

Beaches Conference, July 14, 2017
Wells, High School, Concurrent II: Session 8 Notes
Notes on Navigating a Shore: A Short Play

Long Island, NY, resident and theater director Julie Clark Boak (Salmagundi Productions) presented her one-act play based on her personal interaction with her local Assistant Code Enforcement Officer. The topic: FEMA's flood maps and where to go in an evacuation, when all the "safe" spaces seem to be inundated. A coastal homeowner's search for official answers turns from curiosity to mania as she encounters more and more helplessness on the other side of the desk. It is a scene that plays itself out across numerous coastal municipalities every season. Clark Boak asks different actors to improvise while re-reading the play; through the exercise, coastal stakeholders learn to see each other's fears and humanity.