

4-14-2021

## Socastee Interview, Participant #13, April 14, 2021

Jennifer Mokos  
*Coastal Carolina University*

Jaime McCauley  
*Coastal Carolina University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.coastal.edu/flood-survivor-interviews>



Part of the [Community-Based Research Commons](#), [Community Health Commons](#), [Environmental Public Health Commons](#), [Human Geography Commons](#), [Social Justice Commons](#), [Sustainability Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies and Planning Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Mokos, Jennifer and McCauley, Jaime, "Socastee Interview, Participant #13, April 14, 2021" (2021). *Flood Survivor Interviews*. 8.

<https://digitalcommons.coastal.edu/flood-survivor-interviews/8>

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the The Flooded Afterlives Project at CCU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Flood Survivor Interviews by an authorized administrator of CCU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [commons@coastal.edu](mailto:commons@coastal.edu).



## **"Flooded Afterlives Project" Interview**

---

Participant ID: 13  
Community: Socastee  
State: SC

Interviewer: Delaney Carone  
Interview date: 4/14/21  
Interview location: Zoom

This protocol for this study was approved by the Coastal Carolina University Institutional Review Board (Approval #2021.102) on March 3, 2021. All subjects gave their informed consent for inclusion before participation in the study.

Copyright © Coastal Carolina University. For more information contact the HTC Honors College at Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC 29526.

---

Participant 1: No that's fine.

Interviewer: Okay.

Participant 1: When it comes to flooding, we're on the we're on the news and talking to reporters and talking to people writing articles so it's it's become kind of commonplace.

Interviewer: Oh great perfect. How long have you guys lived in the Socastee area?

Participant 1: My wife has lived there, I think, since she was 13 and I've lived on Forest Brooke Road starting in 1983. So I've lived.. I've lived here for a good long time myself.

Interviewer: Okay, so you're not new to the area or anything like-

Participant 1: No, not at all.

Interviewer: Okay, how many times have you guys experienced flooding in your home, roughly would you say?

Participant 1: We have experienced flooding in the actual living portion of our house three times. And we have. We have sustained like flood losses in our garage and in like our shed in the areas as far as like you know lawns bushes things like that five times, I think.

Interviewer: Oh wow. Yes, I will find the meeting ID right now.

- Participant 1: It says that you can when I did it, it says that you can link it from the email, and then you just attach it to the zoom it automatically opens it.
- Interviewer: Yeah.
- Participant 1: I pasted it from from the Facebook invite to to my safari browser and then it opened it.
- Interviewer: Okay.
- Interviewer: So, I put the meeting ID in the chat.
- Participant 1: That's fine. She's pretty she's a pretty competent young lady she'll figure it out. If your hand if you hand me a computer I just look at it.
- [Participant 2 joins]*
- Interviewer: Let's see can you hear us.
- Participant 1: You have to unmute on your telephone sweetie. I know that look.
- Interviewer: Okay.
- Participant 1: So actually just to get up to speed, she's just going to ask you if you want to participate in the survey. It's okay to leave at anytime and your personal information will not be disclosed to anybody. It's just for personal records.
- Interviewer: Awesome.
- Participant 1: Well, this lighting is so unflattering.
- Interviewer: Is it echoing for you guys, or no?
- Participant 1: Oh yeah. Yeah I had them come around the back.
- Participant 2: Right.
- Participant 1: There see, my job's done for the rest of the day. Okay I'm totally ready now.
- Interviewer: So. The last time that.
- Participant 1: I'm sorry I missed part of that question.
- Interviewer: Oh, sorry when was the last time your home flooded?
- Participant 2: February of this year.
- Interviewer: Oh wow, so it was recently.
- Participant 1: Yes, we're still displaced right now.

Participant 2: Yeah, here look Interviewer I'll take you for a tour. I'm at the house. You can kind of see Oh yeah.

Participant 1: And I'll put my earbuds in, here.

Participant 2: Yeah, no walls.

Interviewer: Oh, my goodness.

Participant 1: Well, that's what it's like to live in a flooded house.

Interviewer: Wow. So obviously this affects you guys big time.

Participant 1: Oh yeah. That's that's pretty standard and you live like that for anywhere between six weeks and- [*cuts out*] Everybody is react. What's that?

Interviewer: There you go. Sorry, everyone froze for a second. And so obviously you've experienced the fact [*cuts out*] ...the walls. What else has gone on?

Participant 2: Well, I think there's a lot of emotional stress obviously that goes into it, because you know you lose memories, you lose your home that you've put your heart and soul into by as something as minor as picking out paint colors and cabinets to furniture. You lose memories, you know that you have from like Christmases you look back at pictures and your house is never the same so you lose a lot.

Interviewer: Now, must be very hard. What, how does it impact like communities like from what you've experienced or what you've seen?

