

Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Meeting 3: Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Time & Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Location: Dare County Emergency Operations Center, 370 Airport Road, Manteo

Introduction and Announcements

David Stroud and Abby Moore, consultants from Wood, facilitated the meeting. There were 28 people in attendance and recorded on the sign-in sheet. David began by providing the meeting agenda and a review of the planning process as a whole including where we are in that process – Step 4 Assess the Hazard & Step 5 Assess the Problem. We have already completed Step 6 Set Goals. Moving forward, the next step will be to review potential new mitigation actions and draft the plan.

Review the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)

David reviewed the hazard identification, the HIRA methodology and process, and a summary of each hazard in the plan, explaining the overall risk level assigned to each hazard. Hazards were identified for initial review based on the list of hazards included in the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the 2015 Albemarle Regional Plan. Major disaster declarations, NCEI storm events data, and other sources of hazard risk were reviewed to determine which hazards would be fully profiled in the plan. The full list of hazards profiled is as follows:

- ▶ Coastal Hazards
- ▶ Drought
- ▶ Earthquake
- ▶ Extreme Heat
- ▶ Flood
- ▶ Hurricane & Tropical Storm
- ▶ Severe Weather (Thunderstorm, Lightning, and Hail)
- ▶ Severe Winter Storm
- ▶ Tornado
- ▶ Wildfire
- ▶ Hazardous Materials Incident
- ▶ Cyber Threat
- ▶ Radiological Incident
- ▶ Terrorism
- ▶ Transportation Infrastructure Failure

The summary info that was presented on each hazard can be found in the PDF of the presentation posted on the plan website. The following comments were noted during the discussion:

- ▶ The Region received a disaster declaration for Hurricane Michael that should be added to the list.
- ▶ There were many concerns regarding the age of the IRISK data. Wood is unable to alter the IRISK data but can compile a summary of development that has occurred since the date of the IRISK building data to put loss estimates in current context. Wood will need local parcel data to accomplish this task. It was noted that exposure and loss estimates will not impact post-disaster aid.
- ▶ Critical facilities are also provided by IRISK and may need to be updated. The HMPC can review existing maps to see if any new facilities should be added. If a GIS layer of critical facilities exists, Wood can use this to identify new facilities.
- ▶ There is no compiled database on rates of sound side erosion. Wood can incorporate anecdotal evidence but cannot compile individual records of erosion over time to estimate erosion rates as this would be a significant effort requiring substantial time investment. This could be a good mitigation project from some jurisdictions to pursue.
- ▶ It was noted that the erosion maps should read “Ocean Shoreline”.

- ▶ It was noted that rip current records from NCEI did not capture all past fatalities. An additional data source compiled by NOAA will be added to this section.
- ▶ There was question on whether the IRISK data reflects Currituck's old or current effective FIRM. Updates will be made accordingly to specify.
- ▶ NCEI records of flood damages are low and underplay the severity of flood in the Region. Property damage records will be withheld in the profile and a qualifying statement will be added expressing the HMPC's concern that the data is inaccurate.
- ▶ The issue with historical flood incidents was discussed as a gap identification issue. As a mitigation project the Region could work to improve reporting to NWS to ensure that records of flooding are more accurate in the future.
- ▶ Details are needed for any specific incidents or vulnerabilities that should be listed related to the Transportation Infrastructure Failure hazard. One issue mentioned was the unpredictable closing of the Alligator River bridge.

In summary, the high priority hazards are: hurricane & tropical storm, extreme heat, flood, coastal hazards, severe winter storm, terrorism, severe weather, tornado, and wildfire. The moderate priority hazards are: transportation infrastructure failure, drought, radiological emergency, cyber attack, hazardous materials incident. Earthquake is a low priority hazard and does not need to be prioritized for mitigation.

Public Survey Results

There were 853 responses to the public survey. The highest priority hazards according to the public are: hurricane, flood, erosion, and severe weather.

Annex Summary

Abby provided a brief summary of the organization of the jurisdictional annexes to the plan. Each annex will contain the following sections: planning process, community profile, risk assessment, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy. The annexes will not repeat regional information but rather will provide jurisdiction-specific information.

Plan Goals & Objectives

The final plan goals and objectives are provided for HMPC to consider while developing new mitigation actions.

Mitigation Action Plan Requirements

Each participating jurisdiction must have two actions for every high and moderate priority hazard. An all hazards action will satisfy the criteria for one action for each hazard. Emergency Services actions do not count toward this requirement but do count toward CRS requirements. Each jurisdiction must also have actions in at least 5 of the 6 mitigation categories for CRS; every jurisdiction must have a Structural Project.

Next Steps

The draft HIRA is posted on the plan website. The HMPC can review the HIRA and submit comments until Friday, August 9th. The HMPC should also work on developing new mitigation actions based on capability gaps and information in the HIRA. New mitigation actions are due to Wood by Friday, August 23rd.

Meeting Adjourned