

Meeting Notes

Title: Prince George’s County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Kick-Off **Location:** Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Date: Friday, September 16th, 2022 **Time:** 12:00 – 1:10 pm ET

Purpose: The 2023 update of the Prince George’s County, MD Hazard Mitigation Plan is underway. Dewberry will provide an overview of the planning process and the input that will be needed from the County and the City of Laurel to update the plan.

Attendees:

1. Scott Choquette, *Dewberry (Presenter)*
2. Jade Payne, *Dewberry (Presenter)*
3. Ehsan Bahador, *Prince George’s County*
4. Joey Henderson, *Prince George’s County*
5. Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, *Prince George’s County*
6. Ronald E. Gill, *Prince George’s County*
7. Lilantha Tennekoon, *Prince George’s County*
8. Tiatte M. Day, *Prince George’s County*
9. Christina Cornwell, *City of Laurel*
10. Alexandra D. Harris, *Prince George’s County*

Meeting Summary

Scott Choquette (Project Manager, Dewberry) and Jade Payne (Deputy Project Manager, Dewberry) met with the Prince George’s County Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) on September 16, 2022 to provide an overview of the mitigation plan update process. A PowerPoint presentation was used to review the project purpose, schedule, public outreach plan, and the planned updates to each section. Discussions were held throughout the presentation so Dewberry could gather feedback from the MAC on how the plan update should proceed. Discussion and presentation topics are grouped below with input and questions from the MAC.

Meeting Notes

Introduction
<i>No Comments</i>
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Overview
<i>No Comments</i>

Current Plan Status Discussion – Hazard Ranking

- Ehsan: The ratio of flash flooding has been increasing. We've seen changing rainfall patterns.
- Dawn: I agree about flash flooding as an emerging hazard. Is the mapping of pluvial flooding a requirement to consider it a hazard in the plan? If we know the general areas of the flooding often, can we use that?
 - Scott: Yes, we can use that anecdotal information in the plan. I would recommend including an action to create a "rain on grid" type model in the mitigation strategy. We will figure out some way to include it.
- Dawn: The County completed a climate action plan where extreme heat was included as an emerging/high hazard in the County. We could change it to "Medium-High"
 - Scott: We can do that, and we have seen communities include action around shade tree plantings, cooling centers, etc.
- Joey: Do we see more power outages from severe storms (wind-related)?
 - Dawn: We've had a couple in the summer associated with microbursts. It is becoming a little bit more common, but it is still medium-high ranking in my opinion.

Current Plan Status Discussion – Mitigation Goal

- Ehsan: We focus on all four categories already, but the main aspect of mitigation strategies should be the same.
 - Scott: We will take the first pass at the new goals and objectives and run it by you for review.

Current Plan Status Discussion – Developments Since 2017

- Dawn: We've created a Climate Action Plan.
- Dawn: Flooding – With the availability of federal funding to address infrastructure issues, the County has been able to put more of our CIP efforts toward addressing the small residential drainage issues. Our programming has been modified a little bit to reflect this and put more effort toward flood mitigation based on grant availability.
- Dawn: We are embarking more on efforts to reduce our GHG emissions. There is some overlap with flood mitigation efforts on natural resources side (e.g., green infrastructure). Some of our county-level priorities are moving in the direction of climate adaptation and incorporating flood mitigation.
- Ehsan: We have been encouraging more nature-based solutions based on FEMA priorities (combo of green/grey infrastructure). This would be more innovative mitigation actions. We integrated community lifelines and SVI for HMA applications to enhance equity with socially vulnerable populations. We have been focusing more on hazards that will be amplified or intensified by climate change.
- Ehsan: I would like to see the plan updated based on what the new policy from FEMA says. That would be the biggest change I'd want to see.
- Dawn: We should ensure that we are accounting for recommendations coming from other plans underway in the county. We have a climate implementation task force that will be working to identify priority projects/efforts for the county to invest in to reduce or carbon footprint. We are also embarking on watershed studies with USACE and a consultant to identify mitigation measures in specific watersheds to reduce flood risk. We should have some recommended projects from those in the next phase of the study.
 - Scott: Do you know the timeline for the studies or task force?
 - Dawn: The task force should have findings by the end of this fiscal year (June/July 2023). As for the watershed studies, the timeline is underway still.
 - Lilantha (leading studies): We are looking at 2 years for the bigger watersheds, but smaller ones maybe Oct 2023/end of fiscal year 2024.

- Lilantha: MDE alerted the County that we should designate more of our dams as HHPD or significant dams. We have 35 high-hazard/significant dams in the county. Many are owned by the County, Laurel has one, and a few others are city/municipal managed. The new tally is 35. The MDE website has the spreadsheets, but we can also provide them.
- Ron: Dawn – can we talk about the climate change task force soon?
 - Dawn: Sure.
- Christina (City of Laurel): CRS progress – we are now officially a part of it. We may have done some floodproofing to city facilities, but I have to double-check. We should have recommendations from USACE on a regional project (technical study) that gives recs for regional projects. Within that, USACE did a flood study that we have as well. We have an EAP for our HHPD. We had an inspection done and a tabletop exercise. There may be a few questions that I have later on since I wasn't involved last time. Drought response/planning was supposed to happen with WSSE and the County--not sure if that happened. After this plan was approved, the city did a flood addendum that was submitted and approved. That was supposed to be adopted by the county but I don't think it was.

Action Items: Data Request Questions

- Ehsan: Regarding critical facilities – much of that information is considered sensitive data from the county (e.g., federal facilities)
 - Ron: I'm fine with providing addresses and types of facilities (hospitals, police departments, etc.) since that can be found online anyway.
- Ehsan: Regarding population projections, that information can come from the census.
- Ehsan: What do you mean by 'future development'?
 - Scott: An area of redevelopment or planned development/improvement

Next Steps: Action Items

1. Contact List (*suggested stakeholder list sent to County*)
2. Requested Data for HIRA (*list sent to County*)
3. Comments received from FEMA Region 3 in 2017 (FEMA Review Tool) (*action item from meeting*)
4. Provide flood addendum to 2017 plan (*action item from meeting*)
5. Provide updated dam spreadsheet (*action item from meeting*)
6. Christina (City of Laurel): Provide information on mitigation projects since 2017 (floodproofing city facilities) (*action item from meeting*)
7. Christina (City of Laurel): Provide any information you have on USACE technical studies and recommendations. (*action item from meeting*)
8. Capability Assessment Worksheet – County and City each get one (*coming soon*)
9. Mitigation Strategy Status Update (*coming soon*)

Please email to Jade Payne at jpayne@dewberry.com