

Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Title: Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams (Virtual)
- HIRA Results

Date: Wednesday, November 16th, 2022 Time: 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET

Purpose: Dewberry will provide a status update on the project’s progress and public outreach efforts, followed by an overview of substantial changes in risk assessment results from the 2017 plan. There will be a discussion of proposed mitigation goals and objectives, as well as a brainstorming session for potential projects/actions and project locations. We will close with next steps and questions.

- Attendees:
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| 1. Scott Choquette, Dewberry | 16. Ehsan Bahador, OHS/OEM |
| 2. Jade Payne, Dewberry | 17. Frank L. Galosi, DOE |
| 3. Jesse Nelson, Dewberry | 18. Jeffrey M. DeHan, Stormwater Management, DOE |
| 4. Hanna Rush, Dewberry | 19. Sudhanshu Mishra, DOE |
| 5. Joanne Hall Barr, City of Laurel | 20. Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, DOE |
| 6. James E. McClelland, Fire/EMS Services | 21. Kim Finch, Environmental Section, Planning Department |
| 7. Robert Love, Economic and Commerce Department, City of Laurel | 22. Reynaldo S. De Guzman, Floodplain Administrator, Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement |
| 8. Stephanie Robinson, Emergency Management, City of Laurel | 23. Anthony J. Cline, Bureau of Homeland Security & Intelligence |
| 9. Joey L. Henderson, OHS/OEM | 24. Mary C. Sherrill, Department of Public Works and Transportation |
| 10. Dr. Toye Lattimore, Founders Woods HOA | 25. Pete Pedersen, PEPCO |
| 11. Carreen Koubek, Office of the City Administrator, City of Laurel | 26. James A. Carter, OHS |
| 12. Patrick T. Callahan, DOE | 27. Katina Shoulars, Department of Parks and Recreation |
| 13. Wanda Ramos, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission | 28. Joanna M. Smith, DOE |
| 14. Kelly Flint, Dam Safety, MD DOE | 29. Miles Roesner, Department of Information Technology |
| 15. Michael Block, WSSC Water Representative | |

Meeting Summary

Scott Choquette (Project Manager, Dewberry) and Jade Payne (Deputy Project Manager, Dewberry) held a public meeting as representatives of the Prince George’s County Office of Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Management on September 16, 2022. A PowerPoint presentation was used to review the project status and highlight key risk assessment results. Discussions were held to solicit MAC feedback on draft

mitigation goals, objectives, and potential mitigation projects. Discussion and presentation topics are grouped below with input and questions from the attendees.

Meeting Notes

Introduction

No Comments

Project Status

No Comments

Risk Assessment Results

- Ehsan - A couple questions about SVI – for District 9 and 4 during the SVI analysis, it was lower. Is this because of the population? No transportation to District 9. District 1,2,3 transportation an issue. What is the reason for the low SVI?
 - Jade – population differences in the area leads to the difference. The makeup of the population and density created the different SVI scores. A more in depth look at the breakdown of the scores is necessary and really honing in on the census tracts, highlighting those that reach the bar of SVI that FEMA is looking for, and for those that don't reach that FEMA set bar, looking at the different themes and seeing what makes it not reach that bar.
- Ehsan - For the dams – they have high hazard dams. Are we considering these high hazard dams or just consider the 7 dams mentioned in the slides?
 - Jade - Dam failure section itself has all of the dam data sent over. We have information for all of the dams and levees. It gets more into detail there, so we only presented on the failures.
- Ehsan - We missed the College Park tornadoe – was a EF3.
 - Jade - We only included the tornadoes since 2012, cutoff date since there is a much more detailed list in the plan. It goes in the appendix since it is very lengthy.

Draft Mitigation Goals Discussion

- Joey – knows the objective is fairly broad but would like to hear on if we should be more specific. If we are more specific, FEMA would hold us to that. Things are constantly changing, so our priorities outlined in the plan may change in 2 years.
 - Jade – That's true. These goals we try to identify are the main areas we can focus on. We can get more specific for objectives, but very valuable to find out specificity
- Frank with DOE – It mentioned equitably aligning benefits. The part they work the most with is property owner buy in. Property rights. Property benefits, but don't want to be restricted with what they can do with the property. Flood benefits, but not with restrictions on the property. While reserving property rights is a critical component of every CIP they implement.
- Frank - I would start with a basic awareness of all staff having an HMP
 - Jade – Definitely agree, that is one of our questions in the Hazard Mitigation Survey. That is always one of the biggest things that stands out in any Hazard Mitigation
- Dawn – There is a huge need for awareness of the federal dollars coming down to state and local governments for specific types of hazard mitigation and climate resilience projects. Due to that abundance of dollars, it is very important to know which federal dollars apply to what.

