

MEETING NOTES

Attendees:

In-Person

Jacob Pastwik, Long Range Planner Spotsylvania County
Jacob Hughes, All-Hazards Planner, VDEM
Alexa Boggs, Disaster Response and Recovery Officer, VDEM
Griffin Kearns, Recovery and Mitigation Specialist, VDEM
Victoria Steele, VDEM
Katie Carpenter, Deputy EM Coordinator, Stafford County
Jack McGovern, Battalion Chief, City of Fredericksburg
Tyler Gelles, Senior Stormwater Manager, City of Fredericksburg
Michael Zehner, Environmental Programs Director, The Berkley Group
Luke Peters, Environmental Planner, The Berkley Group

Online

Jason R. Loftus, Fire-EMS Chief, Caroline County
Steven L. Nelson, Director of Emergency Management, Rappahannock Tribe
Steve Lynd, Battalion Chief, City of Fredericksburg
Matthew Decatur, Long Range Planner, Spotsylvania County
Lindsay Edwards, Environmental Planner, The Berkley Group
Nadya Syazsa, Intern, The Berkley Group

Welcome & Agenda Review

Michael Zehner began with introductions and roll call of attendees, including a review of the meeting agenda. It was also noted that the day of the meeting stands as the expiration date of the current Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Project Status Update; Review of Tasks and Timelines

Mr. Zehner reviewed the current project status update and timeline, including some pending tasks and activities, as follows:

Review of Completed Tasks and Timeline

- All comments have been received and addressed since the 4th PMT Meeting (08/25/22)

- The project timeline was adjusted to account for additional time for localities to review and submit their corrections and changes to the Draft Plan.

Pending Tasks

- Some *pending tasks* include – approval of the Draft Plan (which will be done at today's meeting) and submission to VDEM/FEMA.
- Once more, Mr. Zehner reminded the PMT to keep BRIC and similar grants from FEMA in mind due to the expiration of the current Plan. While Stafford initially had a pending BRIC application, currently the County has no plans to resubmit for BRIC for the current cycle. Waivers could potential be sought, and localities should reach out if they have any questions.

Discussion on Changes of the Draft Plan

Mr. Zehner reviewed and discussed the changes that were made to the Draft Plan based on the locality's input:

- Cover Page, Acknowledgements and TOC:
 - Update Acknowledgements to reference VDEM/FEMA funding assistance through the BRIC program
- Executive Summary – No revisions were made
- Chapter 1 – corrections of typos
- Chapter 2 – corrections of typos and updated information on community profile
- Chapter 3 – refreshed and added content regarding meeting dates and public involvement activities – specifically the Public Survey responses as well as website and social media engagement
- Chapter 4 – correction of typos and formatting; additional information on dam safety regulations; additional content on Technological Hazards; and additional hazard event content specific to localities and post-2017 Wildfire events for all

- A comment was made by Chief McGovern about some information contained in the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) addressing technological hazard incidents. This included a Community Evacuation Plan.
- Mr. Zehner noted that the information regarding these coordinated activities of local government can be added in the "Technological Hazards" section.
- Chapter 5 – corrections of typos/formatting and updated community specific information
- Chapter 6 – corrections of typos; updated Development Trends sections for all localities; added summarized Critical Facilities tables for all localities
- Chapter 7 – updated community specific Mitigation Action Plans
 - Missed revision request on SP-16 should be 2023 (Spotsylvania)
 - VDEM asked if there were differences on strategies that were already completed, ongoing, and newly added?
 - Mr. Zehner commented that this has been addressed in the tables. A comment was made that if there was an empty row under the Action Plans to strike it entirely from the table, rather than showing that there are no new or completed activities.
- Chapter 8 – Plan Implementation & Maintenance
 - No revisions
 - Will eventually need to update the dates of local adoption resolutions
- Appendices
 - Add resolutions and adoption procedures

PMT Discussion and Action

Tyler Gelles commented on adding dates for the adoption of the updated FIRM in Chapter 6 for the City of Fredericksburg.

With respect to Technological Hazards, Mr. Zehner noted adding some reference to local planning activities. However, the PMT believes this should not be too specific in language as some documents are not accessible by the public. Chief McGovern gave an example of the City's EOP of which only the more basic version is available to the public as there are state codes to protect sensitive information in the full EOP. Mr. Zehner is set to develop a basic statement on local planning activities to include in the HMP and circulate around localities – by tomorrow, October 5th.

Steve Lynd asked about the corrections to the chart that included the dollar amount of projected damages for localities. Mr. Zehner believes Mr. Lynd is referring to Figure 5-1 regarding expected damages (crop and property) and confirmed that the figure had been updated.

Mr. Zehner then recommended to the PMT to make a motion to approve the Draft Plan for transmittal to VDEM/FEMA, incorporating the changes and inputs discussed today. Katie Carpenter (*Stafford County*) made the initial motion, which was seconded by Jacob Pastwik (*Spotsylvania County*). 'Ayes' from all localities approved the motion.

Next Steps

Upon approval from the PMT, VDEM agrees to send the Draft Plan to FEMA as soon as final revisions are made, which is noted to be most likely on Monday, October 10. VDEM will work simultaneously with FEMA to review the Plan concurrently. Then, both VDEM and FEMA will send any comments and revision requests. Mr. Zehner indicated that these would be circulated to the PMT to determine if there is a need for a meeting to discuss any comments.

Once FEMA approves, the Draft Plan will be considered 'approvable pending adoption' and it will be up to the localities to adopt the plan.

- *Jacob Pastwik*: Avoid public hearing for the Plan (expensive legal advertising); adopt by resolution by the BOS. However, adoption of the Plan will require amendment of the Comprehensive Plan, which may extend the adoption process.

Mr. Lynd posed the question: "Is there an expectation of timeline of adoption since the date of approval by FEMA?" Mr. Zehner replied that localities have 12

months following FEMA approval to adopt the Plan. The date that the first locality adopts the Plan sets its effective date and next 5-year expiration date.

A PMT member asked if February 15, 2018, which was listed on the current HMP, was the first date one of the localities adopted the Plan. Mr. Zehner replied it was not, rather this was the date the Final Version of the Plan was published. Suggestion was made to include the entire chronology of the Plan Update on the coversheet or table of contents for future reference and understanding the process.

Mr. Zehner recommended to the PMT that localities should be continuously looking at the mitigation strategies throughout these 5 years that the newly updated Plan is active, especially if there are specific funding opportunities that may be of interest to the locality.

Chief Loftus commented that Caroline County will have no issue getting the Plan on the agenda for approval.

With no other businesses to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:55pm