

Executive Order No. 2018-50

Authorizing of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission

WHEREAS, South Carolina has experienced numerous episodes of flooding along the coast, rivers, and low-lying interior areas as results of rains, storms, hurricanes and tides that highlight the need for a state-wide plan to accommodate and mitigate flooding impacts in the state; and

WHEREAS, the State will benefit from a coordinated and collaborative effort to identify comprehensive responses and solutions to protect persons, property and enterprises and to fully appreciate the attributes and power of the forces of nature; and

WHEREAS, in these endeavors it is vital that this State work to accommodate and mitigate flooding to lessen the negative impacts to our State's economy to facilitate growth, promote tourism and assist communities and businesses struggling with repeated flooding events; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated national, state, local and community effort is necessary and appropriate to facilitate the interaction between governments at all levels and the private and academic sectors to address these issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I do hereby constitute the South Carolina Floodwater Commission ("Commission") for the purpose of creating a state-wide flood accommodation, response and mitigation effort. The Commission shall serve as a vehicle for authorities to research, evaluate share and coordinate measures and ideas being considered.

The Commission shall identify short-term and long-term recommendations to alleviate and mitigate flood impacts to this State, with special emphasis on cities, communities and enterprises located on or near the coast and rivers. The Commission shall consider, in its discretion, any and all relevant studies, data, reports and expert and lay opinion on storm water management and use, urbanization impact, coastal shoreline fluctuation, project and operational financing, affordability, available grants, appropriate partnerships, and the impact such decisions have upon neighboring cities, counties and states to ensure that a comprehensive, executable strategy may be adopted.

The Commission shall report to the Governor. The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT) shall provide staff support and other resources as necessary. The Governor appoints Tom Mullikin Sr., Esquire, Research Professor at Coastal Carolina University, as Chair of the Commission. The Chair may form subcommittees of the members as deemed necessary. Commission meetings shall be held regularly, broadcast appropriately, and preserved for archival record.

The Commission shall be comprised of the Chair, nine *ex officio* members serving by virtue of office, and no more than eighteen additional appointments by the Governor from the following categories:

- South Carolina Adjutant General, *ex officio*, or designee;
- Director of the Emergency Management Division, *ex officio*, or designee;
- Director of the State Disaster Recovery Office, *ex officio*, or designee;
- Director of the Department of Health and Environment Control (DHEC), *ex officio*, or designee;
- Director of the DHEC Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), *ex officio*, or designee;
- Commissioner of Agriculture, *ex officio*, or designee;
- Secretary of the Department of Transportation, *ex officio*, or designee;

- Members of Congress for the 1st and 7th Congressional Districts, *ex officio*, or designees;
- One or more members of the Senate and/or of the House of Representatives;
- Representatives from Chambers of Commerce from coastal counties;
- Mayors from coastal cities and towns;
- Representatives from coastal county councils;
- Commanders of federal military installations located along the coast;
- Individuals who have relevant professional, academic, or research expertise, or experience in relevant areas, including engineering, flood mitigation, public planning, hydrology, marine sciences, environmental protection, or climatology.

The Commission shall call upon federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Army Corps of Engineers, US Department of Transportation (USDOT) to assist the Commission. The Commission may call other persons to participate as needed for expertise and relevant information.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 15th DAY OF OCTOBER
2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**