

APPENDIX A:

Mitigation Action Items Update

Mitigation Action Items Update

The purpose of hazard mitigation action items and associated projects is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. During the 2017 planning process action items and projects were developed. As part of the 2022 Plan Update, a mitigation action items update was created to determine the present status of these action items/projects.

Each action item within this update included the following information:

- Project Title
- Progress Report Period (2017-2021)
- Project Background
- Responsible Entity/Partners

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) members were tasked with providing the following information for each action item, to the best of their ability:

- Contact Name/Information
- Current Project Status (e.g., Completed, Canceled, Delayed, or On Schedule)

Additionally, HMPC members were asked the following four questions for each action item:

1. What was accomplished for this project during this reporting period?
2. What obstacles, problems, or delays did the project encounter?
3. If incomplete, is the project still relevant? Should the project be changed or revised?
4. Other Comments?

A total of fifteen (15) action items were evaluated as part of the plan update process; seven (7) of these action items were ranked as **“high priority”** in the 2017 Plan. Members of the HMPC provided important feedback regarding the progress of these action items.

Based on this feedback, the following was determined: five (5) projects are “completed”, one (1) project is “on schedule” to be completed, one (1) project was “canceled”, and eight (8) projects are “delayed” for various reasons, including such reasons as the global COVID19

Mitigation Project Update Form A (HIGH)		
Project Title:	Project A: Community Rating System	
Progress Report Period:	Start Date: 2017	End Date: 2021
Project Background:	Prepare a CRS application to reduce insurance costs within the county. Currently, Somerset County is not enrolled in the CRS. As of April 2017, there are 1,388 NFIP policy holders in the county with \$1,085,258 being paid in insurance premiums. On average, Somerset County policy holders pay \$782 per year in flood insurance. By participating in the CRS, policy holders could potentially save between \$39 (5%) to \$352 (45%) per year. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website has a vast amount of detailed information pertaining to the CRS program, including a reference guide to the CRS program titled “National Flood Insurance Policy - Community Rating System Coordinators Guide”. The following table was taken from this guide and depicts the point system for activities.	
Responsible Entities:	Somerset County Emergency Services, MDE, Somerset County Planning and Zoning	
Contact Name:		
Contact Information:	Phone:	Email:
Project Status:	<input type="radio"/> Project Completed <input type="radio"/> Project Canceled <input type="radio"/> Project Delayed <input type="radio"/> Project on Schedule Anticipated Completion Date:	

Summary of Project Progress for this Report Period

1. What was accomplished for this project during this reporting period?
2. What obstacles, problems, or delays did the project encounter?
3. If incomplete, is the project still relevant? Should the project be changed or revised?
4. Other Comments

Figure A-1: An example of the fillable update form provided to HMPC members to gather feedback.

pandemic, personnel changes at the federal and local level, and lack of funding. The projects identified as “completed” are listed below. Two of the **high priority** projects were designated as “completed”; these projects are identified in red.

- ✓ **Project J: Back-up Servers (Cyber Attack)**
- ✓ Project K: Public Outreach – Emerging Infectious Diseases
- ✓ **Project L: Flood Mitigation Plan Development**
- ✓ Project N: Smith Island Heliport, Waterway Facilities & Channel Improvement
- ✓ Project O: “Dead End” and “No Outlet” Signage

The HMPC determined that the following ten (10) projects are still relevant and are to be carried forward into the 2022 Plan Update. These projects were reviewed and refined to reflect current conditions within Somerset County.

- ✓ **Project A: Community Rating System** (Delayed)
- ✓ **Project B: Commodity Flow Study** (Delayed)
- ✓ **Project C: Somerset Civic Center Generator** (Delayed)
- ✓ Project D: Natural Resources Planning – 100 ft. Critical Bay Buffer (Delayed)
- ✓ **Project E: Crisfield Tidal Flooding Prevention** (On Schedule)
- ✓ Project F: Mitigation of Roadway Flooding (Delayed)
- ✓ Project G: Critical Facility Accessibility and Signage (Delayed)
- ✓ Project H: Mitigating Tidal Health McCreedy Pavilion Flood Issues (Delayed)
- ✓ **Project I: Essential Facility Flood Mitigation** (Delayed)
- ✓ Project M: Repetitive Loss Outreach (Delayed)

The graph below further illustrates the current status of the 2017 action items based upon stakeholder feedback.