Participant 2: I I've lived in this back circles, since I was 15 years old, since 1997 I've lived back here so quite a while and my parent's home, the first time it flooded was, I want to say in 1998 or 9999 and I believe that was either hurricane Bertha or hurricane Floyd. And it was amazing because it was the first time it had ever happened and I'll never forget that that the 26 different houses in this back circle, we all came together. And they all helped, tried to prevent my parent's house from flooding. And then, once my parent's house flooded, they ran from house to house trying to help the other neighbors. But after, it's happened so frequently since. We've lost a lot of neighbors because they just don't want to put their families, through this anymore. You lose you lose the community, because you, you know people don't want to keep doing this and then you've got some people like we are like. We can't sell our, like we would never sell our home, and we would never rent our home because we would never want to put someone else or their families, through this.

Participant 1: Yeah, when we first moved into the home, we bought that house, because it was elevation. There we go sorry about that. It was a bit higher in elevation than her parent's house and that had never flooded, and we felt that we would never have any issues with that. Unfortunately, since since my wife and I bought the house that we were in in 2008.

[*Interviewer leaves*]

I think there are only, I think we're think we're alone here. I think she's all funny. Can you hear me?

Participant 2: I can hear you.

Participant 1: Okay, you like you like muted me she's gone. It's just you and I, is that what you see?

Participant 2: Yeah, but she's recording it.

Participant 1: Maybe she'll reappear.

Participant 2: Maybe. I'm wondering if I can add how did you add the video on your iPhone?

Participant 1: You can push your picture and then it brings up like a surrounding thing and it says start video stop video.

*[Interviewer rejoins]*

Oh look she's got a picture.

Participant 2: I just wanted to log off of the computer.

Participant 1: There we go now you're on, the marketers want me to call them.

Interviewer: I am so so sorry I uh, we lost Internet at the University, so the zoom call cut out and then I had to get my hotspot going. I am so sorry about that.

Participant 2: We're still recording while you were gone so you'll have it all.

Interviewer: Okay. But um you cut out after you said you would never move, do you mind re-explaining that?

Participant 2: Yeah I don't think. going through what we've gone through now, this would be the third time our home personally is flooded. So, we flooded in 2016 with hurricane Matthew. Of course we flooded in Florence, and then we flooded just recently this February, but even after hurricane Florence when we had the privilege of meeting Senator Graham at our home and Secretary [Mark Hammond] knew that our home. The question was brought to us, "Why don't you sell your home?" Well we won't sell our home to someone else, because we would never put a family, through this we wouldn't rent our home to somebody else. You in good conscience, as a human being, could never allow someone to feel what this feels like.

Interviewer: Yeah I understand that, so it's a very tough situation.

Participant 2: Absolutely.

Participant 1: Yeah we we've had when I moved like I was stating before I don't know I think you possibly got cut off during that, but when we bought this house. We were the new guy on the block. Everybody that lived in this back circle were all pretty much the original homeowners from when they built the structures.

Interviewer: Oh wow.

Participant 1: We felt we felt very safe and knowing that there was going to be stability in that neighborhood that if we wanted to raise a family or grow over there or you know live there for some period of time that we were gonna we were going to be in a place that we felt very secure. Unfortunately, now most all the homes are empty they've been sold over and over and over. Every time it floods people, they want to dump these these houses off. Investment companies they come in, people that flip the homes, they come in, they buy these houses. They half-ass them back together, using the cheapest materials they can. Which, unfortunately, bring in very, very low income people people that you probably wouldn't want as neighbors. And then those people who can barely afford to rent lose all of their personal items, they have to move on and they're also in a worse situation than they were when they got there. And then the homes all sit empty again for five or six months until somebody else comes in and patches them back together and then another group of people moved in. You you've got a constant influx of new neighbors most of them are are people that are just beginning families they've got some really small kids they move all their stuff in there and they're not told that that there's a possibility that they need to be aware of these floods.

And, and these things don't happen when it when it's hurricane season typically most of the floods that occur back here are in relation to storm events or rain that happen elsewhere in the upstate or even in North Carolina. So you might be literally outside in and I'm not sure where you're at right now, but in Myrtle Beach, I mean it's it's like a blue sunny day right now. You can be home on it, you could be on home on a Saturday sitting in your backyard enjoying the day with your dogs and all of a sudden, you'll start watching water coming up. And then you look at the news and you don't see anything happening. And then three or four or five hours later, instead of having a little bit of water creeping into your your fence line. Sorry I'm dealing with a little bit of stuff. Instead of dealing with you know, two or three inches now you've got six or seven or eight inches you go to bed that night you wake up the next morning your driveway is completely covered. Your garage is starting to get water in it by the end of the second day you got water in your house and it's still blue skies and it's still 75-85 degrees outside. Everybody else just right up the hill they're enjoying a perfectly normal Saturday, while you're you're trying to box up photo albums and pick things up off the ground and find a place for stuff in your refrigerator because you're going to be displaced. And it's a it's a real stress driven thing you know your your friends, your family, your spouse, everybody around you they're all affected by it. Because you're angry you're disappointed you're scared you're frustrated and and everybody around you is sure to pick up on that because you know what happens when you're in a bad situation you just want to let everybody be part of it.

Interviewer: Sounds like a vicious, awful cycle that you guys go through with flooding and trauma and trying to live the best life, you can have. Someone that like I'm speaking about me personally, I do not deal with flooding like this at home, we had hurricane Sandy and that flooded us pretty good. But other than that, I haven't really experienced that and it's crazy to me that you guys can flood on a sunny day. So with that is there anything that you would like people to understand about flooding?

