

Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Kick-off Meeting

May 18, 2023, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

All members of Allegany County's Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) were invited to the Plan Update Kick-off Meeting. A full list of the HMPC will be made available as an appendix. All HMPC members will receive a copy of these notes. The following members were in attendance:

Note: HMPC member listing is sorted alphabetically by organization/department.

Name	Organization/Department	Position/Title
Carrie Hughes	Allegany County Department of Emergency Services	Emergency Management Chief
Roger Bennett	Allegany County Department of Emergency Services	Deputy Director
Roy S. Cool	Allegany County Department of Planning & Zoning	Transportation Planner
Ken Johnson	Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission	Section 8/WAP Housing Inspector
Ken Rafferty	Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission	Facilities Manager
Robert Ketterman	Frostburg State University	Facilities Planner
Neka Chrin	Mineral County WV Office of Emergency Services	Cambodia Mangrove Tenure Project
Rachael Duncan	Mineral County WV Office of Emergency Services	Mission Support Coordinator/Emergency Planner
Kati Kenney	Office of the County Administrator	Public Information Officer
Kevin Broadwater	Somerset County PA Emergency Management	Local Emergency Management Coordinator
Eric Messick	SP&D	Planner
Matt Smith	SP&D	Principal

Agenda

- Introductions
- Hazard Mitigation Overview
 - FEMA Requirements
 - Plan Development Process
- Project Timeline
- HMPC & Public Participation
 - HMPC and Collaboration
 - Project Website & Social Media
 - Collaboration with Project Partners
 - Surveys
- Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA)

Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Kick-off Meeting

May 18, 2023, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

- 2018-2023 Mitigation Action progress Report
- Time to Complete HMPC Hazard Risk Survey
- Next Steps

Hazard Mitigation Overview

- The 2018 Allegany Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is in the plan update process. The 2018 HMP is available for review at the project's website: www.alleganymdhazards.org/.
- FEMA Requirements:
 - FEMA requires hazard mitigation plans to be updated every five (5) years.
 - Jurisdictions are required to develop and maintain a FEMA approved and locally adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Stakeholder, public, and regional collaboration and engagement is vital throughout all stages of the plan development process to be approved by MDEM & FEMA.
 - **New [State and Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#)** (effective April 19, 2023)
 - For municipalities to be covered under the Allegany County HMP, they must participate throughout the planning process and formally adopt the plan.
 - Note: it is recommended that municipalities complete the Municipal Survey (online) and provide recommendations for mitigation projects.
- Mitigation is Cost Effective
 - More federal funding is available than ever to fund local hazard mitigation projects. Federal grants offer a return of \$6 for every \$1 spent (*National Institute of Building Sciences, 2020*).

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to permanently reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from the effects of hazards.

The purpose of the **Hazard Mitigation Plan** is to prevent or reduce loss of life and injury as well as limit damage costs from various hazards through the development of mitigation methods which lessen or eliminate future damage.

Project Timeline

- The kick-off meeting for this Plan Update was held on May 18, 2023.
- The HMPC will meet throughout the planning process in addition to small group meetings that will be scheduled as needed, including:
 - Floodplain Management/Checking In on the NFIP Worksheets
 - Public Health
 - Social Equity

Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Kick-off Meeting

May 18, 2023, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

- Draft chapters will be sent to HMPC members and placed on the project’s website for public review as they are completed. A full draft plan for stakeholder review will be made available prior to MDEM and FEMA review.
- The 2018 HMP expires on November 4, 2023.

HMPC & Public Participation

- Stakeholders from a broad cross-section of the community were identified and invited to participate.
 - Stakeholders may have public outreach initiatives that pair well with hazard mitigation, resilience, and preparedness. SP&D requests that stakeholders provide details of these public outreach initiatives for collaboration and documentation (e.g., agenda, brief description of the meeting and how the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update process was discussed).

What does it mean to be a member of the HMPC?

