

Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Meeting 2: Public Meeting – Dare, Buxton

Time & Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Fessenden Center Annex, Buxton

Introductions

Drew Pearson, Dare County Emergency Management Director, kicked off the meeting with a brief introduction and a discussion of the importance of hazard mitigation planning. David Stroud and Abby Moore, consultants from Wood, facilitated the rest of the meeting. There were 14 attendees recorded on the sign-in sheet.

Presentation Highlights

David discussed trends in disaster response and recovery and explained reasons to plan. He also reviewed the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 planning requirements, which include a four-phase planning process: organize resources, risk assessment, develop a mitigation plan, and adoption and implementation. The consultant team at Wood blends this with the process of the Community Rating System (CRS) Floodplain Management Planning. This completed Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) will meet the requirements of all three FEMA programs.

The consultant team and the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) decided on a list of hazards to profile in the plan based on past plans, historical occurrences, and local knowledge. Based on this discussion, the following hazards will be profiled: Flooding, Hurricane and Tropical Storm, Coastal Hazards (Erosion, Rip Current, Nor'easter, Sea Level Rise), Severe Winter Weather, Extreme Heat, Earthquake (Tsunami), Wildfire, Drought, Severe Thunderstorm, Hazardous Materials Incident, Terrorism, Cyber Threat, Transportation Infrastructure Failure, and Radiological Incident.

Project Schedule

The anticipated project schedule was presented. The draft Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment will be presented to the planning committee and posted online for committee and public review in late July. The final draft plan will be presented in September, and additional public meetings will be held to gather public feedback.

Plan Website

Abby introduced the website for the planning process, which will be a tool for public outreach with information on throughout the planning process. The website is www.OBX-HMP.com. The site contains upcoming meetings announcements, meeting agendas and minutes, the public survey, draft documents of the plan update, information on the identified hazards, and opportunities to provide feedback. All members of the public are encouraged to take the public survey, which will close on June 14th.

Discussion and Adjournment

- ▶ Someone asked whether mosquitos were considered as a hazard for inclusion in the plan, related to infectious disease from the State plan. David noted that many local health departments address this hazard and that it's difficult to handle through mitigation, as any amount of standing water can allow mosquito breeding. Drew noted that drainage issues would be addressed relative to the flood hazard and that aside from drainage improvements, little mitigation can be done.
- ▶ Another public health concern was raised related to septic systems.
- ▶ Someone expressed concern that large developments were being approved that would cause runoff and negatively impact drainage issues.
- ▶ There was discussion regarding concerns that a major hurricane will cut off Buxton and Frisco from the rest of the island. Someone asked whether the HMPC or emergency management have considered this issue and what can be done, such as provision of ferry docks for emergency evacuation or supplies. Drew responded that this issue is regularly discussed by emergency management but that the water is too shallow for ferry access. He stressed the importance of heeding evacuation orders because it may be a long time before resources can be provided to the area following a major event.