

HMP STEERING COMMITTEE, WORKING GROUP, AND OPEN PUBLIC COMBINED PLANNING MEETING NOTES

9/1/2016

Date and Location: A Final Planning Meeting for the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) advertised to the public for Steering Committee, Working Group, and open Public Comment on the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan update was held on September 1, 2016 at 1:30 PM at the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center.

Participants: The participants for the meeting included members of the public, representatives from the State of Delaware, Sussex County, Sussex County municipalities, comprising the Steering Committee and Working Group, and representatives from the Sussex County contractor Olson Group LTD, responsible for developing the Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting was to provide review the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update with the HMP Steering Committee, Working Group, and members of the public, discuss next steps, and formally begin the public comment period for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Discussion and agreements made between meeting attendees during the meeting are provided below.

Overview of Activities

Welcome and Overview: Joseph (Joe) Thomas, Director of the Emergency Operation Center for Sussex County, opened the meeting with an explanation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and its purpose.

The floor was then turned over to. Anthony Mangeri, of the Olson Group LTD.

- Mr. Mangeri provided an explanation working draft, steering committee, and working group
- Stated the purpose is to make sure the document is on track and public is aware of its contents
- Mr. Mangeri stressed that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is not a contract, no binding in any way
- Community asked who was contacted in regards to document
 - Working groups, county officials, town administrators
 - Community also asked if previously flooded areas were contacted
 - Yes
- An explanation of FEMA's HAZUS software was given
 - The software provides a statistical analysis of disasters and their impact
 - County GIS ran the software

Draft Plan Review: Mr. Mangeri then began a section-by-section presentation of the draft HMP update.

Section I

- Overview of sections and table of contents

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- Methodology
 - Identify threats
 - Asses the risks and harms
 - Analyze Current Capabilities
 - Incorporate plans and recommendations
- Appendix A
 - Highlights each municipality which participated in the workshops
 - Jurisdictions will adopt by resolution following FEMA and DEMA approval
- Goals and Objectives
 - Prior goals were assessed to see progress and build on previous iterations of the section
- Participating Communities
 - 4 of 24 did not participate in the HMP
 - Did not attend meetings or working group sessions
 - Blades, Dagsboro, Ellendale, Dewey Beach
- Green areas indicate information that is yet to be attained
 - As information is attained the website will be updated to reflect an accurate draft

Section II

- The planning process
- Lists involved parties in the Mitigation Steering Committee
 - Highlighted the work of UD on the project
 - Olson group team is also listed
- Data Collection
 - Highlighted critical facilities
 - CF being fire companies, police stations, medical facilities, etc
- Hazard Mitigation Working Group List
- List of meetings
- Process
 - Public involvement, other interested parties
- Floodplain Administrator list
 - Also contains Municipal Points of Contact
- Federal Documents and Data Utilized
 - Why it was used
 - How it was used
- Delaware State Hazard Mitigation Plan and Counties

Section III: Hazard Identification

- Examined various types of Hazards and their history
 - Ranked based upon risk, concern, and history
 - If there was no historical ranked data (I.e. Volcanoes) no ranking was given

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- Narrative discussion of risks and data consulted
 - The information contained in the draft Plan update is current as of the end of 2015 as of 2015
 - The information contains data regarding the identified hazards such as wind events, lightning strikes, hurricane, extreme heat, winter storms etc.
 - Nor-Easters comprise their own category separate from hurricanes
 - The information is localized for Delaware and combined with other national information.
- CPRI
 - Each box has a 0-5 value based on historical frequencies, duration, and damage
 - These values are added to a formula and calculated to produce a ranking, which is then presented to the steering committee.
- Mercalli Scale for Earthquake
 - Calculates the severity of a quake and their potential
- Wildfires
 - The definition of a wildfire is fairly lenient
 - Instances listed include approximated size and impact
- Coastal Erosion
 - Is not currently a major issue, but has been brought to the attention of the public so that a discussion can be started on solution and mitigation
- Dam Failure
 - There is a difference in information between national and state level data
 - Public input is being sought to rectify that section
 - May be a discrepancy between public and private dams
- Terrorism
 - Terrorist activity is included in order to encourage preparedness
 - The threat of terrorism is viewed as fluid, and as such should be prepared for.
- Pipeline
 - The Working Group requested a look into gas pipelines
 - Most pipelines are new and built to higher current standards
- Probability/ Magnitude Tables and Ranking
 - Explains the methodology behind the ranking of disasters
 - Floods, Thunderstorm, and Hurricanes topped the list

Section IV: Hazard Vulnerability

- What will each hazard effect?
 - This includes building stock and population
- HAZUS
 - This section includes a discussion on the methodology, science, and calculations behind the HAZUS program
 - HAZUS takes into account the cascading effects of critical facility damages and loss during disasters
 - Includes what has been lost, and a projection of what could be lost