- Meeting attendance (2-3 large group meetings)
- Potential for small topical group meetings
- Completion of Stakeholder Survey(s)
- Assistance with public outreach (e.g., social media posts)
- Input on current capabilities
- Generation of new ideas
- Review and Comment of Draft Chapters/Plan

- SP&D is requesting photos, data, and ideas from stakeholders as they relate to hazard mitigation and/or natural hazard events in Allegany County and its municipalities.
- A project website has been created to provide updates, post links, and share new information relating to the HMP Update. This website will be updated throughout the plan development process.
 - **Link:** www.alleganymdhazards.org/
 - HMPC members were asked to review the project website. Comments should be sent to Eric Messick, emessick@smithp-d.com.
- The **Public Survey** has been launched with the project website and is currently available for members of the public to complete. The link to this survey will remain active on the website for the length of the project.
 - **Link:** www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXMQMNL

Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Kick-off Meeting

May 18, 2023, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

- SP&D provides ready-made outreach imagery for social media and requests that HMPC members to post/share the public survey on their department/agency/organization's approved social media.

Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (HIRA)

- Hazards identified within the HMP:
 - **Natural Hazards:** Flood (Riverine & Flash), Winter Storm (& Extreme Cold), Severe Weather (Thunderstorm, Lightning, Hail, and Fog), Tornado, Excessive Heat & Drought, Wildfire, Soil Movement (Land Subsidence)
 - **Man-made Hazards:** HazMat Transportation, Rail Accidents
 - **New Hazards added:** Emerging Infectious Diseases and Dam Failure.
- To assess the hazard risk for the natural hazards identified in this Plan Update, a composite scoring method will be utilized. The composite score method is based on a blend of quantitative and qualitative factors extracted from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) database, and other available data sources. These included:
 - Historic impacts, in terms of human lives and property
 - Geographic extent (size and magnitude of hazard area)
 - Historical occurrence
 - Probability of Future Occurrence
 - Community Risk Perspective
- The aforementioned risk factors are weighted and used in the following formula to determine the composite risk ratings for each hazard:
 - Equation: Composite Score = Injuries + Deaths + Property Damage + Crop Damage + (Geographic Extent*1.5) + Events Annualized + Future Probability + (Community Perspective*1.5)
- HMPC members who attended the Kick-off Meeting completed the HMPC Hazard Risk Survey to provide the above "community risk perspective."
- **HMPC members that were unable to attend the Kick-off Meeting are asked to complete the survey online:**
 - **Link to HMPC Hazard Risk Survey:** www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZN2RX9B
- Results of the HIRA will be provided to HMPC members and posted on the project website.

A risk is the chance, high or low, that any hazard will occur and the severity or impact from that hazard.

Survey Results Utilization

- HMPC Hazard Risk Survey:
 - Results used for Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.

Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Kick-off Meeting

May 18, 2023, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

- Looking for new mitigation project ideas.
- Current, planned, or proposed regional collaboration ideas and projects.
- Public Survey:
 - Open throughout the planning process, with final results integrated into the plan towards the end of the planning process.
 - Public survey results are reviewed throughout the planning process, for:
 - Areas of agreement and disagreement regarding hazard perspectives.
 - Identification of new or preferred styles of mitigation projects.
 - Insight into overall perception of hazards.

Development of Mitigation Action Items

- SP&D reviewed the steps for the development of actions items and projects for the plan update.
 - Step 1: HMPC members provide new ideas for inclusion in the Plan Update. Results are integrated into the Plan Update.
 - Step 2: Continue to collect new mitigation ideas throughout the plan development process via stakeholder discussion and public comments received via the project website and surveys. In addition, the Mitigation Workshop provides an opportunity for HMPC members to work together to further develop ideas into projects.
 - Step 3: Mitigation Action Items are developed based on HMPC input, public input, and results of risk and vulnerability analysis. Then a Mitigation Action Item Prioritization process is conducted to determine “high priority” projects.

NEXT STEPS

- HMPC Meeting #1 Notes
 - Distributed to HMPC members and uploaded to project website.
- Launch of project website, public survey, and press release.
- **HMPC Hazard Risk Survey – please complete it by COB June 2, 2023.**
 - **Link:** www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZN2RX9B
- Municipal Survey: Representatives of municipalities, please complete the municipal survey.
 - **Municipal Survey:** www.surveymonkey.com/r/TF8GZGH
- New Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA)
 - Will be provided to HMPC members and placed on project website for review.
- Targeted Small Group Meetings: June/July
- HMPC Meeting #2
 - **July 2023**