

Adding Value to Cornell Resilience Research in NYC: Opportunities for Collaboration in Research, Extension and Engagement.

Topical lunch Friday March 11, 2016

Our discussion opened with introductions and a brief description of the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay (SRIJB) by Matt Hare and Adam Parris. The SRIJB is very young and quickly finding its legs through the work of the founding consortium of nine academic institutions including Cornell, through regular council meetings with Gateway National Park, New York City Parks, NYC Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies with jurisdiction in JB, and through a third council of nongovernmental stakeholders. Cornell's involvement, since contributing to the proposal that founded the Institute and its academic consortium, has mostly been through Cornell Cooperative Extension and faculty in the Department of Natural Resources. The goal for this topical lunch was to explore common interests across a broader array of Cornell researchers and inform them of SRIJB activities, ambitions and opportunities.

The ambitious SRIJB agenda includes all dimensions of resilience in the coupled human-ecological system defined by the urban Jamaica Bay watershed. This became clear during discussion as Adam Parris described several of the recent SRIJB accomplishments and ongoing efforts. For example, funded research has emphasized documentation and analysis of community perspectives on risk and resilience, development of sophisticated outreach tools that help citizens and planners envision more resilient urban landscapes, consolidation of scattered environmental monitoring data into a data base, and synthesis of existing hydrological models into a unified tool optimized for decision analysis. The group discussed parallel interests between SRIJB and the NY State Water Resources Institute and how to capitalize on the shared agenda. For those at Cornell who are not integrally involved with SRIJB, but who are interested in staying informed because of potential connections with their research, we discussed optimal ways of keeping people informed. A newsletter from SRIJB may prove valuable (i.e., individual faculty can get on the SRIJB list serve), but it was generally agreed that targeted communications by a Cornell liaison will be more efficient and effective when there is a new activity or opportunity at SRIJB. Matt Hare has been serving in this role since the founding of SRIJB and at the beginning of fall 2016 Shorna Allred (Natural Resources) will assume this faculty liaison role. Attendees at this lunch will be offered membership on a Cornell listserve for periodic mailings describing SRIJB activities and opportunities.

Organizers:

Matt Hare, Department of Natural Resources; CALS

Kathy Bunting-Howarth, NY Sea Grant (NYSG)

Deb Grantham, Soil & Crop Sciences; CALS & Cornell Cooperative Extension

Jennifer Tiffany, Cornell Cooperative Extension NYC

Attendees:

Adam Parris, Executive Directory, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay

Helen Cheng, Extension Assoc., SRIJB & NYSG

Jennifer Minner, City & Regional Planning; Architecture, Art, Planning

Jery Stedinger, Civil & Environmental Engineering; Engineering

Brian Rahm, Biological & Environmental Engineering; CALS

New York State Water Resources Institute

Jonathon Russell-Anelli, Soil & Crop Sciences; CALS

Marianne Krasny, Department of Natural Resources; CALS

Rich Stedman, Department of Natural Resources; CALS

Pat Sullivan, Department of Natural Resources; CALS

Alina Carrillo, Department of Natural Resources; CALS

David Kay, Department of Development Sociology, CALS

Community & Regional Development Institute

Lauren Chambliss, ACSF

Chris Miller, ACSF

Frank DiSalvo, ACSF