

Middle Peninsula All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

LOCAL PLANNING TEAM

Meeting 1 - Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 10am

1. Welcome & Local Planning Team Introductions

Ms. Jackie Rickards, Project Manager, welcomed participants to the first meeting of the Local Planning Team (LPT). Those in attendance included:

- Holly McGowan, Town of West Point
- John Edwards, Town of West Point
- Steve Hudgins, King William County
- Sherry Graham, King William County
- Donna Sprouse, King & Queen County
- Willie Love, Mathews County
- James Knighton, Mathews County
- Jimmy Brann, Essex County
- Brandy Buford, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Floodplain Management
- Michael Barber, DCR Floodplain Management
- Joyce McGowan, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Ronald Peaks, VDOT
- Eric Seymour, National Weather Service
- Harrison Bresee, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
- Alexander Krupp, VDEM
- Heather Tuck, Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
- Frank Adams, Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- Leigh Mitchell, Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- Patricia Morris, Rappahannock Tribe
- Robert Gray, Mattaponi Tribe
- Elizabeth Andrews, Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic at the College of William and Mary Law School
- Wie Yusuf, Old Dominion University

2. Introduction to Plan

Ms. Rickards provided an overview of what the hazards mitigation is and why this plan is important to localities. Based on the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2K) legislation, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program and the Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) were created. DMA 2K requires local governments to develop and submit mitigation plans that demonstrate “a jurisdiction’s commitment to reduce risk from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards.” Also, Ms. Rickards explained that there may be risks to the locality and its citizens if the locality chooses not to participate in this plan. Consequences

may include not being eligible to receive post-disaster hazard mitigation funding (i.e. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)) from FEMA funding; not maintaining compliance of a locality's local floodplain management program; not having access to Federal Flood Insurance Policies; and not having access to federally backed mortgage or having federally backed mortgages recalled within your community.

Next, Ms. Rickards reviewed the project timeline and the role of the LPT. Please see the presentation for more information.

3. Components of Plan

Ms. Rickards reviewed the components of the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan and provided a short overview of each component. Ms. Rickards also shared information on trainings offered by FEMA and asked if localities were interested in the topics presented. There was no response from the LPT, but Ms. Rickards will request this information in the meeting follow-up email.

4. Public Outreach

As part of the plan update federal regulations require a public outreach component to the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan update. Ms. Rickards suggested an approach to public outreach which included updating at the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) monthly, updating locality boards and councils on a regular basis, an information page on the MPPDC website, social media, public surveys, and print media. Ms. Rickards will work to finalize the outreach approach to send out to the LPT for approval.

In conjunction with the public outreach component of the plan update, there are federal requirements to maintain the plan annually. According to FEMA Region 3, maintaining the plan should include:

- Record any major disasters or hazard events;
- Document any new risk information or hazard data gathered;
- Review mitigation strategies and update progress on mitigation actions and noting new actions or project that were recently identified, funded, or underway;
- Address needs required to implement your mitigation strategy such as training, data, or funding.
- Review opportunities for integrating data into actions from the AHMP into other plans and programs; and
- Identify any challenges where technical assistance from the State or FEMA Region 3 would be helpful.

5. Hazus Contract with Dewberry

Ms. Rickards explained that she started discussions with Dewberry to conduct a HAZUS assessment of the Middle Peninsula Region. HAZUS is a GIS based risk model that assesses hazard risk to a particular location. For the Middle Peninsula, the HAZUS assessment will include flooding, hurricane wind(s), and sea level rise impacts. Ms. Rickards explained that a similar analysis will be conducted for the flooding and hurricane wind that was conducted in 2016, however the LPT needed to select 2 scenarios for the sea level rise analysis. In 2016, the HAZUS ran two sea level rise scenarios. The scenarios included the baseline and the second was a Plus 6-foot scenario with a planning horizon of 2100. For the plan update, Ms. Rickards suggested the baseline scenario (Mean Higher High Water) from the NOAA model and a planning horizon of 2100. For the 2nd scenario Ms. Rickards shared two options. First was the most extreme sea level scenario of 11.29ft, with a planning horizon of 2100. Second was the intermediate high scenario of 6.69 ft, with a planning horizon of 2100. Upon reviewing these options, Eric Seymour from the National Weather Service shared that the highest water levels recorded on the 2 regional water gauges were 3.8 ft and 4.25ft. With this information the LPT decided to shorten the planning

horizon and focus on 2060. This was the middle of the road option that is reflected and supported by the Virginia Resiliency Master Plan Framework. Finally, as Governor Northam signed Executive Order 45 in November 2019 to approve to except NOAA's Intermediate-High sea level rise curve as the planning standard for VA state-owned buildings, the LPT was interested in mimicking the State's efforts and therefore selected to run the intermediate-high scenario. With this decision, Ms. Rickards will inform Dewberry to begin the HAZUS analysis with the mentioned scenarios.

6. RAFT Program

Elizabeth Andrews with the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School and Wie Yusuf with Old Dominion University provided a presentation to the LPT regarding The RAFT (Resilience Adaption Feasibility Tool). The RAFT is a tool to help Virginia's coastal localities improve resilience to flooding and other coastal storm hazards while remaining economically and socially viable. This RAFT tool could assist localities in developing more focused mitigation strategies and projects.

7. Community Profiles

Ms. Rickards explained that the Community Profiles are included in Section 3 of the 2016 AHMP which describes the planning area for the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. This section includes a regional summary and summaries of each localities. Ms. Rickards explained that she will send locality representatives on the LPT the 2016 version of their Community Profile to update. The deadline to return this updated document is Friday, February 5, 2021.

8. Introductions to Local Hazards

The LPT did not address this topic at the first meeting. Ms. Rickards will move this topic to the second meeting of the LPT.

9. Next meeting(s)

Ms. Rickards recommended the following dates for the next meetings of the LPT:

- February 8, 2021 10am
- February 22, 2021 10am
- March 15, 2021 10am
- March 29, 2021 10am

Ms. Rickards will send out meeting invitations for these meetings.