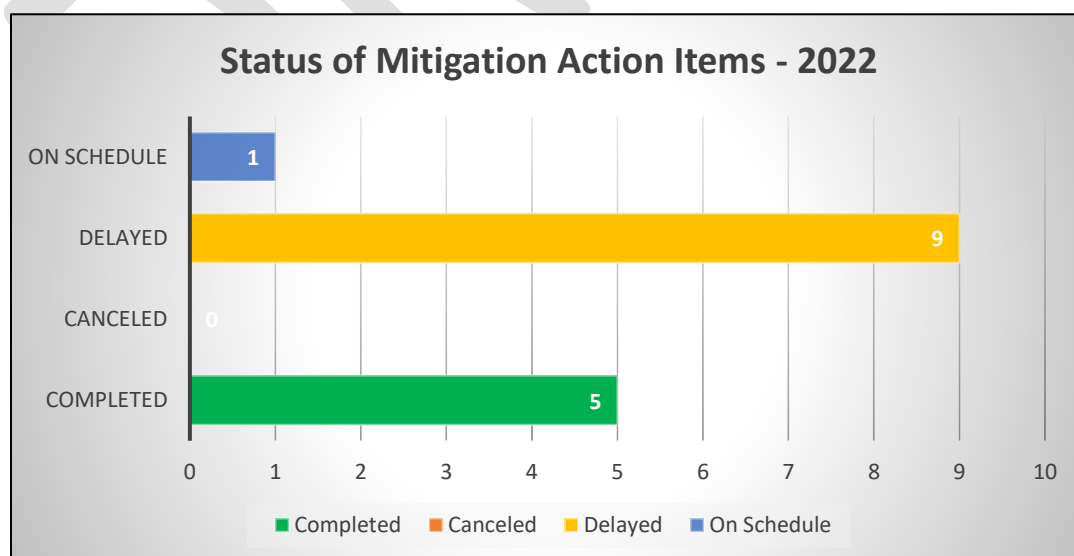


Table B-1 on the following pages provides full status details for each mitigation action item. The table includes the following information, provided by stakeholders:

1. Who responded? (e.g., department or municipality)
2. Status (Completed, On Schedule, Delayed, or Canceled)
3. What was accomplished?
4. What were the obstacles or delays?
5. Is this still relevant or does it require any revisions?
6. Other Comments

Red indicates high priority action items. Areas where no information was provided are marked with “-”.

DRAFT

TABLE A-1: MITIGATION ACTION ITEMS UPDATE – STAKEHOLDER RESPONSE MATRIX

Action Item	Responder(s)	Status	Accomplishments	Obstacles or Delays?	Relevancy/Revision?	Other Comments
Project A: Community Rating System	Emergency Services, County Engineer, Planning and Zoning	Delayed (anticipated completed for 2024+)	CE: Significant efforts were made by our Planning Office with assistance from MDE. FEMA reviewed our CRS application and most of their comments have been addressed. P&Z: Letter of intent for CRS submitted Sept 2017; FEMA CAV conducted March 2019; County is currently working through last of issues identified by CAV for compliance, before a letter of good standing is issued and CRS activity points can be assessed.	CE: COVID19 and FEMA staffing changes has delayed finalization of this process. P&Z: Personnel changes at FEMA plus Pandemic lockdown caused delays in resolution of issues.	ES: Still Relevant. P&Z: Project is still ongoing.	ES: Emergency Services was support agency on this project. At the time when the HMPC selected this project, I believe the county had leftover hurricane sandy funds to possibly hire someone to help assist with this project. We are not sure of the disposition.
Project B: Commodity Flow Study	Emergency Services	Delayed	ES: Pre-COVID19, the LEPC identified all fix sites in the county as well as doing some tours. LEPC also contacted other Emergency Management agencies in the area to obtain their latest flow study to give us an idea of what chemicals are transported through our county.	ES: COVID19 pandemic prevented us from having face to face work groups.	ES: Still relevant and beneficial to the LEPC.	-
Project C: Somerset Civic Center Generator	Emergency Services	Canceled	-	ES: We were advised by MDEM that FEMA will only approve generators at critical facilities. We do not have the Civic Center listed as a Critical Facility.	ES: Project is still relevant if FEMA requirements have changed.	ES: We used this facility as a step down shelter during Hurricane Sandy. If we could list this as a critical facility, we would still like to pursue this project.
Project D: Natural Resources Planning – 100 ft. Critical Bay Buffer	Planning and Zoning	Delayed	P&Z: Somerset County has been working with mapping partner for new Critical Area maps to be finalized which will determine scope and reach of 100' buffer. GIS mapping partner has implemented project of creating building footprint layer for the County.	P&Z: New Critical Area base maps have not been completed as anticipated. County has been working with mapping partner reviewing areas of concern or revision. Final maps are anticipated at any time.	P&Z: Once new CBCA Maps and building footprint layer are completed, the 100' Buffer impact can be assessed. Project is still ongoing.	-

