

MEETING NOTES

Attendees - Online; Virtual Meeting

Kate Gibson, Deputy Director, GWRC
Alexa Boggs, Disaster Response and Recovery Officer, VDEM
Jacob Hughes, All Hazards Planner, VDEM
Liz Adams, All Hazards Planner, VDEM
Griffin Kearns, All Hazards Planner, VDEM
Jason R. Loftus, Fire-EMS Chief, Caroline County
Craig Pennington, Planner, Caroline County
Tyler Gelles, Senior Stormwater Manager, City of Fredericksburg
Jack McGovern, Battalion Chief, City of Fredericksburg
Steve Lynd, Battalion Chief/Deputy Emergency Manager, King George County
Monique Dina, Emergency Management Planner, King George County
Steven L. Nelson, Director, Emergency Management, Rappahannock Tribe
Matthew Decatur, Long Range Planner, Spotsylvania County
Jacob Pastwik, Long Range Planner, Spotsylvania County
Matthew Embrey, Division Chief, EM & Logistics, Spotsylvania County
Katie Carpenter, Deputy EM Coordinator, Stafford County
Michael Zehner, Environmental Programs Director, The Berkley Group
Luke Peters, Environmental Planner, The Berkley Group
Lindsay Edwards, Environmental Planner, The Berkley Group
Nadya Syazsa, Intern, The Berkley Group

Not in Attendance

Allyson Finchum, Town Manager, Town of Bowling Green and Town of Port Royal
Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief, Spotsylvania County
Roger Sutherland, Assistant Chief, Stafford County
Colin Noyes, All Hazards Planner, VDEM

Welcome & Agenda Review

Michael Zehner welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed attendance for the meeting. Mr. Zehner reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Project Status Update; Review of Tasks & Timelines

Review of Completed Tasks and Timeline

Mr. Zehner reviewed the completed tasks and timeline through Project Week 12, as follows:

- HMP Public Survey is active; localities are asked to send out notifications to residents to complete survey
 - GWRC website updated with press release for survey
 - Spotsylvania shared on Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor
 - King George waiting on GWRC's Facebook post
 - Fredericksburg, still pending as of July 15

- Drafts of Chapters 1 through 3 completed and sent to PMT.

Pending Tasks

Mr. Zehner reviewed pending tasks and activities, as follows:

- BG will be providing a drafts and requests for information on chapters, as follows:
 - Forthcoming draft of Chapter 6 regarding statewide, regional, and local capabilities; Mr. Zehner noted that federal facilities will likely be added to the draft, and that potentially a regional mitigation activity could include more or improved coordination with federal facilities.

 - Existing Chapter 7 containing the mitigation strategy and activities was sent out for comment. Mr. Zehner noted that older and no longer relevant, as well as completed strategies will need to be identified, along with newly proposed activities and strategies.

 - Chapter 4 and 5 concerning hazard identification and vulnerability assessment; Mr. Zehner mentioned that communities will want to provide updates for specific hazard events occurring in localities, including information on specific losses (e.g., financial costs, buildings, life) related to those hazards and any anecdotes. Additionally, communities will want to confirm that community assets and critical facilities are accurate

Review and Discuss Draft Plan Status/Progress; Next Steps

Mr. Zehner briefly reviewed the drafts chapters that had been provided to the PMT, along with the generally remaining project schedule. Mr. Zehner noted that the 4th and final PMT meeting would also serve as a public meeting to allow for comments on the draft plan, and would likely be held in person at the GWRC's offices. Mr. Zehner indicated that in consider PMT approval of the draft, that localities should be at a level of comfort that it would be adoptable by the community, and that once the draft plan was approved, it would be submitted to VDEM and FEMA for review and "approval pending adoption," that the localities would need to adopt the Plan after FEMA's determination.

Chief Loftus asked how long communities have to adopt the plan, noting that the Caroline County only meets once per month, and that their next meeting would not be until mid-September. Mr. Zehner reviewed the process and explained that local adoption by the Board is not required until after FEMA's determination but must occur within one year.

Chief McGovern noted that with only 11 respondents to the survey, that he would suggest that the survey not close until the week of August 8. Chief McGovern asked to confirm the process for local adoption, as well as approval of the draft.

Mrs. Gibson referenced that the Commission, which includes two representatives from each locality, had recently been provided with an update, and provided a link to a memo shared with the Commission: <https://gwregion.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/9c.-HMP-Update.pdf>

Mr. Lynd asked Mr. Zehner to review the process once more. Mr. Zehner indicated that the goal was to attempt to avoid lapse of coverage under the HMP, given that the existing Plan expires Oct. 4, 2022; ideally, FEMA approval would be prior to the date, allowing all localities to seek adoption from their boards within that week. Mr. Zehner noted that VDEM and FEMA had agreed to conduct their reviews simultaneously, but it is possible that there would be a gap between the FEMA approval date and the local adoption. Mr. Zehner mentioned the potential effects on funding requests associated with a lapse in plan coverage.

Mr. Gelles asked additional questions regarding the timeline and when the close to final draft would be expected, indicating that their next council meeting/work session would not be until September 13.

Ms. Boggs stated that avoiding a lapse would be ideal, but with concerns of meeting the crunched timeline needs with BOS and city council, it would be possible that there could be a lapse between approval and adoption. Ms. Boggs reiterated that this would mainly affect localities' ability to apply for grants and funding.

Mrs. Gibson indicated that GWRC will work the BG staff to prepare a letter or executive summary to the localities discussing the significant changes that will be in the updated Plan, to be sent before the final draft of the Plan is ready.

Mr. Pastwik referenced the experience from 2017 when the Plan was last updated, noting that Spotsylvania had endorsed the Plan through a resolution on their consent agenda, and asked whether if they are adopting the plan, a public hearing is required. Mr. Zehner responded that the process to adopt the plan may be community specific, but that FEMA does not require a public hearing, only that a resolution adopting the plan be provided.

Chief McGovern and Mr. Gelles agreed, that for Fredericksburg, that as long as the draft is a final and polished document, that the City Council should be able to provide their feedback, with the final document to come back to the Council after FEMA approval.

Adjourn

With no other comments or business, the PMT meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30p.