

Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Task Force

Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2007

	Oct.	Nov.	Jan.	Feb.	Apr.	June
Auburn – Mike White	X					
Buffalo – Charles Thaxton	X					
Cantrall – Brian Oliver	X					
Curran – Chris McDaniel	X					
Dawson – Jamie Sponsler	X					
Grandview – Colleen Dallaus	X					
Illiopolis – Rayeana Stacey	X					
Jerome – Greg Hashman	X					
New Berlin – Terry Nydegger	X					
Pleasant Plains – Kevin Kesselring	X					
Riverton – Rich Pottier	X					
Rochester – Derrick Pehlman	X					
Sherman – Jay Timm						
Southern View – Hilda Mangiaracina	X					
Springfield – Al Pinter	X					
Thayer – Brian Wood						
Williamsville – Paul Osman	X					
Sangamon County – Linda Fulgenzi	X					
Ameren – Craig Gilson						
American Red Cross – Amy Eden	X					
CMS – Diane Hoots	X					
IL Emergency Mgmt. Agency – Ron Davis	X					
Sang. Co. Dept. of Public Health – James Henricks	X					
Sang. Co. Dept. of Zoning and Bldg. Safety – Mike Ashenfelter	X					
Sang. Co. Farm Bureau – Craig Hall	X					
Sang. Co. Highway Dept. – Brian Davis	X					
Sang. Co. Office of Emergency Mgmt. – David Butt						
Spfld. Building & Zoning Dept. – Suzann Weissberg	X					
Spfld. Homebuilders Association – Steve Sturm	X					
Springfield Park District – Chuck Smith	X					
Spfld. School Dist. #186 – Dave Smith	X					
Spfld. Metro Sanitary District – Bob Leinweber	X					
SSCRPC – Mike Galco, Chair	X					
UIS – Don Mitchell	X					
Rose Burger	X					
Jeff Ehrlich	X					
Greg Michaud	X					
Carolyn Patterson	X					
Steve Chard – Dept. of Ag.	X					
Dick Austin - SMTD	X					

Call to order:

The first meeting of the Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Task Force was called to order.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chairman Mike Galco welcomed everyone to the meeting and the task force members introduced themselves to the group. There were 35 task force members present, 16 of those being community representatives.

Orientation to purpose of task force and planning process:

Linda Wheeland, project manager for the Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, gave a power point presentation to explain what the task force's purpose is, mission, goals and what is to be accomplished in the next twelve months. This task force consists of individuals with various backgrounds that will contribute numerous ideas for the accomplishments that will be achieved. This task force was organized to create a plan that identifies activities communities in Sangamon County can implement that will reduce hardships that can accompany natural hazard events such as tornadoes, winter storms or flooding. This will not be a response plan, but rather a plan that when implemented will reduce the amount of response that will be needed. Wheeland pointed out that the governing bodies of the participating communities will adopt the plan. All communities were invited to join the task force. Wheeland has also asked the communities that did choose to participate to approve a resolution to support this planning process and have received one from most. Wheeland has also extended an invitation to certain technical partners who have particular expertise and background to contribute to this planning process. Our important citizen members who bring their personal experiences and are not associated with an organizational outlook are also present.

Wheeland noted that taking actions to protect citizens and property is motivation enough to prepare a hazard mitigation plan. The Federal Government has provided an additional motivation with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (known as DMA2K). This legislation targets disaster related federal funding available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency such as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grand Program. Each state is required to have a hazard mitigation plan in order for funding to be available at the local level. Wheeland pointed out that Illinois created a plan in 2004. Ron Davis of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency was responsible for creating this plan. For a community to be eligible to receive project grants under these programs, that community must have adopted a DMA2K compliant plan. The Act specifically allows for the creation of a multi-jurisdictional plan rather than requiring each community to have their own plan, which is what this group is doing here. Each community is required to participate fully in the creation of a multi-jurisdictional plan and adopt the plan.