- Participant 1: There's probably a lot that people should know about flooding. I mean it's like anything else if it's. If it's like a random act it's really difficult to prepare for, so you know there's not really it's it's not like a hurricane it's more like a tornado. Right so. You really you really can't give anybody good advice to prepare for for something like that emotionally or or financially.
- Participant 2: You don't get so we're we're lucky enough that we still have like we always pay for our flood insurance, even though where we technically live is not a flood zone it's flood zone X, which means it's a 500 year flood zone. I look really good for 1500 years old. But we still pay our flood insurance, but when it's not a natural disaster like hurricane Florence was a natural disaster. That's when FEMA will come in and those who are not insured, they will get help from FEMA but it's very minimal help. And that's to put their home back together, and then the other thing that they offer. Only during a national disaster is they'll offer housing assistance but it's only like \$750 to \$1250, and that is your total time out of your residence whether it's six weeks or six months or a year. Because your flood insurance doesn't cover for you to live somewhere, a lot of flood insurance companies don't pay for the storage of your personal property that you were allowed to save. Once the flooding is over, you know they expect you, as the homeowner to go in like you have to pick up and touch every nasty possession left in your home and take a picture inventory it, write it on a list, email it to them, and then throw it away yourself. I mean there's there's a lot of personal stuff that you have to do too because they're not going to help you do this and they're not going to cover it. So you have to do it yourself, and I think a lot of people think, "Oh well, it's flooding. I'm going to get this massive check from my flood insurance company," and that's not the facts, you know. Yes, flood insurance is great to have and by all means I don't even care if you're not in a flood zone. If you live in Orange County, please get flood insurance just please get it. Or an island good good flood insurance is minimal charges like it's so small in comparison. But it's not what everybody thinks that it is.
- Interviewer: Okay that's good to know, have you guys ever had to, you don't have to answer this, have you guys ever had to like stay in a different house or a different place while your house was being fixed?
- Participant 2: Every single time.
- Participant 1: Yeah we actually we were actually so concerned with being displaced over and over and over again that we like probably five other people that we know all went out and bought a small camper you know, like a like something you'd vacation with your family in. Because you absolutely know, without a shadow of a doubt that there is going to be a next time. So you have to go out and you have to prepare for things like that. We've got a neighbor of ours that just bought their house in 2019. Is that right?
- Participant 2: Yeah right after hurricane Florence after it was there.
- Participant 1: Yep yep. The previous owners did the same thing they were another owner after another owner after another owner they moved in. They thought it was a fantastic deal they got this great house under market and a wonderful area right downtown where it's really super convenient. And then eight months after they're they're they're moved in they flood, they lose all their stuff. You know they always come from out of state somewhere they've always got grandma's furniture and and baby pictures and college certificates

and things like that. They lose all that stuff they get super frustrated and then they sell. And that's that's kind of the great thing to get out of there, but then yet another family comes in and the neighbor is a retired military and he's a disabled person. His wife, she still works, but they moved in in 2019. And then they flooded. Now right now he's spent money buying a camper now they're staying at the KOA campground. They're going through the same thing you know. It's the first time for them, they have to do their contents list, they have to find contractors to do all the work and and they're displaced so now they're they're part of the camper lifestyle. Because they don't know if it's going to be two months or six months or or if they're going to put it back together and sell it and and try to get out of there, like the previous owners did. So it's it's terribly expensive, you know it's it's not something where. It's kind of it's kind of like going through a divorce that you didn't want you know it's always like.

Participant 2: It's never ending.

Participant 1: It's it's really like I don't I mean it's like being in a relationship with somebody that you're just desperately in love with. And, and they just walk out on you and you just feel like that you know, like you're heartbroken you don't want to eat you're sick to your stomach you don't know what to do there doesn't seem to be an answer that's that's just kind of what it's like over and over again.

Participant 2: That's a good way to describe it.

Interviewer: Yeah, that's a good way to describe it yeah.

Participant 1: I mean my wife had a panic attack the first time it happened in '16. I was in hip waders, I was in hip waders up to my waist and she was in a small aluminum boat and I was pulling her out to the house just so she could see it. And we got within about 150 feet of the house, and she just told me to turn around she was just having a straight up panic attack. She didn't want to see it. She didn't want to be there, she didn't want to be involved, she didn't want to go in the home, she didn't want to deal with it, she just wanted me to turn around she didn't want to see what she saw, that she just want to get out of there and that's that's what happens.

Interviewer: I can see how that could be incredibly heart wrenching, yeah.

Participant 2: Yeah because once once the water comes, the problem is is once the water comes. You don't know how long it's going to stay for. You know, like with hurricane Matthew when we first initially got hit with hurricane Matthew. Our house got about an inch and a half of water throughout and in two hours, the water was gone and I was like oh good I can mop the floors whatever like it's fine we'll replace baseboard. So, we thought everything was fine and then a week and a half later water shows up, and now we have 18 inches of water and it stays for weeks. So. yeah.

