

Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact – Frequently Asked Questions

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- 1) Who will pay for the operation of the compact?

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) addresses, in SECTION 9. – Funding, the question of funding the compact. At this time, the compact members are not being asked for any financial contributions. FGCU has acquired a small donation from a philanthropic foundation for the initial expenses and the compact will collectively pursue alternative funding sources from grants and other funding sources to fund the initial operations of the compact.

If, in the future, funding is needed from the compact members, this shall be a change to the MOU and be taken before each jurisdictions' governing body for approval.

- 2) Will the compact have any regulatory power?

No – SECTION 11. – Autonomy confirms that the compact does not remove the ability for any individual compact member to take any resiliency actions separate from the compact and specifically does not take away any power or authority away from any of the compact members.

- 3) Will a member be able to leave the compact at any time?

Yes – SECTION 12. – Separation from compact, states that any compact member may leave the compact at any time by informing the compact members in writing of the intent to leave the compact.

- 4) How will the compact be governed?

SECTION 10. – Governance addresses this by forming a leadership committee consisting of one appointed voting member from each agency or jurisdiction represented within the compact. The member agency or jurisdiction may appoint either a staff member or an elected official. Each individual member shall have one vote, and a majority vote will be required to move an item forward. A quorum of the leadership committee will be required to take action on any item.

- 5) How will the compact help members become more resilient?

SECTION 3. – Regional Resiliency Action Plan will be the first priority of the compact. This plan will determine the threats the region faces, identify vulnerabilities and propose actions for the region to address those vulnerabilities.

- 6) How will the compact ensure all actions are based on scientific data?

SECTION 4. – Science--based Decisions, mandates that the compacts actions and recommendations be based on sound science and technical data and that recognized experts and data sources be used to develop regional scenarios.

- 7) Is there support for the compact at a state level?

Yes – Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, the previous State Chief Resiliency Officer, has provided a written endorsement of the compact. Though Dr. Nesheiwat has left this position with the

responsibilities of the post now residing with the State's Chief Science Officer, Dr. Tom Frazier, the expectation is that the CRO's efforts will be maintained.

- 8) Can other organizations, groups, or agencies join the Compact, or is the Compact envisioned as just a collection of county and city governments?

The Compact Steering Committee members agreed that the MOU should be ratified initially by the region's governing jurisdictions. Without participation by local government, the Compact's effectiveness would be compromised. Once the MOU is ratified, we expect other organizations to join the organization. This is presented in Section 6.

- 9) What if a jurisdiction has already undertaken an independent, vulnerability or adaptation planning?

Any effort by a jurisdiction to independently pursue its climate change preparedness is welcome and would never be superseded by a compact-wide effort.

- 10) How is Florida Gulf Coast University's Water School involved in the compact development process?

FGCU's Water School has offered its assistance in providing professional staff time to facilitate the development of the compact. The Water School, as part of its role in community engagement, views this as part of its mission. It has no intention of administering the organization if and when it forms, but is willing to consider such a future roll if this is something desired by the compact membership.