



**WICOMICO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION &
RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE**
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2
March 25, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM

The following meeting Wicomico County Hazard Mitigation & Resilience Planning Committee (HMRPC) members attended the March 25th meeting.

Name	Organization/Department
Amanda Pollack	City of Salisbury
Antonio Fascelli	Wicomico County- DPW
Brian Soper	Wicomico County- Planning & Zoning
Chris Classing	Wicomico County- DPW
Chris Davala	MSP Barrack Commander
Chris Truitt	Salisbury Fire
Christopher Shockley	Salisbury University Police
Chuck Rousseau	Wicomico County- Civic Center
David Fitzgerald	WC DES
Donna Smith	MAC Maintaining Active Citizens, Inc.
Frank Cruice Perdue	Industry
Greg Grey	Wor-Wic College
Jalessa Tate	MEMA
Kayhla Cornell	MEMA
Leisl Ashby	WC Board of Education
Lorenzo Cropper	WC DES
Marilyn Williams	Wicomico County- Planning & Zoning
Melinda Stafford	Town of Hebron
Mark Rickards	Wicomico County- Parks & Recreation
Michele Ennis	Tri Community Mediation
Robert Souza	WC Board of Education
Roy Brewington	MD DHS Social Services
Sand Hoffman	Industry
Steve Schweikert	PRMC-Tidal Health
Tim Emge	Industry
Tony Rudy	Wicomico County

Hazard Mitigation Overview

A brief overview of hazard mitigation and the plan update process was provided for those stakeholders who did not attend the previous meeting held on January 21st.



WICOMICO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION & RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2

March 25, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM

Guest Speakers

Guest speakers from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the City of Salisbury presented during the meeting.



What Is Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)/Mitigation?

- Co-Presenters Jaleesa Tate, Maryland State Hazard Mitigation Officer & Kayhla Cornell, Senior Hazard Mitigation Specialist

A YouTube video was shared during the presentation, please see video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmAsy3PbYes>

Information on the types and benefits of hazard mitigation, along with FEMA grant funding sources under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program were presented.



Port of Salisbury Feasibility Study

- Amanda Pollack, P.E., Director, Department Of Infrastructure And Development

Information on the feasibility study components and timeline were presented. Opportunities for integrated information derived from the study into the Hazard Mitigation & Resilience Plan will be explored, specifically in relation to the flood hazard and hazardous materials.

2021 Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) Results

One of the first steps in the planning process was to complete the Hazard Identification Risk Assessment. As shown in the orange text box, risk is the chance, whether high or low, that any hazard will occur and what is the severity or impact for that hazard. The HIRA focused on the (12) natural hazards identified for the 2021 Plan. FEMA requires natural hazards be identified and assessed.

Risk is the chance, high or low, that any hazard will occur and the severity or impact from that hazard.

In order to complete the HIRA, eight parameters were used for assessment as shown on the bulleted listing above.

- Death
- Injury
- Annualized Events



**WICOMICO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION &
RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE**
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2
March 25, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM

- Geographic Extent
- Property Damage
- Crop Damage
- Future Probability
- Community Perspective

The full methodology and hazard data table is Appendix A in the plan document and is also on the project website. When you visit the project website, go to the Hazard Risk & Vulnerability tab, click on the PDF to review.

Below are the results for the HIRA and are also on the website under the Hazard Risk & Vulnerability Assessment tab. One (1) natural hazard was added “Pandemic and Emerging Infectious Disease” and a new plan chapter is under development.

Hazards that have the potential to impact Wicomico County are listed below. These hazards have been ranked by Stakeholder members, as follows: High, Medium-High, Medium, Medium-Low.

Natural Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Ranking Results		
Hazards	2016 Hazard Ranking	2021 Hazard Ranking
*Flood (Flash/Heavy Rain)	Medium	Medium-High
Drought	Medium	Medium
Tornado	Medium	Medium-Low
Thunderstorm	Medium	High
High Wind	Medium-High	Medium
Wildfire	Medium	Medium
Earthquake	Low	Medium-Low
Extreme Cold – Cold/Wind Chill	Medium	Medium-Low
Winter Storm	Medium-High	Medium-Low
Extreme Heat	Medium	Medium
Coastal Storm and Flooding	Medium-High	Medium-High
Pandemic and Emerging Infectious Diseases	No 2016 Ranking	High



WICOMICO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION & RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

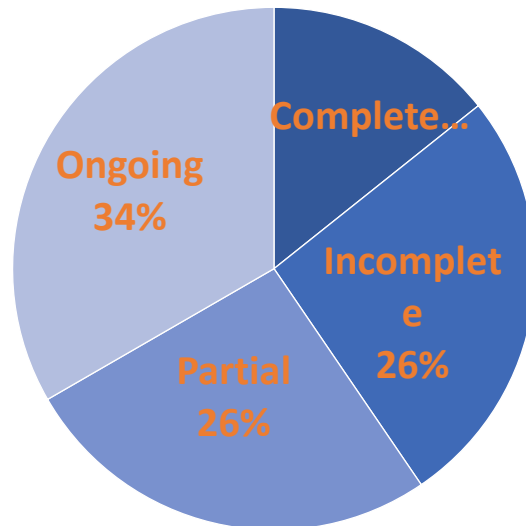
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2

March 25, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM

2017-2021 Mitigation Status Report

The status of individual action items identified in the previous plan was obtained from the fillable forms completed by stakeholders. Applicable mitigation items, such as those identified as incomplete, will be carried over for the 2021 plan. Stakeholders will review and discuss Mitigation Actions at Meeting #3 in May.

