

Meeting Minutes

Title: Frederick County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021 Update Kick-Off **Location:** Virtual, [Microsoft Teams](#)

Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 **Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Purpose: The 2021 update of the Frederick County Hazard Mitigation Plan is underway. Dewberry will provide an overview of the planning process and the information and input that will be needed from Frederick County and its localities to develop the plan.

Attendees: Scott Choquette, *Dewberry*
Jade Payne, *Dewberry*
Emma Kilkelly, *Dewberry*
Noelle Baffa, *Dewberry*
Abby Ingram, *Project Coordinator, Brunswick*
Dawn Ashbacher, *Sustainability Program Manager, Office of County Executive, County of Frederick*
David Barnes, *Asst. Deputy Chief Emergency Services, Dept. of Fire and Rescue*
Kimberly G. Brandt, *Director of Livable Frederick and Planning/Design Department*
Mary Domer, *Executive Assistant to Jack Markey, Frederick Emergency Management*
Donald Dorsey, *Sustainability Project Manager/CIP, Office of County Executive, Frederick Co.*
Dennis Dudley, *Director of the Department of Emergency Preparedness*
Kevin Fox, *Training and Emergency Management Coordinator, Mount Saint Mary's University*
Christine Gentry, *National Capitol Region Planner*
Jim Humerick, *Chief Administrative Officer for Town of Thurmont*
Todd Johnson, *Frederick Co. Health Dept Emergency Planner and Strategic Stockpile Coordinator*
Rowela Lascolette, *Hood College, Risk Manager*
Kendra Lindenberg, *Grant Manager at Frederick County Emergency Management*
Thurmond Maynard, *Director and Chief of Safety at Hood College*
Jack Markey, *Director of Frederick County Emergency Management*
Shannon Moore, *Sustainability Program, Office of County Executive, Frederick Co.*
Rohan Brown, *Planner, Dept. of Emergency Preparedness*
Sharon Riddell, *Administrative Aide, Frederick County Emergency Management*
Anthony Rosano, *Deputy Director at Frederick County Emergency Management*
Sean Williams, *Town Manager of Walkersville*
Robin Shusko, *Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Management at Frederick Community College*
Ryan Iacurso, *Intern at Frederick County's Sustainability Program*
Jason Stitt, *Dept. of Engineering and Construction Management, Frederick County*
Tracy Coleman, *City of Frederick, Department of Public Works*
Ryan Brown, *Planner at Frederick County Emergency Management*
David Warrington, *Town of Mt Airy*
Kristin Aleshire, *Town Manager for Myersville*

Meeting Summary

Scott Choquette (Dewberry) and Jade Payne (Dewberry) met with the Frederick County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) on July 13, 2021 to provide an overview of the mitigation plan update process. A PowerPoint presentation was used to review the project purpose, schedule, public outreach plan, and the planned updates to each section. Discussions were held throughout the presentation so Dewberry could gather feedback from the HMPC on how the plan update should proceed. Discussion and presentation topics are grouped below.

Meeting Notes

HMP Process and New Priorities

- Stormwater, inland and flash flooding is a concern for multiple departments and jurisdictions, particularly how climate change will affect this hazard, where the problem areas are, and what strategies should be pursued
- Severe weather events are a concern for Public Health Department because can affect healthcare facilities and long-term care providers in the area
- Aging infrastructure, particularly the effects of weather on aging infrastructure
- Multiple departments and jurisdictions brought up climate change, and how climate will affect hazards frequency and severity in the future
 - o Interested in how they can look ahead to evolving risk and use that information to form strategies and future actions

Public Outreach

Are there any stakeholders that were missed?

- Fort Detrick – the Fort surrounds Frederick CC and SPCS property, and have worked with Frederick CC before
 - o Representative from Port Detrick was invited, but did not attend
- CSX Transportation (railroad?)
- Frederick County Public Schools
- City and County Economic Development
- State and National Parks, National Parks Service
 - o Scott previously worked with a group focused on historic structures and their vulnerability to climate change
- Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Office already involved, just need to ask the right questions
- Community groups representing different ethnicities

Continuous Improvement

[No responses]

Increase Consistency with Plans and Programs

Are there other efforts we should incorporate?

- Frederick City recently updated the Comprehensive Plan
- From introductions: Livable Frederick County Master Plan, and Washington Metro COG climate planning

Discussion: Existing Plan

- Jack M.: There is a challenge in creating a plan that you want to keep live but revamp it every five years. You don't know what you will need in the meantime between plan updates. Jurisdictions are encouraged to come up with solutions for identified hazards, even if they don't have all the details (like costs) ironed out).
 - o From the chat: "FirstEnergy/Potomac Edison may also have input as it relates to the intersection of appropriate tree management and electric distribution reliability. The All Hazards Consortium (based in Frederick) may also participate www.ahcusa.org"

Hazard Ranking Priority

- Tornados are increasingly in the news for the Northeast, so maybe this could change in the future ranking
- Down drafts, derechos, high wind shear events
- Climate-related issues, like the rest of the country is experiencing
 - o Frederick County last had a drought in 2001, but broader climatic changes – like extreme high temperatures for long periods of times, like the Southwest is having – could change how often they see droughts.
 - o Worth having a discussion on how to incorporate climate change and related risks into the HMP.

HIRA Update – Data Call

- Last declaration was for flooding in May 2018 (Tropical Storm Michael?)
 - o Over 500 homes were affected; County and cities received PA payments; and SBA was made available for residents

Goals and Objectives

- 2016 Goals are very specific, and some address specific hazards. 2021 Update can simplify and consolidate these for jurisdiction's review.
- Jack M.: "Simplicity is great for general awareness. Action requires details. I like the idea of simplifying where we can"

Public Involvement in Plan and Plan Maintenance

- Since 2016 Plan, a lot of work has happened, particularly since the 2018 floods, which has some USACE public meetings. However, not everyone on this call would say what they do is "mitigation," even though it is related to the HMP. This work only coalesces as a strategy every five years with the update, and agencies respond to emergency as needed. Agencies are continuously involved and working on mitigation, which should be captured in the 2021 Plan.

- only gets driven towards mitigation every 5 years as strategy comes into play for the update and emergency response as needed

Questions/Comments?

- Jack M.: “Important to recognize the County and municipal bond rating agencies are increasingly asking what we are doing for mitigation and climate adaptation.”
 - o There is a bond presentation on August 25.
 - o Should add this note to the “why we do hazard mitigation plans”