

Facilitating Discussions About Decisions with the VCAPS Process

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Calls for better decision support

- Help local decision makers make sense of all those maps and models
- Facilitate local assessments that engage stakeholders
- Adopt risk-based approaches
- Integrate climate (and other) science and local knowledge



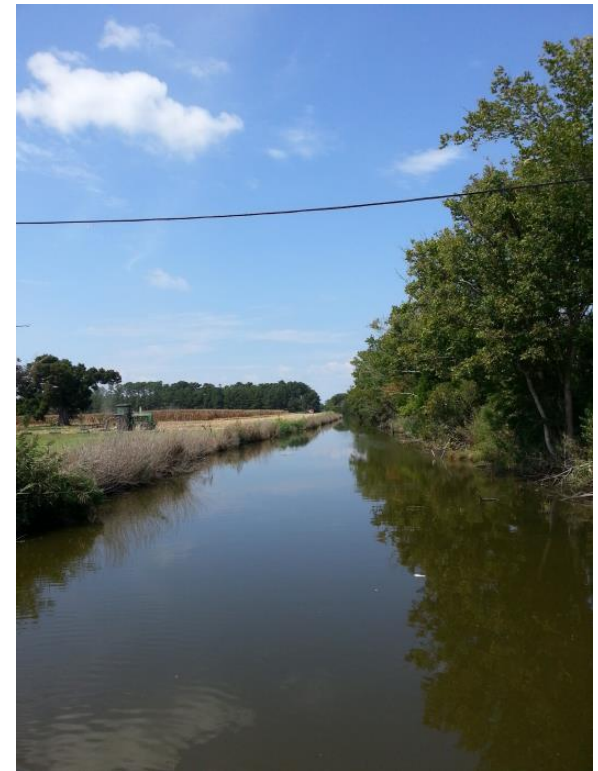
Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Scenario (VCAPS) Process

- A facilitated process to support local planning
- Engages local officials
- Provides an opportunity for group learning and dialogue
 - About climate science and hazards
 - A framework for thinking



VCAPS benefits

- Produces “useable knowledge”
 - Can be integrated into routine planning activities
 - Hazard mitigation planning (MA, AL)
 - Climate change planning (SC, NC, ME)
 - Highlights multi-hazards approach, timing, and flexibility
 - Relevant to participants, decisions they make
- Engages (skeptical?) local governments

