

Meeting Notes



Clermont County, Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mitigation Strategies Meeting / FILE 174332005

Date/Time: December 7, 2012 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM EST
Place: Clermont County Emergency Operation Center
2279 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, Ohio 45103
Attendees: Pam Broughton - Clermont County EMA
Scott Light – Pierce Township
Tim Kelly – Clermont Health District
Carl Lamping – Clermont County Building Department
Lyle Bloom – Clermont County Water Resources Dept.
Jim Dinkel – Ohio Valley Long-Term Recovery Committee
John Menninger - Stantec Consulting Services
Adam Pooler - Stantec Consulting Services

INTRODUCTION

Introductions were performed for the group. Following introductions, John Menninger (Stantec) provided an overview of the planning process and objectives for the Mitigation Strategies Meeting. Mr. Menninger then went through the Stakeholder Meeting Mitigation Strategies Presentation. A copy of the presentation is provided with the meeting minutes.

PRESENTATION REVIEW

The primary elements of the presentation included:

- **Introductions**
- **Purpose / Goals**
- **Mitigation Project Development**
- **Mitigation Activities**
- **Next Steps**

Purpose / Goals

Mr. Menninger introduced the PowerPoint presentation and identified the main purpose and goals for updating the Plan and identified the Mitigation Strategy goals.

Mitigation Project Development

Mr. Menninger outlined the primary plan elements. The 5 main elements of the plan are: Planning, Risk Assessment, Mitigation Strategies, Plan Review and Adoption, and Plan Maintenance. Mr. Menninger went through a brief description of the different Mitigation Project Types and the Mitigation Strategy Form. He then discussed mitigation strategies for each hazard of concern.

- **Severe Storms:** The Core Group identified the following potential mitigation actions.
 - Build/Incorporate storm shelters inside new public buildings.
 - Purchase weather radios
 - Identify list of building code compliant Red Cross shelters and categorize them into different use types such as: Overnight, Basic Necessities, and Kitchen Facilities.
 - Develop a multi-tiered mass notification system that may include telephone, text messaging, e-mail, mobile device/alert applications, weather radios, social media, and warning sirens.
 - Review potential uses of social media for education/awareness.
 - Purchase and install back-up generators inside government and utility buildings/structures.
 - County-wide mutual aid compact allowing community departments to work with other communities, specifically public works and road departments.
 - Identify the capabilities of back-up generators and develop recommendations for fuel prioritization.
 - Incorporate critical care facilities into the mass notification system.
 - Review the grant potential for surge protection at the water treatment plants. Power outages that trip pumps can result in water hammer that causes damage at the plant.
- **Winter Storms:** The Winter Storms would have the same actions as the Severe Storms with one exception. The need for long-term public shelters can arise due to power loss and the extreme temperatures. The action will be to develop a tiered list of shelters based on capability and function. For example, locations that can be short-term reception sites; information centers where people can get hot showers, meals, charge cell phones, etc.; temporary storm shelters, short-term overnight shelters; and long-term shelters. This list will need to have structures

approved for certain buildings codes; however the group understands that during an emergency that is not always practical.

- **Flooding:** Carl Lamping and Lyle Bloom did not identify any major flooding issues in the county. Communities bordering the Ohio River are aware of flood risks. New structures comply with building standards including elevating the 1st floor and utilities. It is a challenge to balance flood mitigation with sustaining the social and economic heart of a community. The following actions were identified.
 - Evaluate locations for signage at repeated high water locations.
 - Storm water management system improvements/maintenance (Miami Township).
 - Implement water management and sediment control regulations (City of Milford).
 - Stream embankment and pavement stabilization projects (Washington Township).
 - Retrofit docks and boat ramps to protect against damages by barges during high water/flood events (Washington Township).
 - Replace or upgrade existing storm water infrastructure (Monroe Township and Washington Township).
 - Implement storm water relief plan (Village of Owensville)
 - Public Outreach – Continue to identify potential flooding and inform citizens through social media and the mass notification system.
 - Retrofit / flood proofing existing structures to mitigate flooding concerns.
 - Buy-out homes/structures to remove them from the hazard.

- **Tornadoes:** The following actions were identified.
 - Develop a mass notification system (see Severe Storms)
 - Build safe rooms or shelters at public parks and mobile home parks.
 - Replace/Install tornado/emergency sirens to provide 95%+ coverage area in Miami Township.
 - Replace/Install tornado/emergency sirens in the City of Milford, Pierce Township, and Washington Township (The cities/villages and townships purchase/maintain sirens.).
 - Identify temporary/long-term shelters (see Winter Storms).

