

SOMERSET COUNTY MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

MITIGATION ACTION ITEMS WORKSHOP

September 12, 2022, 1:30 – 4:00 PM

The following Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) members were present at the mitigation workshop:

| Name | Organization/Department |
|-------------------|---|
| Ronald Alameda | Town of Princess Anne (Nuisance Abatement) |
| Clayton Anderson | Town of Princess Anne (Town Manager) |
| Jerred A. Johnson | SC Emergency Services (Emergency Planner) |
| Keith Lackie | MD Department of Planning (Regional Planner) |
| Chris Osment | SC Health Department (Emergency Planner) |
| Christopher Parks | Eastern Correctional Institute (Lieutenant Risk Manager) |
| Mary Phillips | SC Technical and Community Services (Zoning Admin/Assistant Director) |
| Gary Powell | SC Emergency Services (Assistant Director) |
| John Redden | SC Office of County Engineer (County Engineer) |
| Diane Waller | SC Health Department (Director of Environmental Health) |
| Drew Wilson | Natural Resources Police (Area Commander) |
| Michele King | SP&D |
| Eric Messick | SP&D |

Agenda

- Introductions/Icebreakers
- Plan Status Update
 - Draft Hazard Chapters
 - Outreach Activities (project website, public survey, social media)
- Mitigation Action Item In-Person Workshop
- Next Steps

Plan Status Update

Draft Hazard Chapters

- All hazards identified in the plan have received a draft update, including: flood, coastal hazards, shoreline erosion and sea level rise, drought and extreme heat, thunderstorm, tornado and high wind, winter storm, wildfire, hazmat, major transportation accident, epidemic, earthquake.
 - These chapters have received a thematic and visual update, as well as updates to data, tables, text, vulnerability assessments (where applicable), and mapping (where applicable).

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- The drafts have been sent to stakeholders for review and comment. The drafts were also placed on the project website for public review. Members of the public were able to sign up to become a project stakeholder via the project website.
- The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Method (Appendix A) was completed and provided to stakeholders. This appendix is also available on the project website (www.somersetmdhazardplan.org/).
- The Mitigation Action Items Update (Appendix B) was completed and provided to stakeholders and added to the project website.
- FEMA Region 3 “Checking In On The NFIP” Worksheets were completed for Somerset County and its municipalities. These worksheets include local capabilities related to floodplain identification and mapping, floodplain management, and flood insurance.

Outreach – Public and Social Media

- The project website was launched at the beginning of summer and serves to facilitate public involvement during the plan update via hazard mitigation information, the upload of draft plan content, public survey, meeting information and notes, and contact form.
 - The website is posted on Somerset County’s Emergency Services and Health Department’s social media (e.g., Facebook) which drives traffic to the public survey and project website.
- The **public survey** was launched with the project website and seeks public input regarding where individuals live, work, concern for hazards identified in the HMP, preferred types of mitigation actions taken by local government, and more.
 - Preliminary results indicate the public is **most concerned** with the following five hazards: Flooding, Coastal Hazards, Shoreline Erosion, Sea Level Rise, and Emerging Infectious Diseases.
- Final results of the Public Survey will be made available as an appendix of the full plan update.

Mitigation Action Item Workshop

- Stakeholders met in-person at the Somerset County MAC Center (Activities Room) to discuss and provide feedback on fifteen (15) proposed mitigation action items in the plan update.
- First, the County’s nine (9) hazard mitigation goals and associated objectives were reviewed.
 - No new goals were added by workshop attendees and no goals or objectives were removed.
 - The following objectives were added:
 1. Objective 4.6 Increase public awareness of possible contamination of private drinking wells due to flooding.

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2. Objective 4.7 has been updated to include additional types of signage, including message boards and electronic signage.
- Next, the mitigation projects carried over from the previous plan (these are identified in Appendix B) were reviewed. None of these mitigation projects were removed.
 - Finally, pre-populated **project sheets** were refined and completed for each of the proposed mitigation action items, including the following information:
 1. **Hazard**
 2. **Location**
 3. **Project Background**
 4. **Responsible Agency**
 5. **Partners**
 6. **Ideas for Integration**
 7. **Potential Funding**
 8. **Cost Estimate**
 9. **Benefits (losses avoided)**
 10. **Timeline**
 11. **Goals and Objectives**
 - Working in two groups, stakeholders were asked to complete the project sheets to the greatest extent possible based upon their group’s knowledge and expertise.
 - These groups worked on completing their mitigation action items project sheets before reporting their findings to the larger stakeholder group. Groups were asked to share the following:
 1. “What are your group’s major takeaways?”
 2. “What are your group’s top mitigation action items?”
 3. “Which mitigation action item(s) does your group think should be considered high priority?”
 4. “Does your group have any other comments?”
 - Additionally, two new action items were added during this workshop, with the following titles:
 - Protect Wells from Contamination By Flooding
 - Additional Flashing Signage at County Railway-Crossings
 - Feedback gathered from the HMPC during this workshop regarding action items will be incorporated into the plan update within the *Mitigation Strategies* chapter.

NEXT STEPS

- Workshop Meeting Notes – distributed to all stakeholders and uploaded to project website.
- Mitigation Action Item Prioritization Survey link will be provided to stakeholders.
 - The purpose of this survey is to identify high priority projects.
 - Results of the prioritization survey will be integrated into the *Mitigation Strategies* chapter.
- Complete draft of plan update for stakeholder review and comment.

Plan Update Website: www.somersetmdhazardplan.org

Public Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z523MNN

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