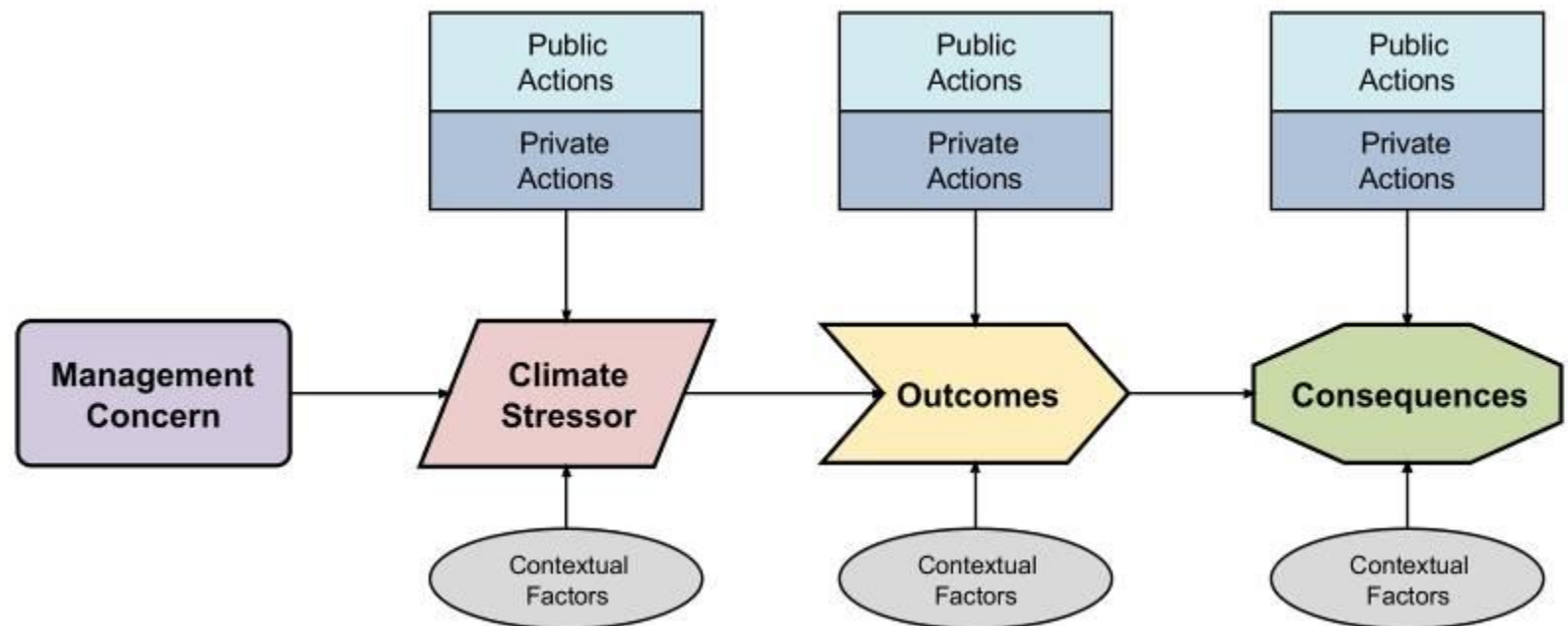


Typical VCAPS process



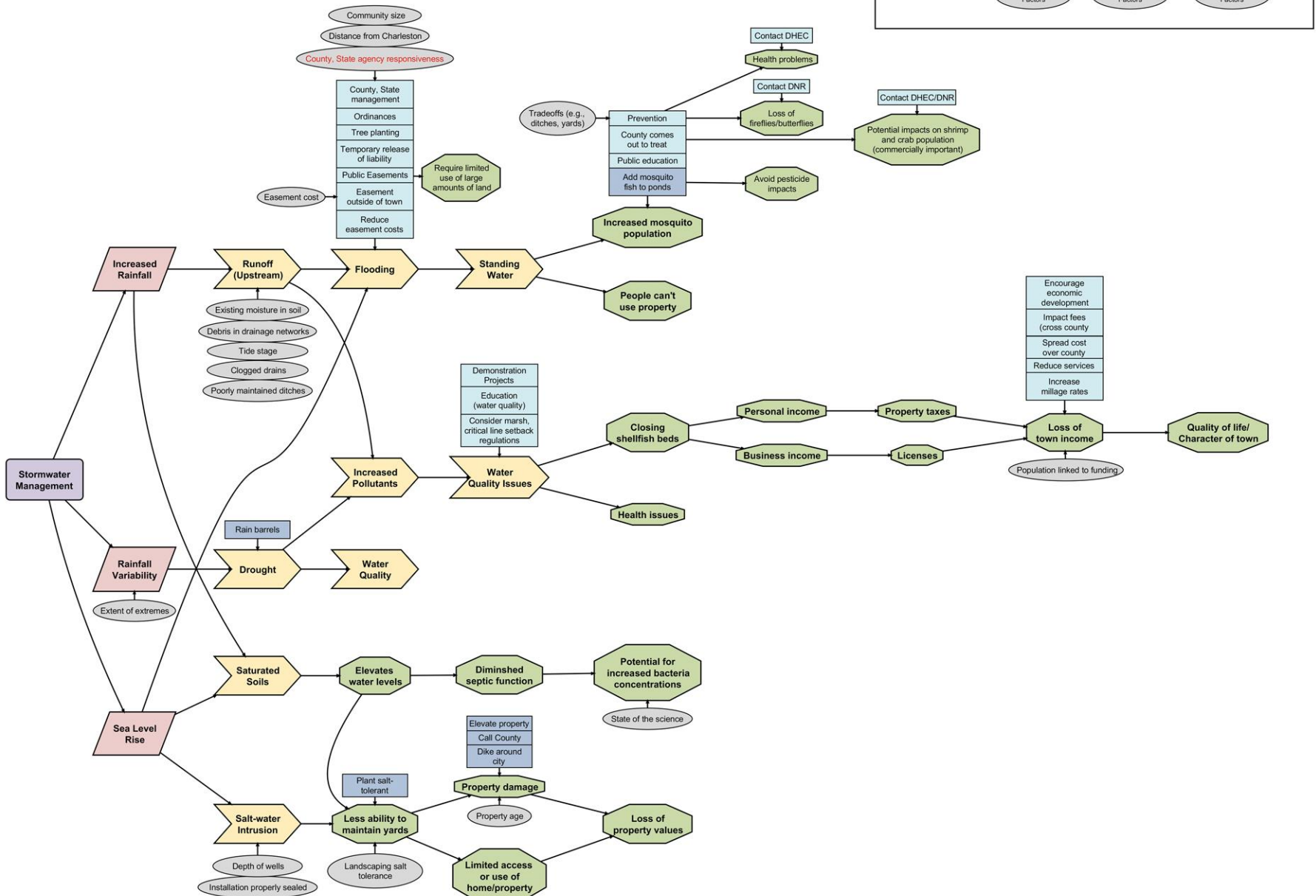
- Review background materials
- Contact key informants to identify participants and logistics
- Facilitate 1-4 meetings
- Conduct follow-up participant interviews
- Produce lessons learned document