Participant 1: The water stays in the in and around the area that we live at. The water stays anywhere between seven and fourteen days, on average from the time it from the time it impacts your home. And it's inside your home it's five to seven days inside of your structure and then probably a few days before and up to a week after you still can't even drive a vehicle back there to inspect. So, I mean just imagine you know your your prom dress or your wedding dress or something you were trying to save hanging in your closet in three



or four foot deep water and it sits there for two weeks, you just throw it away you can't do anything with it.

Participant 2: It's true.

Interviewer: What could be done to better support like flood victims and flood survivors like, like aid like financially or..?

Participant 2: I think a lot of support that would be good for flood victims would be emotional support. I think, to have a group of people. That almost like a a group of people that have been through it, who know what it feels like to go through it to be there for the people that have never experienced it before, because the the very first time it happens is the worst feeling in the world. You know it's still sad for us every time that we have to deal with it, but we've gotten, to the point where. You know, we say we know it's going to happen again, so we know this isn't our dream home anymore obviously so we're not going to spend, you know \$85,000 making it perfect every time. We're going to go and we're going to use the you know install cabinets from Lowes because why am I going to spend \$12,000 on cabinets instead of \$3,000 on cabinets when I know they're going to end up under water again.

Yeah. I think the emotional I think emotionally is is the hardest part. dealing with the financial aspect of it is, is just. Most people down here know, to get flood insurance because honestly when somebody new moves in all the neighbors say, "Get flood insurance it doesn't matter if they tell you, you don't need it, get flood insurance, you're going to need it." You know. So I think just just having a basic understanding, financially, of what flood insurance covers and what they do not cover is good. I think, having an understanding of how FEMA works when it comes to flooding, where it's only during a national disaster. Um, I think that's a good thing to educate people on and what they do cover um, but I think I think the emotional having just having a group of survivors like people survivors that have dealt with it, or for the newbies is a huge thing.

Interviewer: And that's something that people unless you've gone through it and experience it don't even really think about.

Participant 1: Oh sure.

Interviewer: Yeah. Before starting this project I would have thought, like oh, they just have to pay to rebuild their house, but it's like a lot more than that. And it's clear to me that something needs to happen in order to help people and it's, not just in terms of finance and stuff like you said emotional support. I think that's really important.

Participant 2: Well, like this last time when we flooded, we were at one of my husband's projects that he was working on in Florida. And we got a phone call stating that our house was going to flood we didn't know when, but it was coming because the water was already rising. So my husband drove home on a Monday from Florida drove straight through. Got to the house the water had already come into the garage and thankfully his nephew as well as a couple of our friends who live in higher ground they came down and helped lift some of the important stuff up, cleared out some of the cabinets, you know just there to help a hand they got my husband's motorcycle out of the garage before it got damaged. So that was a blessing um but my poor the poor people who live next door to us, they

were renters and they had just moved in. Probably in August and we had let them know that there's always a chance that it could flood, and you know they had three small children with them, and when they lost the ability to access their home that they were renting they had to find a place that they could put their three children and themselves safely. So that the kids could still attend school still do the virtual school still do all this, and these poor kids who are, I think one is six and the other two are 10 and 11.

I mean these poor kids had to deal with this too and they're thinking they had a forever home, and now they don't have a home anymore, they had to go and move into a different home. You know, so the impacts on on a child, having to go through, it is a lot different than the impacts of an adult. I mean I remember the first time, my house, my parent's house flooded, when I was 15. You know, as a 15 year old I thought it was cool that I didn't have walls from four foot down and. Who really cares about my bedroom suite being ruined? And you know, like, I was more worried about oh my PS4 got or my PS2 got ruined, you know, and now I need to get a new stereo my shoes got ruined, you know. And, to me it was like I was so hung up on that stuff because of my mindset as a small child as a teenager. But as an adult I didn't understand what my parents had gone through and now dealing with it for three times I do and it's it is different from small child small children handle it really horribly because they lose like they don't understand that. That toys can be placed and things like that can come and go, they think they've just lost the world. And, and so, for small children, especially it's very tough for teenagers it's like oh my gosh like I lost my shoes and whatever like I don't have any privacy, but it's kind of cool I can see all the way through my house now I know where my parents are.

Participant 1: I hear you. That's funny.

Participant 2: But as an adult then you're like well shit I just have \$130,000 house that I just bought and four feet of water just came into it and my I've got to take care of my family and put my house back together and what do I do? You know so it's different each each level of age.

Interviewer: Thank you for sharing that and about your personal life.

Participant 2: Yeah, no worries.

Interviewer: It lets me see more into it on a personal level and it's really. Interesting I don't want to say interesting to like good to learn about get from a personal perspective, and not just a news article.

Participant 2: Well and that's the thing until you get personal and share personal experiences and personal feelings it's really hard for people to understand what it feels like and and what truly happens.

Participant 1: Yeah when when people when you read an article and people say we just want to get out of here. It, it is a desperation people really just want to get out of here because hurricane season is coming. And we're not alone, there is, there is a pile of folks right now putting their houses back together and they know literally just around the corner. It could very well, possibly happen again, you can be my wife's parents in the last 12 months literally in the last 12 months have flooded four times in their home and I've had.

