Jeff Brady, ANFI



**RESILIENCE COFFEE HOUR**  
May 6, 2022



Mitigating the Impacts of Extreme Heat on Human Health  
Dr. Evan Mallen




**RESILIENCE COFFEE HOUR**  
Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM  
[bit.ly/CERN-Coffee\\_June](https://bit.ly/CERN-Coffee_June)



Building Response and Resilience in Our Community through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Alicia Johnson



**RESILIENCE COFFEE HOUR**  
Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM  
[bit.ly/CERN-Coffee\\_August](https://bit.ly/CERN-Coffee_August)



Planning for Natural Infrastructure to Enhance Community Resilience  
J. Scott Pippin



**RESILIENCE COFFEE HOUR**  
Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM  
[bit.ly/CERN-Coffee\\_Sept](https://bit.ly/CERN-Coffee_Sept)



Hydrology of Ditches in the Hog Hummock Community on Sapelo Island  
Hannah Morris




**Uncharted Waters**

Recurring "1,000 Year Floods" and the Impact on the Historic District of Ellicott City, MD

**Building Community around Shorebird Conservation:**  
*Creation of the Coastal Awareness and Responsible Ecotourism Certification Program*

Katie Higgins: Marine Educator, Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant  
Abby Sterling: Director, Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative



# 2023 Partner Meeting

## Revisiting our mission, scope & goals

- Continue to network with the entire Coastal Georgia and Lowcountry South Carolina Region
  - Focus on **Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties** and then expand out
  - Coordinate with the **Golden Isles Coastal Resilience** in Glynn County
- Continue our mission of building a network to **connect stakeholders** and promoting **coordination on equitable resilience strategies**
- Increase awareness of CERN, educational opportunities, and engagement of elected officials
- Create a **strategic plan** and offer an online hub of resources and active contact list to assist partners in connecting
- Build relationships with **community organizations and neighborhood associations**
  - Focus on disadvantaged groups to **promote social and environmental justice**
- Become a **self-sustaining organization** through modest membership dues, incorporation into city/county budgets, and grants



# Resiliency 101 Course: Learning Objectives

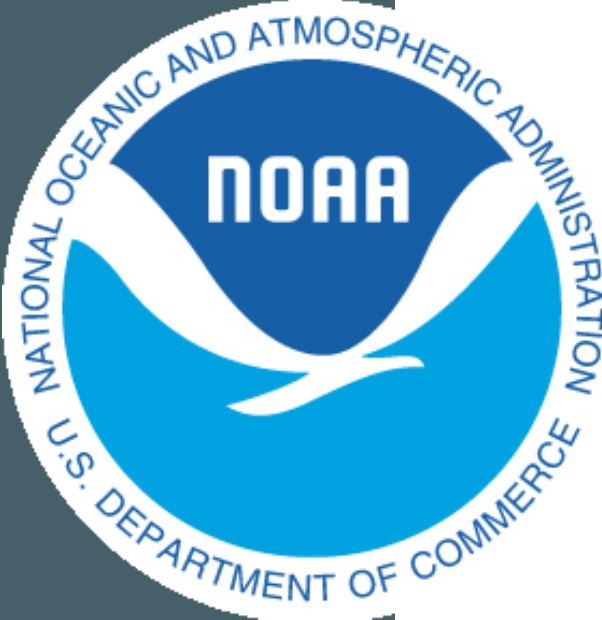
1. Define **resiliency** and its importance to communities and managing land.
2. Discuss the difference between **shocks and stressors**.
3. Discuss how to **assess and plan for resilience**.
4. Increase resilience by strengthening the **Triple Bottom Line**.
5. Building **partnerships**.
6. Understand more about **resiliency in the Georgia Coastal Region** because everyone visits, no matter where they live – and we want them to come back!



**Image credit:** UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant



# Acknowledgments



Financial assistance provided by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and passed through the Coastal Management Program of the Department of Natural Resources.





# Thank you!

## Stay connected with CERN

**Instagram:** @cern\_mpc

**Website:** <http://www.coastalempireresilience.org/>

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