

## Rural Resilience Draft Pathways, Strategies and Actions

### Feedback from 9-28-21 VCC Mtg

Co-Chairs Erica Bornemann and Catherine Dimitruk [presented the subcommittee's emerging package of pathways, strategies and actions](#). Councilors stressed that these documents are still being revised and the entire council will review the refined package of recommendations from the subcommittee next month. The councilors offered feedback and had questions for the subcommittee, in particular:

- **Gratitude for all the work that went into developing this comprehensive set of ideas**
- **Feedback for Pathway 1**
  - Happy to see the remote meeting item
  - Suggestion to develop a cohesive strategy to get the word out on things like “Hurricane Awareness” week. Emphasize the need for preparedness
  - Has the group considered unifying jurisdictions to promote consistency?
    - Subcommittee co-chair response: This has not come up.
- **Feedback for Pathway 2**
  - Appreciate recognition of the critical need for resilient broadband and communications infrastructure
- **Feedback for Pathway 3**
  - Recommendation to consider multiple approaches to achieve an outcome. For instance, with the need to update electrical systems. Grants might be a good approach for some, but other approaches might be needed as well. Also, let’s link the outcome to a package of actions for our other goals – such as heat pumps etc.
- **Feedback for Pathway 4**
  - Incorporate resilience in the scoring of existing programs.
  - Happy to see the focus on increasing infrastructure. Communities need grants, not financing. Need an all-in approach. Need to quit relying on federal dollars and rely more on state dollars to make compact settlement happen. This should make the conversation easier on compact settlement.
  - Building codes are crucial to resiliency.
  - Good to see an action on creating an office of strategic coordination. Ag and Ecosystem subcommittee is also looking at this and looks forward to working on this together.
- **Feedback for Pathway 5**
  - Feels practical and useful
  - Have schools come up for this?
    - Subcommittee co-chair response: No specifics, but no reason not to consider putting them in.
  - There are good cross-connections to what the building task group is doing. In particular, the building code for rental units is a big item.
  - There is a tension between historic development patterns and hazard mitigation. Requires careful planning, place by place
    - Subcommittee co-chair response: Yes, we currently talk about how new development can be considered properly; possible strategic abandonment; and community by community vulnerability assessments

- Would like to see more visibility on a public health strategy. Let's pull these out so they are not buried. Issues beyond water (heat, disease etc.).