2017-2021 MITIGATION ACTION ITEM STATUS SNAPSHOT



Project Website- Addition of MyCoast: Maryland Information

MyCoast: Maryland is a project of the Chesapeake & Coastal Service and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The app is “a portal to collect and analyze pictures and data relating to flooding caused by precipitation or coastal events. If a person wishes to submit a report, all they need to do is install the MyCoast.org app and create an account. The app is currently available for iPhone and Android users and is free. Alternatively, a user may also use the web platform to submit information. At this time, the county will not include on project website, as they are evaluating the use of pictures displaying houses with flooding and potential implications for residents wanted to sale their homes.



WICOMICO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION & RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2

March 25, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM

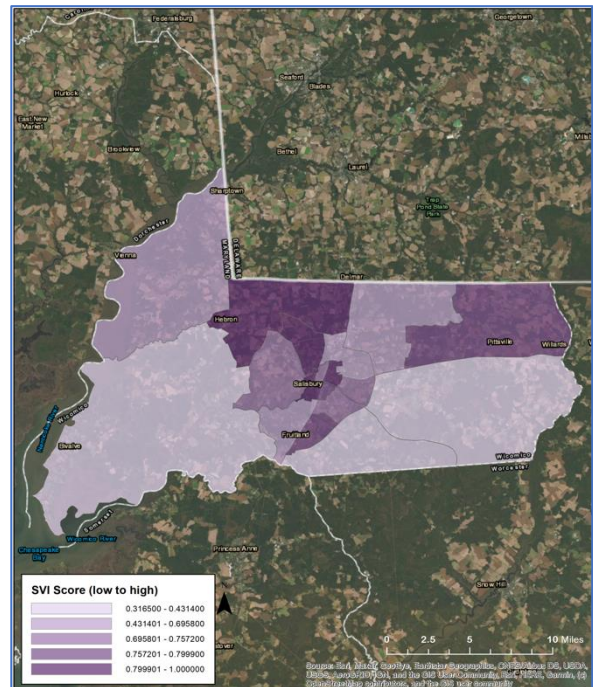
Critical and Public Facility Geodatabase

In order to complete the vulnerability assessment, we need to identify what is vulnerable to the hazards within the plan. Therefore, an updated critical & public facility geodatabase is needed. The 2017 geodatabase was updated by cross-referencing information with the county's data. Frank McKenzie, Planning and Zoning, provided current county data. This ensured the accuracy of the data which is important because these facilities will be used for applicable hazard vulnerability assessments.

The basic information for facilities was available however additional data columns were added for the purpose of assessing vulnerability. This included county parcel data such as account ID, year built, improvement value, number of building stories. As necessary, changes were made, or information added to those data cells that were empty. These attribute tables will continue to evolve during the vulnerability assessment. Additional columns will be included to note if the facility is impacted by a particular hazard. For example, a column for the 1% annual chance floodplain will be added and if a facility is within the floodplain, it will be noted yes and if the depth of flood is available, it will be included as well. This will be completed for other hazards such as for storm surge and sea level. This information will be integrated into the vulnerability assessment sections within hazard chapters.

Social Vulnerability

The next important plan update is the inclusion of a Social Vulnerability Index within hazard chapters. Literature on the importance of integrating social vulnerability analyses into hazard mitigation planning has existed for decades, but many hazard mitigation plans do not explicitly acknowledge or incorporate social vulnerability into their risk assessments or mitigation actions. This is due to several reasons, some of which include: a lack of access to demographic data at neighborhood levels, the lack of social capital and visibility of vulnerable populations, and lack of awareness and understanding of how to incorporate understandings of social vulnerability into hazard mitigation planning.





WICOMICO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION & RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2

March 25, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM

However, there are developed methods for integrating social vulnerability into hazard mitigation plans. The SVI method we are utilizing was originally developed specifically for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and is designed to aid public health officials and emergency response planners identify vulnerable populations that most likely need support before, during, or after a hazard event. The SVI is calculated for the County overall (by census tract) and will also be calculated for hazards with a well-defined geographic extent. Currently, the existing SVI for Wicomico County utilizes 2018 ACS 5-year estimate data. The SVI included in this Plan Update, at the very least, includes 2019 ACS data, which is currently the best available demographic data to work with for this type of analysis. If the Census Bureau is on-time with the release of their 2020 data, then that will be utilized as extensively as possible for the SVI.

Public Survey

Assistance is needed with public outreach. The public survey is available on the project website and at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V6GHGQZ>. Please consider sharing this link.

Get Involved

The Wicomico County Hazard Mitigation & Resilience Plan is a project that aims to ensure the County is prepared for various hazards. The Department of Emergency Services is placing special emphasis on understanding citizens' concerns regarding hazards. Community input is incredibly valuable.

Therefore a survey is being used to collect your insight and perspective. The survey consists of 9 questions and will take an average of 4 minutes or less to complete. Please click below to participate!

[Participate Now](#)

The **Lower Shore Vulnerable Populations Task Force- Language Workgroup** reviewed the project website and offered suggested changes specific to the public survey. Suggestions included the “use of more concise and clear language, avoiding more stilted style, so as to be more accessible to the community as a whole.” As such, the public survey was modified.



WICOMICO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION & RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2 March 25, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM

Next Steps

- Meeting #2 Notes- Distributed to all stakeholders and uploaded to project website.
- Capability Assessment- Will need stakeholder input and review.
- Develop & collect new mitigation ideas.
- Promote project website and public survey.
- Update hazard vulnerability assessment and include social vulnerability.
- Continue Targeted Small Group Meetings: April-May 2021
- Meeting #3- May 2021