VCAPS diagrams: Building blocks

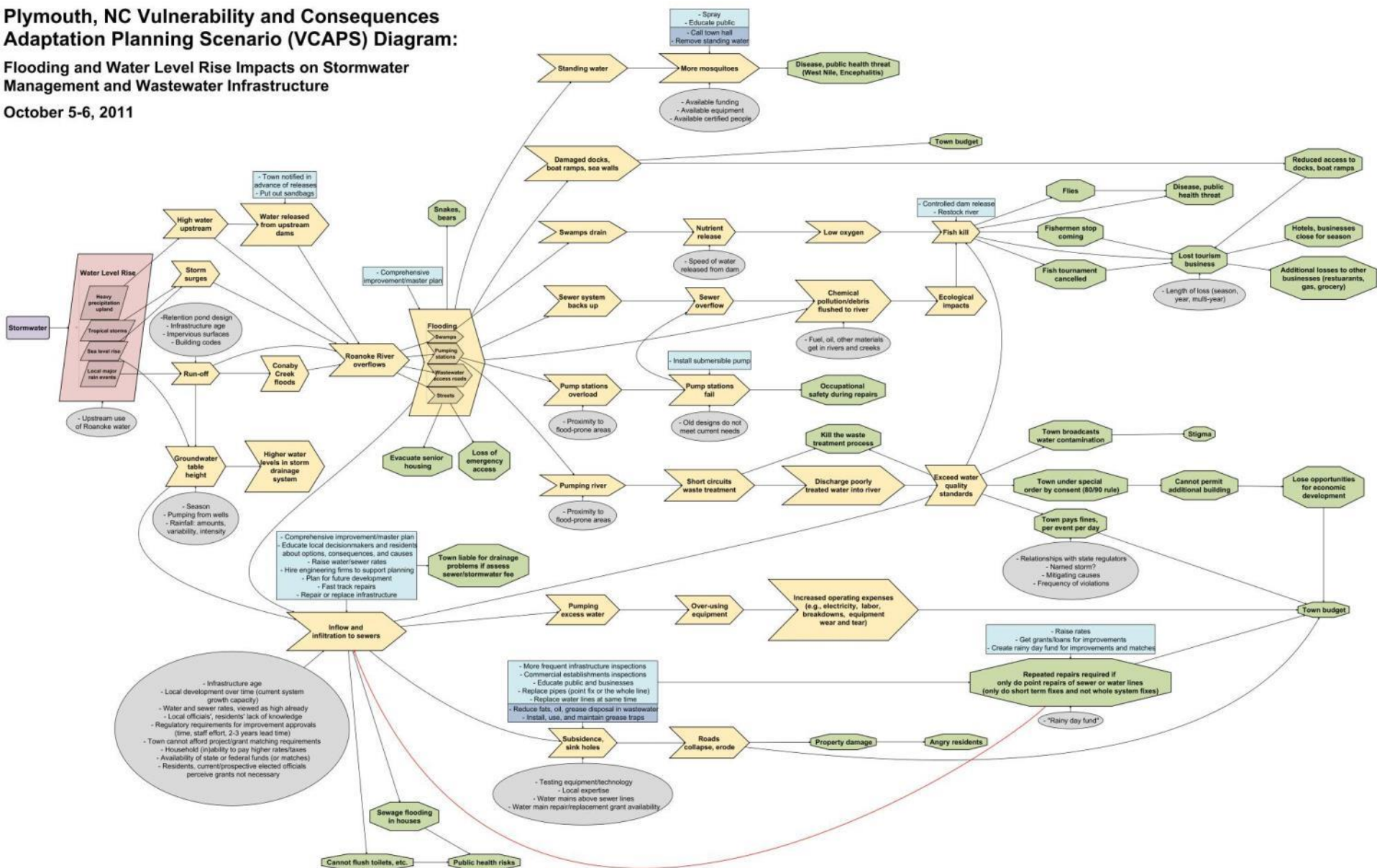


McClellanville VCAPS Diagram

April 1, 2011



October 5-6, 2011



Lessons learned about decisions

- Raise recurring themes
 - Public health concerns
 - Stormwater links to wastewater/septic issues
 - Property loss
 - Increased costs
- Identify both high-dollar and low-regrets strategies
 - Education
 - Collaboration
 - Zoning and regulation
 - Costly infrastructure improvements



Benefits of the VCAPS process

- Gathers and summarizes community information, knowledge, and experience
- Stimulates thinking and conversation about managing consequences
- Identifies issues, data needs to be explored



Summary

- VCAPS conceptual framework structures thinking, discussions
- Real-time diagramming supports understanding, information-sharing
- Self-generated scenarios more credible
- Need better integration into “routine” decision processes

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