TABLE A-1: MITIGATION ACTION ITEMS UPDATE – STAKEHOLDER RESPONSE MATRIX

Action Item	Responder(s)	Status	Accomplishments	Obstacles or Delays?	Relevancy/Revision?	Other Comments
Project E: Crisfield Tidal Flooding Prevention	Crisfield, County Engineer	On Schedule (anticipated for 11/2024)	<p>Crisfield: Culvert Modifications – 1/10/22 MDE performed on site final inspections. All items have been completed and the project is operating as intended thus final completion. On 1/20/22 MDE released their final inspection and has marked project complete. Tide Gates/Pumping Stations – MDE has grant money to contribute towards Phase 1 (engineering/design) RFP sent to MDE for review.</p> <p>CE: The City hired Bayland Consultants & Designers, Inc. to assess drainage for the entire municipality. A Drainage Assessment Report dated November 2021 was prepared and included recommended flood remediation for 32 high priority areas. The City intends to complete these projects as funding becomes available. This includes replacement of the tide gates.</p>	<p>Crisfield: RFP was sent to MDE for review. Sent back to the City for corrections. City will make corrections that have been recommended by MDE and resent for further review.</p>	<p>Crisfield: Project is still relevant. No changes or revisions should be made.</p>	<p>Crisfield: Environmental/Historic Special Conditions on this project, all products must be submitted and approved by FEMA Region Office III for review and approval before proceeding.</p>
Project F: Mitigation of Roadway Flooding	Roads Dept., County Engineer	Delayed	<p>RD: High water gauges were installed on roads that frequently flood. Gauges help identify the shoulder/edges of the roadbed and the approximate depth of water.</p> <p>CE: Two significant accomplishments have occurred. First, flood markers have been installed along several County roads which frequently flood. Second, low areas have been raised on several County roads which frequently flood.</p>	<p>RD: Permitting and funding.</p>	-	-
Project G: Critical Facility Accessibility and Signage	Emergency Services, Princess Anne	Delayed	<p>ES: Emergency Services applied for HMPG funding for this project.</p> <p>PA: The following locations have signage: Somerset County EOC, Karemore Pharmacy, Princess Anne Elementary School, PAFD, PAPD, and TLC Medical Center.</p>	<p>ES: Our project was not selected to be funded by FEMA.</p> <p>PA: Due to the staffing shortage experienced by the Town of Princess Anne, I was unable to locate any notes or</p>	<p>ES: We can apply for HMPG funding again when the application period opens.</p> <p>PA: The project is relevant, but Fresenius Kidney Care is located in a strip Mall with signage visible from the Highway 13. Perhaps</p>	<p>ES: Emergency Services was not the lead agency on this project.</p>

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Action Item	Responder(s)	Status	Accomplishments	Obstacles or Delays?	Relevancy/Revision?	Other Comments
				documents referencing the progress of any of the aforementioned projects.	the University of Maryland Eastern Shore can be identified. Princess Anne Town Hall and the Public Works facility could be added to the list as well.	
Project H: Mitigating Tidal Health McCready Pavilion Flood Issues	Tidal Health	Delayed	TH: Purchase of dam doors.	TH: COVID19 Response.	TH: Yes, project is still relevant. Doors need to be installed.	TH: We are working on getting a quote from a contractor to install the doors.
Project I: Essential Facility Flood Mitigation	Emergency Services	Delayed	ES: Did not accomplish anything during the reporting period.	ES: Lack of meetings due to the COVID19 Pandemic and also limited staffing.	ES: Project is very relevant as flooding issues have worsened.	ES: Emergency Services will contact the critical facilities and apply for funding when grant opens up.
Project J: Back-up Servers – Cyber Attack	Emergency Services	Completed	ES: Two servers were purchased by Somerset County for this purpose; however, servers were placed in different locations than those listed above.	-	-	-
Project K: Public Outreach – Emerging Infectious Diseases	Emergency Services, MDH	Completed	ES: Awareness for the opioid epidemic has been on-going. MDH: Worked with local and regional partners to exercise and drill emergency preparedness plans. Updated plans with new information. Expanded outreach opportunities to increase public awareness of emerging infectious disease concerns and the opioid epidemic.	MDH: COVID19 epidemic put some drills and exercises on hold.	-	ES: Public Health is the lead agency. Outreach is done for all epidemics, pandemics, etc. County, State and other federal sources have paid for many outreach projects. The HMPC may want to discuss if the need for these projects through HMPG or if it would be feasible to rely on other sources. MDH: Although some exercises and drills were put on hold due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the epidemic itself provided invaluable real world experience in preparing for and responding to an emerging infectious disease outbreak. Lessons learned will be critical in