Oh was this five? This is so, so their house on one stage or another, whether it's four or five inches to four or five feet have been displaced, but had a contractor come and put their house back together went out and bought new furniture new appliances. Got back in the house washed a few things tried a few things figured out the buttons on all their new stuff here comes another flood they're displaced again and they've got three dogs and if you've ever tried to look into a VRBO or a place a place to go vacation that is typically the number one requirement is no pets and if you have pets. You can only have a certain type of pets, some people will allow you to have one pet some people will allow you to have two pets, nobody will allow you to have three pets. So, they can't go to a hotel, they can't go to a VRBO, they can't go to Ocean Lakes and rent some kind of like fancy little cottage. Because those places are 1800 dollars a week and and you're doing it out of your own pocket and you'll never get reimbursed for it and still have to pay your mortgage and now you're paying your rent too. Pay rent yeah and people that are buying these homes back here, these are not \$450,000 \$350,000 homes in a nice, I mean we have a nice community but they're typically these homes are designed for. Budget, I'm not gonna say budget conscious people, but people that are retiring people that are starting a family, they were all engineered and designed to be under \$200,000 homes. For hard working people that don't have a whole lot of money in the bank left over, at the end of the month, and when these floods happen some of these people just don't have anywhere to go it's just if you read the Facebook posts on these things when that happens, it is. It is just full people, people with tears trying to figure out where to go and what to do and where to put their beds and where to take their kids because they don't have an alternative to their home.

Interviewer: That's awful.

Participant 1: So when they say they want to get out of there and they just want a buyout or they just want something to happen...They know it's going to happen again like they they know 100% that if they remain living in the home, just like we do they know 100% that you will flood again because it gets deeper and it gets more frequent every year.

Participant 2: And it's not because of hurricanes anymore, which is weird because it used to only happen with hurricanes, and now it doesn't even have to be a storm. And it doesn't even have to rain here.

Participant 1: Flip this around. Can I flipped zoom? There you go. Oh crap, that's not what I was looking to do.

Participant 2: He's trying to figure out zoom.

Participant 1: I was just saying when you think your life is really bad, I don't know if you can see that man right there.. But that man is sanding Styrofoam on the side of a building. So whenever you think that your life sucks you can always be that guy.

Participant 2: That's just-

Participant 1: Styrofoam Styrofoam in your eyeball feels like vinegar in your eyeballs. It is like the worst feeling in the world. I don't know how they do it.

Participant 2: That is such a good way to look at it.

Participant 1: Yeah yeah.

Participant 2: We have no walls, but we are not sanding Styrofoam.

Participant 1: I'm not on a scaffold sanding Styrofoam right now, so I am still okay.

Interviewer: What is what are you guys hoping will happen in the future?

Participant 2: It would be nice obviously to see. Uh Horry County handle this buyout appropriately and efficiently. Obviously, with everything that is government, it takes a tremendous amount of time and it takes a tremendous amount of paperwork. And I would like to see Horry County step up its efforts in providing help to the citizens that are affected by this, not only when it comes to a nationally known storm like Florence. They knew that this happened in February, they knew that it affected hundreds of homes this last event in February. They needed to step up and they needed to offer the yard debris cleanup like they did during hurricane Florence in hurricane Matthew. There is no reason for an event of flooding event like this to happen, because of something in North Carolina coming our way and affecting us for us to have to pay out of pocket for our dumpsters and our trash removal from our homes flooding. um, I would like to see, obviously, if the buyout does happen, I think that these lower lying areas like bridge creek, Lawson's Landing some places on Enterprise Road, Rosewood I think if they took it back to green space, it would be a wonderful wonderful thing.

Interviewer: I agree.

Participant 2: I think that Horry County needs to kind of own up a little bit to to possibly filling in portions of wetlands that they've done and building highway 31 and and stopping some of the water diversion that used to happen. When that was all an open field, so I think that, even though they don't they may not want to take full blame for everything, of course, which government agency would want to take full blame for everything, I think that they do need to suck up a little bit of the blame.

Interviewer: Mhm.

Participant 1: Yeah I'm on a job right now in Murrells Inlet highway 17 south. And the the building that they have erected that the guys doing the Styrofoam scratching on this, this was wetlands honestly this job has been in the works for over a year now, because the land that they just built this on this is probably a five acre piece of land on 17. This property was wetlands like literally they're going to put a Burger King right there you're going to put another office building right there and we're right next to the Starbucks by the Home Depot in Murrells Inlet.

Participant 2: And whole houses.

Participant 1: Yeah this whole piece of property was wetlands and this piece of property right here, actually protected, and this is just another personal thing that you can barely see it there's a house right there I don't know if either one of you can see, the house right there on the other side. Okay, that house right there is literally five or six feet lower than this piece of land that we're building on right now. So that means when it rains here,

instead of this swampy area protecting those homes over there by the water coming in this direction. The county has okayed the construction of this building and now when it rains, all of that water is going to taper into that neighborhood. Yep, and and create wet yards, wet garages, wet driveways. Whatever whatever could happen now. That they are now the low spot instead of the high spot and it happens all all over Horry County if you go down international if you go down highway 90 if you go to if you go down 707. These were low lying marshy fields, they were trees, they were bushes they were places for water to go to and now they're out there on highway 31 and and out on 905 and they're digging these huge pits and they're bringing all this dirt in and they're building all of these areas that would normally divert water and would hold that water like a huge swimming pool when it rains or when a storm comes. And now, since new code created makes them elevate to a certain height above water level to protect these new constructions away from flooding. What it does is it makes them elevate higher than the surrounding areas and makes the surrounding areas prone to receiving that water that these would absorb normally.