- **Landslide:** The following actions were identified.
 - Work with the Planning Department to develop standards and regulations for development in landslide prone areas. (vegetation and hill cutting)

- Work with the Planning Department to develop standards and regulations for development in landslide prone areas. (federal and state agencies)
 - Work with the Engineer's office to create a memorandum of understanding with other Public Works Agencies / Road Departments.
- **Drought:** The following actions were identified.
 - Coordinate with the Fire Service Alliance for outreach concerning droughts and wildfires.
 - The current site layout of neighborhoods and homes is poor; a fire/buffer zone should surround the home. Work with the Planning Commission to create a buffer zone regulation to prevent the spread of wildfires.
 - Develop a map of sensitive populations.
 - Develop a PSA to define the use of dry hydrants (work with SWCD).
- **Earthquakes:** The following actions were identified.
 - Provide Education/Information on General Preparedness before, during, and after an Earthquake using Social Media.
 - Develop a mass communication system (see Severe Storms).
- **Hazardous Materials:** The following actions were identified.
 - A Commodity Flow Study will be performed to characterize the movement of hazardous materials transported through the County.
 - Develop a Water Source Protection Plan for William H. Harsha Lake.
 - Provide public awareness on the disposal/storage of batteries within a community and the county.
 - House De-con /HazMat Trailer for region (Washington Township).
 - Implement/Enforce a Wellhead Protection Plan (City of Milford).
- **Dam Failure:** The following actions were identified.
 - Encourage the development of Emergency Action Plans for each dam.
 - Provide public outreach through social media on dam safety.
- **Invasive Species:** The following actions were identified.
 - Public outreach / education on preventing the spread of invasive species
 - Remove invasive vegetation from sensitive areas

- Continue to enforce the firewood movement ban for reducing the spread of Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Longhorned Beetle.
- **Power Failures:** The following actions were identified.
 - Create/Maintain a Power Restoration Priority Plan for the county. This Plan should coordinate with all Critical Facilities the appropriate reporting mechanism during wide spread power outages. Specifically, Critical Care Facilities need to be included within the Plan (e.g. Nursing Homes, Hospitals, etc.).

Mitigation Activities - Prioritization

The next step for the plan is to prioritize the mitigation actions. This will be done through a ranking matrix. Once all actions have been received a set of eight categories will be used to further prioritize and rank the actions.

These include:

- **Cost Effective**
- **Technically Feasible**
- **Environmentally Sound**
- **Socially Equitable**
- **Meets Local Regulations**
- **Activities Reduce Risk**
- **Socially Acceptable**
- **Funding Available**

Each Category will be ranked 1 (low) – 3 (high). The score will be totaled up the highest scores will be the Hazard Mitigation Plan Action Items. The matrix below will be completed for each hazard on a county-wide basis.

Clermont County All Hazards Mitigation Plan	Cost Effective	Technically Feasible	Environmentally Sound	Socially Equitable	Meets Local Regulations	Activities Reduce Risk	Socially Acceptable	Funding Available	Total
Hazard									

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Schedule / Path Forward

The group then discussed the next steps forward. There will be a slight change in schedule due to the inclusion of an extended review period discussed at the meeting.

The Core Group wishes to meet with County Departments to get their feedback on mitigation actions and strategies. A tentative date of December 19, 2012 was selected.

The Draft Plan will be provided to the available for review by stakeholder and the general public on January 11, 2013.

The Core Group wishes to meet with the Township Trustees to provide plan information and feedback. Pam Broughton, Carl Lamping, and John Menninger will attend the Township Trustees meeting in January 2013.

There will be a Public Meeting on February 7, 2013 to introduce the plan and solicit public comment. The meeting will be held at the Clermont County Engineers Conference Room 2381 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, Ohio 45103 at 7:00 PM

Ms. Broughton also requested that Stakeholders provide a list of hours/cost incurred from work on the Hazard Mitigation Planning Process. This information will be used to provide the \$10,000 local in-kind match.

Key Action Items

Ms. Broughton and Stantec will continue to gather hazard information and Mitigation Actions, with additional data sources reviewed by Stantec and added to the risk analysis, as appropriate. The Draft Plan will be released for public comment on January 11th, 2013. The Plan will be posted on the Clermont County EMA webpage and hard copies will be posted at all 10 Public Library Branches. Comments can be submitted electronically via the EMA webpage, via e-mail to clermontema@clermontcountyohio.gov or in hard copy at any one of the library branches. There will be a public meeting to discuss the plan, which will be held on February 07, 2013.

The presentation and minutes will be reviewed and prepared for distribution.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of the items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

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