



Nationwide Regional Risk and Resilience Collaborative

Highlights of Sept. 9, 2025 Meeting

The meeting marked the official beginning of the Nationwide Regional Risk and Resilience Collaborative (NRC3) as the follow-on national coalition of resilience practitioners and experts to the Regional Collaborative Coordinating Council (RC3). NR3C Chair Paula Scalingi in opening remarks said there were several factors behind renaming the RC3. These include the changing risk landscape, evolving national resilience policy priorities that call for a reduced federal role and enhanced state and local responsibilities, and the need to clearly reflect the longstanding RC3 focus on advancing regional risk-based resilience improvements across the nation. She also pointed out that the RC3 was originally established in 2008 as part of the DHS-supported Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) Coordinating Council structure, which earlier this year was terminated as part of the Trump Administration's actions to reduce the federal bureaucracy.

Agenda Overview

The meeting focused on three topics:

- Sharing participant perceptions of challenges to enhancing regional resilience in an era of escalating and emerging risks, evolving federal policy and operational priorities, and shrinking resources.
- Review and comment on a Fact Sheet that describes the NR3C and explains how it will strengthen and expand collaboration and actions to address these challenges.
- Creation of work groups to continue the work of the Watershed Regional Risk and Resilience (R3) Task Group and to address other issues needing priority attention.

Participant Perceptions of Challenges

The first hour of the meeting was dedicated to each attendee introducing themselves and providing their thoughts on both the current state of progress towards greater regional resilience and the most pressing risk and resilience issues/gaps the NR3C should address over the next year. *(See list of meeting attendees with titles and organizations at the end of this meeting summary.)* The views shared were candid and informative. Points of concern raised included:

- The adverse impacts of federal funding cuts on state and local emergency management and broader resilience planning and capacity building;

- FEMA staffing losses and delayed federal disaster response and recovery assistance;
- Staffing and funding challenges, including loss of technical assistance, now facing states and localities, particularly those with constrained resources, as longstanding federal agency programs, services, and grant opportunities are ended or suspended;
- Marginalization of the needs and concerns of states and regions not viewed at the national level as high-risk or requiring attention;
- No discernable path forward on needed updating of national emergency management and resilience frameworks and policy directives/guidelines;
- Growing uneasiness of key private sector service providers and other businesses as national policy priorities continue to be in flux;
- Need for greater cross-jurisdictional and sector collaboration to meet the challenges of the changing risk landscape;
- Slowness of states and localities in prioritizing wildfire risk mitigation in risk and resilience planning and operations;
- Need for collaboration among states, the insurance industry, and design professionals to reduce risk and help assure access to insurance by homeowners and businesses;
- Need to integrate climate considerations into economic development as a key element of holistic regional resilience;
- Importance of continuing and increasing support for lower-capacity communities;
- Development and promotion of measurable resilience standards and thresholds that regions and communities can adapt to their interests.

Participants also shared information on exercises, projects, and other resilience activities their organization has underway. Tom Moran, All Hazards Consortium (AHC) Executive Director, provided a link to an AHC report titled "Voices from the Front Lines," which captures senior senior industry feedback for federal resilience policymakers.

<https://app.typeset.com/play/EOE680>

Discussion on NR3C Fact Sheet

Dr. Scalingi began the discussion by explaining that the NR3C's mission was similar to the RC3s—to *provide an independent forum for practitioners and experts across the nation to share insights on needs and best practices and actions to reduce risk and improve all-hazards resilience of interdependent infrastructures and the regions and communities they support.* Meeting participants recommended language changes to the Fact Sheet to make it more proactive and to amplify the NR3C focus on identifying needs and advancing risk reduction and resilience capacity-building actions/solutions at the state, regional, and local levels. This is particularly important in light of current and potential changes to federal resilience policies and programs.

Comments/Decisions on NRC3 Work Groups

Meeting participants discussed priority focus areas for NR3C work groups. They agreed to establish four and potentially a fifth work group:

1. *Watershed R3 Work Group* to continue the work of the former R3 Task Group;
2. *Wildfire Regional Resilience Work Group* that customizes the holistic approach of the Watershed R3 Playbook to address largescale wildfires;
3. *Regional Health Resilience Work Group* that focuses on comprehensive resilience planning and implementation of actions to address all-hazards health threats and events;
4. *R3 AI Assistant User Group* to further develop the AI assistant tool developed by Steve Cauffman for the Watershed R3 Playbook,
5. *Regional Infrastructure Interdependencies Work Group* to develop guidance and provide information on resources and tools for data acquisition and analytical capabilities that can assist stakeholders in undertaking regional risk assessments.

Next Steps

- Participants will receive a revised fact sheet incorporating the changes to the mission statement and objectives.
- A date will be provided to NR3C participants for the first Watershed Regional Risk and Resilience Work Group meeting with the final report of the DSR3P outcomes.
- The other four work groups will be established over the next few months and invitations sent to NR3C participants for each. Initial meetings will focus on scoping out the mission and objectives/activities for each work group.
- Schedule future NR3C Quarterly meetings for two hours instead of 90 minutes to accommodate the expanding participation and report-outs from the new Work Groups.

Meeting Participants

Brandon Hardenbrook, Deputy Director, Pacific NorthWest Economic Region and Director, PNWER's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience

Ed Hecker, Director of Operations, National Hazard Mitigation Association

Stephanie Bray, Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers

Moran Tom, Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium

Paula Scalingi, Ph.D., Executive Director, Institute for Innovating Security and Resilience; Chair, NR3C; Adjunct Associate Professor, Georgetown University

Frank Randon, former DSR3P Program Manager, USACE

Michael Deegan, DSR3P Project Manager, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center

John Organek, Director of Operational Architecture/Water Sector Coordinator, Electric Infrastructure Security Council

Carol Adams, Senior Systems Analyst, ALCOSAN

Calandra Cruickshank, Founder and CEO, StateBook

Gerald Kiernan, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director, Institute for Innovating Security and Resilience

David Vaughn, Professor of Practice, Director of Clemson Engineers for Developing Communities, Clemson University

Mike Sprayberry Senior Advisor for Emergency Management, Hagerty Consulting, NHMA Board of Directors, Retired Director of Emergency Management for North Carolina

James Demby, National Design Engineer, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Preston Wilson, President Resilience Solutions Consulting

Kris Hamlet, Director, Utah Division of Emergency Management

John Holdsworth, Emergency Manager; Tacoma, Washington

Timothy Gablehouse, Gablehouse Calkins & Granberg LLC; Member Colorado SERC; Past-President and Board Member, CO Emergency Preparedness Partnership, Inc.

Mark Sudol, Senior Advisor, Dawson Associates

Jeff Stiefel, Ph.D., Senior Advisor, ANSER; Adjunct Associate Professor, Georgetown University

LC Clemons, Fellow with the Institute for Sustainable Development donating time in WNC for Hurricane Helene recovery

Davis Loose, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Virginia Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems

Megan Marcellin, PhD Student, University of Virginia

Gary Backus Associate Director, Associate Director, ChicagoFIRST

Rameez Qureshi, Engineering Consultant, Water Resource Planning, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Igor Linkov, Ph.D., Senior Science and Technology Manager, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center; Adjunct Professor, University of Florida and Carnegie Mellon University