Participant 2: We like to call it the soup bowl effect. You, in essence, become the soup bowl yeah.

Participant 1: And that that's what we are where we're at right now we are in our circle back on the waterway. We are the receiving receptacle for water where it would normally have gone elsewhere now when it floods. It's not really even a flooding event it's just water dispersion that could have been somewhere else, but through construction and diversion from building different roads like 31 the water funnels and when it funnels that needs somewhere to go and it ends up going to us.

Interviewer: It's crazy how they allow people to build like on wetlands and stuff like that.

Participant 1: Well, what they have to do is they have to have a wetland certificate, they have to go to an agency that's government run. And they have to buy wetland property elsewhere in the area, so they could go out literally out in longs or out in... somewhere and buy 25 acres that a farmer's not using because he can't farm on it and it's useless and they have to buy that property. And when they take say five acres from here which they've done they've got to go and coordinate purchasing five acres of wetlands that can never be reclaimed, used or anything. And it's kind of like a handshake deal where well as long as we're providing wetlands that can never be disturbed over here it's okay, for you guys now to fill this area in. And to create an area for construction and that's what they do in those communities too. They they pay off the county and they pay off those groups and those organizations. And and, in return, those organizations and groups in the county all receive money for them to to build here so that they can get revenue, I mean.

Participant 2: And to relocate wetlands.

Participant 1: Yeah yeah and tax dollars and construction permitting fees permitting costs connection fees for the utility companies all that stuff is big money so they want to push all that. Because that's all we have in Horry County we've got revenue from tourism and we've got revenue from the retired people that come down here. And people that come and shop on the weekends so for no reason do they want to stop people from retiring here and bringing their tax money here. They don't want to stop people from shopping, I mean we're building we're building a pet store an Aspen dental and a cell phone store right here, so it was so incredibly purposeful. For them to put these here because, like

it's a great area but they couldn't just go reuse. I don't know we got a whole shopping mall inlet square mall across the street it's it's an abandoned structure. Without parcels they just closed the restaurant all this stuff across the way right here there's nothing over there there's nobody occupying those buildings. But they didn't want to move over there, they want to take this wetlands and they want to build a new structure over here, because you can see it from my work.

Participant 2: I think instead of re utilizing and even like revamping like they could turn Inlet Square Mall they could demo it and turn it into a lifestyle center just like Market Commons, but I think instead of forcing you know developers and builders sellers to do that. They're not. They would rather say well we'll figure out the wetlands, we can move it over to Bucksport or to Longs because it's in Horry County still but and and nobody's really moving out that way so let's just let's just change the wetlands from here to up there and it'll be fine and it's not.

Interviewer: Yeah that's that's very odd that that's how it works.

Participant 1: Yep. And and that's the problem you could be the high we are the high house like literally my wife and I we bought one of the two houses in our back circle that were high and dry, you're learning a lot interviewer... We were elevated feet above people that flooded pre 2015 and I'm talking feet and now we are right in the middle of it so nothing, nothing changed like like the. Our house did not sink like the inner coastal waterways still there it's been there since the army corps of engineers developed it like everything is still there it's, not us. That's the problem it's it's something else that's going on and that's the that's the thing about the buyout programs. I mean no, nobody nobody that like works for their money wants to make the government absorb something like that, whether it's the federal or state government. I mean it's all our money that goes up to them that gets free dispersed anybody anybody that pays taxes, I mean your tax money goes somewhere and that's what it ends up doing so, I mean we we don't want to take away from other causes. Right, but the problem is is is our homes are not a problem, our homes did not cause the flooding, it is from it is from other things that in the last decade has impacted the safety and in the ability for us to live there right so.

Participant 2: There's a lot of factors that come into play.

Interviewer: Yeah that's what I'm learning. It's not just one you get a flood and then you have to pay for it and figure something out. There's a lot going on in Horry County right now.

Participant 2: I'll tell you what interviewer, the next time, Lake Tillery lets loose okay, and they they do a full on release of their damn for three days in a row. I will let you or Jennifer Mokos know, and I will take pictures of our home prior to that, and then I will take pictures of my home a week after they've done that release. And you'll be shocked.

Interviewer: That would be incredible to see.

Participant 2: You would be absolutely shocked.

Participant 1: Yeah the predictor the predictor for a sunny day flood in Horry County is one of two or three bodies of water in North Carolina that have become too full for their fancy lake

houses to take on. And they're all on dam systems, so they release and I'm talking about 40 million cubic feet per second type of releases like like like-

Participant 2: Like tsunami water.

