



WICOMICO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION & RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2 October 28, 2021 - 9:30-11:00 AM

The following members attended the Wicomico County Hazard Mitigation & Resilience Planning Committee (HMRPC) meeting on October 28th.

Name	Organization/Department
Amanda Pollack	City of Salisbury
Alyssa Hastings	City of Salisbury
Lori Carter	Wicomico County- Planning & Zoning
Sara Bynum-King	Town of Delmar
Darrin Scott	Salisbury Fire
Lt. Chris Truitt	Salisbury Fire
Lt. Christopher Shockley	Salisbury University Police
Donna Smith	MAC Maintaining Active Citizens, Inc.
Frank Cruice Perdue	Industry
Greg Grey	Wor-Wic College
Steve Garvin	Wicomico County DES
Lorenzo Cropper	Wicomico County DES
Marilyn Williams	Wicomico County- Planning & Zoning
Mark Richards	Wicomico County- Parks & Recreation
Roy Brewington	MD DHS Social Services
W. David Owens	WC Board of Education
Rochelle Tyler	PRMC-Tidal Health
Lori Brewster	Wicomico County- Health Department

Plan Status- Where are we?

A review of what has been accomplished to date was provided.

- Online hazard public survey will continue to be functional on the website. Public survey results as of October have been included in the plan update.
- Project website developed. Content has been updated periodically.
- New Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) Completed
- Mitigation Status Report Completed
- Capabilities Assessment- Completed for the County, however we still need information from a couple municipalities.
- All working draft hazard chapters have been distributed for committee review and comment.
- New Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) completed with recommendations. A sub-committee was established to work specifically on the THIRA over the summer. The Active Assailant-THIRA has been included as an Appendix and is for “official use only.”



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Grant Funding Opportunities

- FEMA requires state, local, tribal and territorial governments to develop and adopt [hazard mitigation plans](#) as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for [hazard mitigation assistance](#) projects.
 - FEMA provides federal funds for the [Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) grant program to states, local communities, tribes and territories for mitigation activities. BRIC is a FEMA annual hazard mitigation program. Section 203 of the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act \(Stafford Act\)](#) authorizes this program. The priorities are to:
 - Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure
 - Prioritize benefits to disadvantaged communities
 - Mitigate risk to one or more community lifelines
 - Incorporate nature-based solutions
 - Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
 - Increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes
 - **BRIC- National Competition for Mitigation Projects: \$919,000,000 (estimated).** Any funds that are not awarded from the State/Territory Allocation will be re-allocated to the national competition. Any funds that are not awarded from the Tribal Set-Aside will be re-allocated to the non-financial Direct Technical Assistance for tribes.
 - Generally, the cost share for this program is 75% federal/25% non-federal.
 - Economically disadvantaged rural communities are eligible for an increase in cost share up to 90% federal/10% non-federal.
 - **New FEMA Policy:** For certain non-critical actions involving structure elevation, dry floodproofing, and mitigation reconstruction in the **Special Flood Hazard Area a minimum of the base flood elevation plus 2 feet of freeboard will be required** (unless doing so would cause the project to be unable to meet applicable program cost-effectiveness requirements).
 - **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** For eligible mitigation projects, HMGP funding can cover 75% of total project costs and states or communities cover the remaining share. Preparing and mitigating for the impacts of climate change, which is one of the most important threats facing the United States, requires the full collaboration of the Federal Government to support state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.
 - 4491DR Maryland \$93,289,392
 - **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant** the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program is a competitive grant program that provides funding to states, local communities, federally recognized tribes and territories. Funds can be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the [National Flood Insurance Program](#).



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- The application period to apply for fiscal year 2021 (FY 2021) FMA funding will open on Sept. 30, 2021, and close at 3 p.m. on Jan. 28, 2022. FEMA encourages sub-applicants and applicants to apply. There is **\$160 million available in FMA funding**.
- Additional grant opportunities will be included in Appendix K of the plan.

Mitigation Strategies

- **Goals & Objectives** were distributed as “read ahead” prior to the committee meeting. Goals and objectives were reviewed during the meeting, specifically those added as “new.” Comments provided by meeting participants for both existing and new goals and objectives have been incorporated into the plan. Modified goals and objectives are attached.
- **Mitigation Actions** were distributed as “read ahead” prior to the committee meeting. During this portion of the meeting, participants:
 - Provided review comments and clarification to further refine the action items table. Discussion comments provided during the meeting and emailed comments from the “read ahead” materials were incorporated. Particular attention was given to “responsible entity” assigned to each action item. Follow-up targeted emails will be provided to ensure that municipal action items are correct. The updated Mitigation Action Items table is attached.
 - Each action item was categorized under six categories and identified “red” on mitigation action table.
 - **Prevention.** Government administrative or regulatory actions or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. These actions also include public activities to reduce hazard losses. Examples include planning and zoning, building codes, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.
 - **Property Protection.** Actions that involve the modification of existing critical and public facilities, buildings, structures, and public infrastructure to protect them from hazards. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and infrastructure modification.
 - **Public Education and Awareness.** Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about potential ways to mitigate for hazards that can occur in the County. Such actions include outreach programs, projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and school-age and adult education programs.
 - **Natural Resource Protection.** Actions that, in addition to minimizing hazard losses also preserve or restore the functions of natural protection systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration preservation.
 - **Emergency Services.** Actions that protect people and property during and immediately after a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems and emergency response services.
 - **Structural Projects.** Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard event. Such structures include dams, levees, floodwalls, seawalls, retaining walls, barrier islands, and safe rooms.



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Prioritization Process

All action items will be prioritized and a ranking of high, medium, or low will be assigned accordingly. Those action items that are ranked as a high priority will be developed further into projects. Projects may include one or more action items, as applicable, and background information, costs, and potential funding sources will be identified.

- An online survey will be used as a tool for ranking purposes by committee meeting.
- The ranking process is based on the STAPLEE evaluation method uses the following criteria for evaluating mitigation actions: **Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental**
- Information along with survey link will be distributed to all committee members.

Additional Comments and Discussion

Plan maintenance and implementation was discussed by meeting participants. Questions were posed regarding who is responsible to ensure that the plan is being maintained and that actions items and/or projects are being reviewed for status updates. The Department of Emergency Services will continue to be the lead agency for coordinating the hazard mitigation plan maintenance and implementation. However, the establishment of a formalized group to meet, at a minimum, two times per year, will be determined and included in the plan update.

Next Steps

- Meeting #3 Notes- Distributed to all stakeholders and uploaded to project website. (Distribution- October 28, 2021)
- Finalization of Mitigation Action Items (Comments due by November 5, 2021)
- Prioritization of Action Items by Committee Members (Online Survey) (Distributed Monday, November 8th with a return date of Friday November 12th)
- Completion of Chapter 14- Mitigation Strategies including projects (Completion November 17th)
- Draft Plan distribution to committee members on November 19, 2021. Please keep in mind all hazard chapters and other plan components have been distributed over the past few months for review and comment. This will essentially be the second opportunity for committee review and comment.
- MDEM Submittal- November 19, 2021
- FEMA Review- TBD
- County Adoption
- Municipal Adoption- Jurisdictions with land use authority.