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Action Item	Responder(s)	Status	Accomplishments	Obstacles or Delays?	Relevancy/Revision?	Other Comments
						planning for future EID outbreaks
Project L: Flood Mitigation Plan Development	Emergency Services, Planning and Zoning	Completed	P&Z: Consultant hired, and the plan was written; waiting on final approval.	-	ES: Plan has been adopted. We are waiting on the close out letter from FEMA.	-
Project M: Repetitive Loss Outreach	Emergency Services	Delayed	P&Z: Repetitive loss outreach is part of ongoing CRS project.	P&Z: COVID19 Pandemic and CRS implementation delays.	ES: Status unknown. P&Z: Still relevant, no planned revisions to this project.	ES: Planning & Zoning was the lead on this project.
Project N: Smith Island Heliport, Waterway Facilities & Channel Improvements	Emergency Services, Roads Dept., County Engineer	Completed	ES: I believe improvements have been done to the county docks/boat ramps. RD: Work at the heliport pad was completed to secure loose debris and re-strip the landing zone. Inspections, repairs and maintenance to the county docks was completed and ongoing to ensure safe passage at all times. Dredging of Lever Creek - Big Thoroughfare and Twitch Cove was completed. Jetty work completed along the west side of the island, located near Rhodes Point, MD. CE: Improvements to the County heliport and waterway facilities on Smith Island have been made. Funding has just been obtained for improvements to the County roads on Smith Island and work is planned soon.	-	ES: Project is still relevant as flooding conditions/sea level rise continue to worsen.	ES: Somerset County Engineer's office and Somerset County Roads should also be listed as responsible entities on this project.

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Action Item	Responder(s)	Status	Accomplishments	Obstacles or Delays?	Relevancy/Revision?	Other Comments
Project O: “Dead End” and “No Outlet” Signage	Roads Dept., County Engineer	Completed	RD: All dead end roads under the County Roads jurisdiction have been properly identified, monitoring and maintenance is ongoing. CE: The “Dead End” and “No Outlet” signage has been installed on all County roads.	-	-	-
Red: Projects are rated as high priority.						

Other Mitigation Project Updates

Beyond the significant progress towards the fifteen (15) mitigation projects detailed in this appendix, Somerset County made progress on other important mitigation projects. Highlights from these projects are included below. Note: this is not an exhaustive list of all accomplishments within the previous five year planning period.

1. DNR teamed up with Somerset County to use the MyCoast app which allows users to document flood events. Photos are uploaded with the date, time, coordinates, and any comments from the public.
 - a. Ultimately DNR wants to use this throughout the entire state, but the pilot project included Somerset County and Ocean City.
2. Somerset County obtained a Community Development Block Grant to remove dilapidated structures (blight), some of which are located within the floodplain.
 - a. Any new structure on these properties will have to comply with the current floodplain standards.
3. Installation of a tidal gauge at the County Dock in Crisfield. It provides critically important local tide data.
4. Somerset has replaced the Bryan Hall bridge, improved the Coventry Parish Road bridge (Rehobeth), and raised the low area near the Millard Long Road bridge.
 - a. These projects included improvements to the approaches which reduced flooding.
 - b. Some road paving projects have occurred in the past five years that may have reduced flooding on County roads
5. Somerset County received \$2.2M in CARES funds and \$5.0M in ARPA funds as a result of the COVID19 pandemic. All of the CARES funded projects have been completed and many of the ARPA funded projects have been completed. Project highlights include:
 - a. Numerous security projects were administered by Somerset's IT Department, including: back-up servers, wi-fi upgrades, security cameras, AV upgrades, access control, security awareness training, fiber connectivity, and broadband expansion.
 - b. Somerset also had several emergency response projects administered by the City, Town and Emergency Services. These projects included: security guard/station, dispatch consoles, radio equipment, digital message board signs, fire/police/EMS station improvements, school communication upgrades and back-up generators.
 - c. Other projects involved the airport, health department, sanitary district, landfill, maintenance, dog control, finance, detention center, courts, states attorney, homeless shelter, and roads department which improved emergency response at critical facilities.