Participant 1: Yeah like you would not believe, like we stayed on Lake Tillary in Monroe when I was working in Monroe we stayed on Lake Tillery, which is actually in Norwood. And we watched the rains come we watch the elevations and then we watch the releases and when when we went home on the weekend. Past that that's when we personally discovered that that was a source of flooding, because our house flooded and my wife lost her car, we lost most of our business stuff we weren't there we didn't know we didn't understand because it wasn't...

Participant 2: Progressive told us we were full of crap. Insurance agents said there's no way your house flooded, there's no way your cars been flooded, or your trailers been flooded- his work trailer got flooded there's no way there's no way there's no rain and I was like I'm telling like I'm taking pictures like there's water in my car. My car.

Participant 1: It flooded it flooded our yard, but not our house last year, what was the June, July? June, I'm like it flooded our yard and it flooded my trailer it flooded our we had two golf carts. Flooded most of those out. And flooded her car it flooded my motorcycle it flooded my lawn mower it flooded all this stuff on the floor in the garage our water heater pretty much anything that was knee-high out in the yard got knee-high water in it.

Participant 2: It's crazy.

Participant 1: Yeah and and it was all 100% due to the release to protect the North Carolina residents from the Lake Tillary dam that Duke energy.

Participant 2: They're my favorite people in the world.

Participant 1: Yeah Duke energy operates that that system.

Participant 2: And then the now another thing to point out, too, is that Bateman and Tillary Lake Bateman Lake Tillary they have to maintain a certain level because they're dams are compromised not up to par is that how you would phrase it really.

Participant 1: They're they're compromised from previous flooding events and water water events so they they cannot from what I've understood from the discussions I've seen and had. They have an elevation marker that they cannot exceed because they're afraid that the dams will not support the the elevation beyond that so. If they if they get rain and I'm talking about widespread big rain for like two days every bit of that they're like in a valley and they created this dam in this lake from a valley. So everything around that area all goes to the lake system and once it starts coming in it elevates very, very quickly, and when they get a red flag. They've got special approval from the Federal Government to disperse that water downstream into the Peedee river at full capacity so that they won't have A catastrophic failure of the dam and that's where our flooding events that are not storm related come from it's it's a proven it's a proven fact, but neither Duke energy or the state or the county will fess up to it and and and take responsibility. Because they would therefore be responsible for all of this flooding these homes and and they would

probably be responsible for buying out the structures or diverting or coming up with a better plan and they don't want this.

Interviewer: That's awful that they put other people's lives and property at risk, just to benefit themselves.

Participant 1: Well they're there, but I mean like if you've ever been to a if you've ever been to one of those fancy lakes were like everybody has a beach house in a pontoon boat and they're all out there on the weekends, of the summer, having a good time. If you've ever looked at the real estate out there you're not buying a \$200,000 house you're buying you're buying you're buying a two and a half 3-5-7 million dollar home and I tell you what, nothing would piss me off worse than to see my \$7 million house go up in flooding, so they they're protecting the North Carolina residents and and it's at the expense of other people.

Participant 2: And, and there is knowledge of this and there's there's been talk with with different citizens that are affected by this flooding of a possible class action lawsuit. But the more you talk about it, and the more you think about it, you know we could hire 100 lawyers that are great at it corporate lawsuits and things like that. But at the same time Duke Duke energy is going to have a team of lawyers ready to go after it, and then they're going to go after Horry County or the state of South Carolina and then it's just going to be a back and forth. So it's not even it's almost going to be such a long drawn out process where no one's going to take the blame yet again so what's the point? Yeah.

Participant 1: So do you have any specific other questions you'd like to ask us or speak to us about, any topics?

Interviewer: No I-

Participant 1: We don't drag. Drag out on you.

Interviewer: No, no, no worries at all. um I just had to ask is there anything else that you'd like to share with me like at all?

Participant 1: No, no, I mean nothing that we haven't already discussed it's a-

Participant 2: It is what it is.

Participant 1: Yeah.

Interviewer: Fingers crossed.

Participant 1: I mean people, people in Florida, you know that's the big thing is people when you talk about hurricane people never think about flooding when it comes to hurricanes, I mean yeah Katrina some Sandy we we were actually in we were actually in Cherry Hill when Sandy came are, are you are you like a resident of that area sounds like you might have known a little bit about the area. Okay, so we were in Cherry Hill, New Jersey and we were working in in in Philly and driving back and forth, to the was.

Interviewer: Okay.



Participant 1: So when we were in and I don't know if you know where Cherry Hill is?

Interviewer: Yeah it's like South Jersey right?

Participant 1: Right so so the day that Sandy happened my wife and I, we got up in the morning and I said hey I said, "Sandy's coming, we should go to Atlantic City will drive down to Atlantic city." And we'll check it out we'll stay to one or two o'clock and then we'll get out of there because we're hurricane people mean we are.

Participant 2: They were under mandatory evacuation.

Participant 1: So, so we went we went to we went to Atlantic City we do a couple dollars in the slot machines and we went and had a Starbucks on the pier and walked around a little bit until they shut us down, then we drove back home, and then we sat around the hotel and got you know it got windy. Blew all over the place, but I mean that that kind of thing you're used to hurricanes you think of like trees falling over your roof fallen over you know your car gets damaged your lawn chair blowing around. Nobody nobody thinks of seven foot of water in your house. So it's just a different animal altogether.