- Jade – Absolutely. Would this be addressed with more time spent on a section spelling out the projects and actions that align with different grant opportunities?
 - Dawn – That would be very helpful.
- Jade – When these notices of grant opportunities come out, are there internal notices sending this information around the county or city?
 - Dawn – Usually that comes from Joey.
 - Joey – OHS tries to push out that information to partnering agencies and the whole county. Some grants aren't from FEMA though and they don't have visibility on these. If it comes from Maryland DEP or others. They only know the grants coming from FEMA
- Dawn – by advancing heat to medium high hazard, other departments might be interested in grants that would be made available to address extreme heat
 - Joey – that gives a whole other line of grants. They might not directly tie into hazard mitigation, but there is a possibility.
 - Jade – if you emphasize co-benefits, that can help to create more funding. But it seems to be difficult to find visibility for breadth of funding availability. We will try and incorporate that into the Mitigation Strategy. A potential action to include will be tasking someone with the responsibility to go down list of grants to see what funding is available
- Ehsan – Regarding capability and capacity concerns. Most counties/municipalities need technical assistance. Most municipalities don't have capacity to do BCAs themselves, and don't have trained staff. Good to consider technical assistance.
 - Jade – is this just the jurisdictions in the county or county itself?
 - Ehsan – County itself too. County needs BCA applications, but they don't know how to do it properly. Need assistance.
- Kelly – just reading through HHPD (?) NOFO for 2022, you need a hazard mitigation plan to qualify. The hazard mitigation plan has to include risk to dams and comply with disaster mitigation plan.
 - Jade – One of goals was to meet HHPD requirements. This will be out for review soon, making sure we're hitting all of these points and making them eligible for grant.
- Joanne –in our community recognizing non-English speaking residents of the community making sure they are receiving this information.
 - Jade – does county and city have ongoing communication in other languages covering topics of hazard mitigation?
 - Joanne – They do, social media platform has increased, and local newspaper reaches out to people. Not sure if they are reaching those without English as their first language. Can't gauge with complete accuracy.
- Dawn – how does the public find out about Hazard mitigation plans? Is there validity to setting up a county webpage for hazard mitigation plan? People can go in there to find information. Create greater awareness. At this time, on DOEs webpage there is information on the Hazard mitigation plan. Homeland security webpage too. Not sure if there is one centric webpage.
 - Ehsan – No, there is not one centric webpage.
 - Jade – Yes, that is a good point. One centric would be good. Homeland Security page is only for 5-year build out process. Creating a more year-round information webpage would be a helpful tool to have.
- Stephanie – They have CAP for 2022-2025, specifically outlines resiliency. Implementing electrical grids and natural gas actions. They can send that. A hazard mitigation plan – stressing building codes to keep people out of flood plain should be very important.,
 - Joey – County does have a CAP
 - Jade – we have both of those and we have been reviewing it. Glad Stephanie mentioned grids. FEMA does provide funding for microgrids. If they want us to include information on that funding, we can include it.
 - Dawn/Stephanie – We would love to see that included.

- Patrick - Sorry, slow to get this out, but the County has a public outreach website for Vision Zero built in house using the Esri Hub site: <https://visionzero-princegeorges.hub.arcgis.com/>
 - Jade – thank you for sending. We will include this in the mitigation strategy.

Potential Project Brainstorm

- Ehsan – Generally, from a year ago, FEMA is emphasizing nature-based solutions. Long term strategies, instead of just looking at short term. This needs to be considered in our HMP since FEMA is shifting this way. HMP should justify projects based on that. We do have a couple nature-based solutions, but not too much. Sometimes the project depends on location of mitigation project, a combo of both would be perfect and not just one of them.
 - Jade – Especially with FEMA grants, including SVI requirements that can get a lot of points and nature-based solutions get points, stacking these all together will make it a lot more likely to get these grants.
- Jeffrey – As important to identify routine work or maintenance that helps to contribute to flood reduction. New projects are fantastic and can better existing conditions (infrastructure or dams, etc.). Stormwater management ponds, channels, rehabilitation or cleaning storm drains, there should be a way to integrate these existing routine work and maintenance and their effects with the new projects. Measurement and data are important. Performance metrics can help to quantify how their work is increasing capacity or increasing volume of control, mitigating CFS through flood area. Important to capture this information. Not sure it resonates with the HMP. HMP should have a metric in there that provides or drives this data capture and communication. Will lend to perception of what the government is doing.
 - Jade – Can incorporate it in there, whether or not they include it as an action. Useful to do it and can try and come up with ways that while they are performing actions and projects to keep the data in one place, to show that the county has been effective in the past.
- Dawn – Where would we fit in the need for resilience? With all of the various hazards the county is at risk for, there is some need for centers where communities can go to, to receive basic needs until their homes/utilities/service are restored, and until they can get other assistance with housing. How do we fit this need into the HMP?
 - Jade – Can definitely include this as an action in the mitigation strategy. Additionally helpful to identify areas of interest in the risk assessment that can help to determine what the needs are. Baltimore does this, so we can use their model or aspects of their model to form our own.
 - Jade – Are these resiliency hubs similar to Baltimore? Deal with natural hazards, but also in partnership with health dept and social services?
 - Dawn – Yeah.

Next Steps

No Comments

Questions & Comments (Open Forum)

No Comments