

2025 State Resilience Planning Group Convening

Building Resilience with Nature: Scaling Infrastructure Solutions

August 26-27 | University of Georgia

Meeting Objectives:

- Share approaches to measuring multiple benefits of nature-based and resilient infrastructure projects, maximizing benefits through project development and implementation, and creating resilience standards.
- Examine how state governments can position themselves to support communities, homeowners, and businesses in changing property insurance markets.
- Facilitate state-to-state exchanges of lessons learned and best practices to develop and implement resilience policy, plans, and programs.

August 25, 2025		
6:30 pm	Social – Little Kings Shuffle Club (223 W Hancock Ave, Athens, GA)	
August 26, 2025		
8:00 am	Breakfast	Pecan Tree Galleria
9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks - Brian Bledsoe, UGA - Kristiane Huber, The Pew Charitable Trusts - Clint Crowe, Georgia State House	Masters Hall
9:30 am	Knowledge Exchange: Developments Across the Resilience Landscape <i>After a lightning round of introductions, participants will break into small, rotating groups to share recent developments and individual learning objectives for the meeting.</i>	Masters Hall
10:45 am	Break	Pecan Tree Galleria
11:00 am	Panel: Measuring the Benefits and Making the Case <i>Measuring the benefits of resilience planning and nature-based solutions involves a multi-faced approach that encompasses both ecological and societal impacts. How do we identify the direct and indirect benefits that are valued by stakeholders? How do we quantify these benefits?</i> - Moderator: Matt Chambers, UGA - Glen Delaney, Earth Economics - Susana Ferreira, UGA - Heather Tallis, University of California, Santa Cruz	Masters Hall
12:00 pm	Lunch & Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems Highlights - Watershed Resilience Framework – Alysha Helmrich - Aquatic Connectivity and Multi-benefit Culverts – Zak Ruehman - Coastal Modeling Innovations – Matt Bilske - Riverine Modeling Innovations – Brian Bledsoe - IRIS approach to workforce development – Brian Bledsoe	Magnolia Ballroom 1-2
1:30 pm	Panel: Making Beneficial Projects Happen <i>Scaling funding to create effective nature-based solutions (NBS) for adaptation is key to tackling climate hazards and supporting resilience. What are new approaches and partnerships we can leverage to support project implementation? How do we move beyond planning?</i> - Moderator: Zak Ruehman, UGA - Sara Mason, Nicholas Institute, Duke University - Shaun O'Rourke, Quantified Ventures - Laura Mondragón, Montgomery County Green Bank	Masters Hall

2:30 pm	Federal Policy Highlights - Mathew Sanders, Pew - Forbes Tompkins, Pew	Masters Hall
2:45 pm	Breakout Discussion: Successes, Failures, and New Opportunities <i>Attendees will discuss challenges and lessons learned in implementing resilience plans specifically associated with new challenges and opportunities.</i>	Masters Hall, Rooms F, T, V, and Y
4:00 pm	Plenary: Report Out and Discussion	Masters Hall
4:30 pm	Reflection: Key Takeaways and Orientation for Day 2	Masters Hall
5:00 pm	Reception	Pecan Tree Galleria
August 27, 2025		
8:00 am	Breakfast	Pecan Tree Galleria
9:00 am	Day 2 Welcome and Overview of the Day	Masters Hall
9:15 am	Putting into Practice What We Learned: Overview of a Tabletop and Exercise - Alec Nelson, UGA - Matt Chambers, UGA - Lynn Abdouni, UGA	Masters Hall
9:35 am	Tabletop Exercise <i>In small groups, attendees will participate in an exercise exploring the adoption of nature-based systems, incorporating innovative finance and benefit approaches, and balancing stakeholder needs.</i>	Masters Hall, Rooms F, T, V, and Y
10:45 am	Break	Pecan Tree Galleria
11:00 am	Plenary: Report out from exercise groups	Masters Hall
12:00 pm	Lunch Keynote – Marshall Shepherd	Dogwood Hall
1:00 pm	Panel: Understanding and Partnering with Insurance Experts and Organizations <i>Integrating solutions that link insurance, resilience planning, and nature could reduce risk and support resilience goals. What do these partnerships look like? How do we account for nature in risk and recovery? How do we moderate community-level risk to keep communities insurable?</i> - Moderator: Matt Bilske, UGA - Marc Ragin, UGA - Helen Wiley, SBP - Gina Hardy, North Carolina Insurance Underwriting Association	Masters Hall
2:00 pm	Reflection: Key Takeaways	Masters Hall
2:15 pm	Break to gather materials for field trip	
2:30 pm	Field Trip: North Oconee Flood Plain/ Greenway	Main Entrance
4:30 pm	Arrive back at Georgia Center	

Please be advised that The Pew Charitable Trusts (“Pew”) will be videotaping and may be photographing and/or recording this event. Some of our recording, photographing, and videotaping may include the remarks and/or appearance of persons in attendance at the event. By choosing to attend today you will be deemed to have granted your permission to PEW to utilize your voice and/or likeness in the recordings, photographs, and videotape in any and all manner and media throughout the universe in perpetuity, in consideration only of your appearance in same. Such permission will be construed to include your consent for the recording and/or videotape to be edited in PEW’s sole discretion, and as an express release of PEW and its respective employees, licensees and assigns from and against any and all claims for invasion of privacy, defamation or any other cause of action arising out of production, distribution, or exhibition of the recordings, photographs, and videotape. If you do not wish to grant such permission, please visit the sign-in desk and ask for Monique O’Grady.