Interviewer: Yeah I remember starting school here last year, like, I experienced Sandy we got flooded from that, but obviously nothing compared to down here, but when we got one of the hurricanes, I forget it was the one after Florence, I think. It was like last September, yeah I just remember being like, "Ooooh! No no school I get to go back home," like, I never really even thought about like what actually happens to the people that live here. I was just thinking like, "Whooo I get to leave."

Participant 2: And less last September, when that hurricane came he was actually in Arlington, Virginia and I was here doing a project in North Myrtle Beach and it wasn't bad at all, it wasn't bad at all. And then, like I am I had to go up to the store that we were building because that's where the tornadoes that touchdown. So I had to go up and verify that that was okay once they allow travel, but other than that we didn't get any water from that.

Interviewer: That's good to hear.

Participant 1: Yeah I think I've got you on my Facebook as a request on messenger. No I'll have to I'll have to shoot you like two or three photos of what it looks like around here, and you would never believe that, and if you if you drive I don't know if you know where we live at but being that you are a Coastal student. We live right in the heart of Socastee right by the high school. Like literally you can walk to the high school from our house.

Participant 2: And we live in Bridge Street not Rosewood.

Interviewer: Okay.

Participant 1: We live right next to Socastee station in that little that little community, but you, our whole neighborhood like all but that little circle back where we live at. That whole area is completely dry like you would never ever ever in a million years know what's happening. But you literally go to the end of the neighborhood and you go down like this little rolling hill that goes into that little back circle, and it is like a completely different world it's just

you just it's it's very selective the areas that happens to. So that that's what makes it really challenging to the people that it happens to it's not like Sandy where everybody up the road had damages it's not like it's not like you know Hugo when you go to Surfside and Surfside's gone it's like you you pull pull up 707 you pull into your neighborhood and everybody's like out cutting the grass and normal and everything's just okey dokey and everybody's doing the normal thing, and you get to your road. And you turn down that road, and it's like it's it's literally like a disaster area like and I'm talking like I'm talking like. This like. Yeah literally it's like the size of a football field back where all of our houses are in that area the size of a football field is literally completely underwater like out in the water underwater and the house and yeah in the house, right up the hill like literally your next door neighbor is like like he's got three kids and their dog and they're all out playing in the yard they're having a good time their waving at you like hey neighbor and all you want to do is like give the middle finger because you're pissed that you're stuck out there.

- Participant 2: Pictures of the blacks are at the BAT that the back circle, but like funny story pointing out of affiliate said so, it looks like a complete freaking warzone back here right now okay like everybody's driveway has dumpsters in it. And the house across the street from us was for sale well my girlfriend and I, we were throwing some of our- my contents away into the dumpster in our driveway and this guy from North Carolina pulls up in his little Range Rover at that house across the street from us that's for sale and he goes did it flood back here? And I said no, we all just decided to remodel at the same time yep.
- Participant 1: I'm gonna, I want to walk I want to walk over here and kind of let you see...
- Participant 2: So, like what no it didn't flood we're already modeling at the same time. We all just decided our stimulus came in and that's what we're doing.
- Participant 1: Not not to make a joke of this, but I just want to kind of show you just what I was talking about, so this is the building I'm working on, right. Okay, you see the blue house over there, can you see it now? Yes. Okay, I want to show you this, do you see this hill in front of me. I'm going to walk down this hill.
- Participant 2: Yeah yeah.
- Participant 1: No, I know, so I'll show you so there's that house I'm walking down this hill right now Okay, do you see that house better now. Yeah yeah okay this, this is what this is what they do, can you now see that hill.
- Participant 2: Oh yeah.
- Participant 1: This property now, I'm creating is creating a wash out for that neighborhood. That's that's that's what happens when you buy wetlands you're required to build it up you're required to build it up several feet in elevation. And you used to be the recipient of all of that, and now what you've done is you have created a problem for that resident behind me. And that's what our neighborhoods our neighborhood is the same exactly. So that's a pretty that's a pretty good idea of what happens after you build your home and you think everything is fine and somebody else decides it's time for them to build.
- Participant 2: Yeah let's build more stores.

Participant 1: Anyway. You guys don't need me anymore I'm gonna poke in here and check all my guys.

Participant 2: Oh, Lord WMBF news is here.

Interviewer: Thank you guys so much for taking time out of your day to talk to me about this, I know you guys have a lot on your plate, but I really appreciate your time.

Participant 2: Yeah yeah. And like I said, will message you some pictures I'll I'll get on Facebook messenger with you and, like, I can show you pictures from Matthew and Florence and now and just kind of give you an idea of what it looks like when it floods in a war zone oh.

Interviewer: That would be great. Thank you.

Participant 1: Bye guys.

Interviewer: Thank you, enjoy the rest of your days and weeks.

Participant 2: Absolutely if you have any other questions feel free to reach out.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Participant 1: You're welcome.

Participant 2: Bye.