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- Census data
 - The data found in the US Census is based on the Census blocks depicted in a graphic found in this section
- The community is concerned as to whether part-time residents are included in the plan
 - The data regarding seasonal population is incorporated, when available, in Appendix A
- Loss Data
 - Loss data is based on historical record
 - The narrative works to explain the significance of HAZUS results
- Summary Sections
 - Includes every incorporated community and the county
 - Tables the results of expected loss for the varying disasters analyzed through the HAZUS simulation
- Unique Risks
 - Bethany Beach, Ellendale, and other coastal communities inquired about beach erosion, however beach erosion is not considered in a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Section V: Capabilities Assessment

- Assessment were conducted at the local level with officials and community members
- Assessment inquired as to whether jurisdictions had emergency operations plans, zoning plans, regional plans, hazmat plans, and other precautions to prepare for certain risks
 - This section also includes a narrative discussion of these plans
 - More jurisdictions are doing more about risk management and risk reduction in their community
 - These plans show FEMA continuity and increased efforts towards attaining funding
- Rating scale of department efficiency by jurisdiction
 - Also includes a rating of fire departments
 - Leads to a “grade” and influences insurance costs
- NFIP Involvement
 - The document looked at participants and whether they were a member of the NFIP
 - 3/16/2015 provided updated FEMA information of flood plain
- Communities Rating System
 - 7 communities are involved
 - Leads to a 5-6% discount on insurance
 - More participation in community leads to a discount in flood insurance
- Self-Assessment
 - The HMP asked jurisdictions to review their own capabilities
 - This was a subjective study
 - County believes it has more financial resources than past years
- Recommendations
 - Modified to remain in line with 2010, yet provide an update

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- Conclusion on Local Capability
 - County is going through a period of sustained growth. This growth proves difficult to measure due to seasonal residents

Section VI: Mitigation Strategy

- HMP seeks to target the reduction of inventory of NFIP

Section VII: Plan Monitoring and Maintenance

- As soon as first entity adopts the plan, the 5-year cycle restarts
- Section also includes a recommendation for the methodology used in the prior sections
 - Allows for the continual update and improvement to information and strategy

Annex A:

- Focuses on individual counties, their capabilities, and Mitigation Actions
 - Mitigation Actions are goals, not commitments

The community expressed concern as to the inclusion of unincorporated area and the difference between sections of the county (i.e., agricultural versus resort areas)

Joe Thomas responded by stating:

- Community is asked to report damages in private areas
- The county cannot enter and survey damage on a private land

The community expressed concerned as to the accuracy of public reporting and request codification from the state level in order to better analyze damages during disasters

The community is also concerned as to the level at which preparedness is discussed in the document. They do not feel they are informed as to the process of evacuation, nor where to go in such an instance.

- The community sites unincorporated areas as a concern, stating that the County does not have the ability to fully represent them and provide for them fiscally
 - Administrator Todd Lawson addressed the audience and opened a dialog
 - Acknowledges the lack of communication unincorporated communities have and urged community members to become more involved in emergency management activities, training, and other educational opportunities
- The community also expressed concern over the identification of shelter and the timeframe in which they are identified
 - Joe Thomas and Todd Lawson addressed this issue
 - This issue with a pre-designated shelter is that it does not account for roads being rendered unusable or other circumstances preventing the use of a particular shelter during a disaster.
 - While there is a list of designated shelters, the type, size, and scope of the emergency dictates the shelters that are ultimately opened during the emergency
- The community would like to include more unincorporated areas to attain their personal input and representation in the plan
- The community also request that people be considered more, not just property

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Next Steps: Adam Montella from OGL explained the draft plan would be posted on the Hazard Mitigation section of the County website for public comment until Friday, September 9. Mr. Thomas will also be emailing the draft HMP update to the Steering Committee, Working Group, and Neighboring counties for review and comment. OGL will finalize the draft plan from the comments received, then Sussex County will submit to the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and pending approval. With “Approval Pending Adoption” the County and municipalities will adopt by resolution, beginning the next five-year update cycle.

Outstanding Actions

The following actions remain:

- OGL to send out notes from this meeting.
- Sussex County to post notes and draft HMP update to the County website for review and comment. Comments due by September 9.
- Sussex County to send a copy of the draft HMP to the HMP Steering Committee, Working Group, and neighboring counties for review and comment. Comments due by September 9.
- OGL to make final plan changes and Submit to Sussex County Emergency Operations Center by September 13.
- Sussex County to submit HMP Update to DEMA and FEMA for review and approval by September 16.
- Modifications based on DEMA and FEMA review and formal adoption, dates TBD.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Project Points of Contact (POCs)

Sussex County:

Joe Thomas
302-855-7801

The Olson Group, Ltd.

Adam Montella, Project Manager
813-657-5395

Anthony Mangeri, Sr. MPA, CPM, CEM Lead Planner
856-217-9172

Attendee List

The Sign-In Sheet for the meeting is attached.

Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Project

Sussex County Delaware 2016 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Steering Committee Working Group Draft Plan Meeting
September 1, 2016



SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
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