Wheeland went on to explain that under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant money becomes available after a presidential disaster declaration in a state. The amount is a percentage of the total estimated federal assistance provided for a major disaster. For approved grants FEMA provides 75% funding with a 25% local match needed. The Planning Commission received a planning grant to prepare this plan from the money made available after the tornadoes that struck the county in the spring of 2006. Sangamon County is providing the local match, so there is no cost to participating municipalities. Wheeland pointed out that this task force will create a plan that, once adopted by the participating communities and approved by FEMA, will

allow project grant money to be applied for. Some examples of projects that previously received funding are the acquisition of properties that repeatedly flood and demolition of flood damaged buildings, and the construction of storm shelters.

Wheeland explained that this planning process is laid out by the Disaster Mitigation Act and she had broken it down into six steps. The first step includes several requirements that must be taken into consideration throughout the planning process. FEMA is very insistent that all aspects of the process be documented. Wheeland explained that it is very important for everyone to sign in at all meetings in order to document participation. This is very important, as attending meetings is a requirement for being considered a participating community. There will be many opportunities for public comment and for public involvement.

Wheeland pointed out to the group that on the inside cover of the notebooks that were handed out there is a list of documents. She asked each community representative to fill this out and return a copy before or at the next scheduled meeting. There is also a website that already has information about the plan and will be updated along the way of the planning process.

Wheeland encouraged all communities to put a link on their websites to this site. She also encouraged communities with coverage by a local paper or with a newsletter to submit a news item. Planning Commission staff would be happy to help with putting these documents together. The Planning Commission staff will also be preparing displays for communities to place at locations open to citizens such as village halls, libraries, or other local gathering places. These displays will be a major way of distributing the citizen survey.

The public is welcome at all task force meetings, but special meetings can also be held in each community if desired. At least one public hearing will be held on the draft plan with public comment invited.

Wheeland further explained the second step in this process is to assess the vulnerability of each community to damage from natural hazards. Those hazards that pose a large enough risk to be addressed will be identified first. Information on past events will be reviewed and community assets will be identified, including all critical facilities. From this, an estimate of potential losses will be calculated.

Wheeland noted that the State Hazard Mitigation Plan has identified specific events that could occur in Sangamon County and has evaluated the severity of the risk. All of this information is located in the packets. After assessing these risks, the next step is to determine how communities can be protected. Wheeled pointed out that this will involve developing goals, identifying measures that can be taken prior to a hazard event to fulfill these goals, evaluating the feasibility and priority of implementing these measures, and determining who can implement these activities.

A maintenance plan must also be developed in order to monitor, evaluate and update the plan every five years. Wheeland noted that any opportunity to implement the plan through existing community programs or ordinances should be used. Also, public involvement will continue to be important in the maintenance phase.

Planning Commission staff will prepare a draft plan from the work of the task force that will be reviewed by task force members. IEMA will also review the plan to make sure we are in compliance. Any changes that are then deemed necessary will be incorporated into the plan and

the final draft submitted to communities for adoption. Wheeland stresses that each community must adopt the plan to make them eligible for hazard mitigation grants. The final step is the approval of the plan by FEMA. When the plan is submitted to FEMA, resolutions from each community adopting the plan must be included. The minimum time for approval is a month and a half, but will most likely be a few months. Wheeland also stated that if a community does not want to adopt the plan they do not have to.

A task force member asked if there was a timeline on how long this planning process will take. Abby Johnson handed out the proposed timeline. Wheeland stated that the plans will hopefully be adopted in about one year. At this point Wheeland has proposed six meetings of the task force over the next year. The sixth meeting would be a public hearing and review of the draft plan. After the second meeting, public displays will be placed within each community and will include the citizen survey. People who wish to take the survey will have roughly two months to complete it. Galco noted this timeline can be changed and amended as the task force has more time to look this over. Additional meetings can be added as needed.

Community Participation Requirements:

Galco pointed out there is a piece of paper in the notebooks labeled “Record of Plan Participation”. Wheeland noted that this page is a list of criteria the communities have to do in order for them to be considered participants. Additionally, the task force must determine the number of meetings a community representative must attend to retain “participating community” status. Wheeland stressed that community representatives should act as a liaison between this task force and their community so when representatives need to send other community members they will be up to speed on everything going on. Wheeland pointed out that three communities appointed an alternate and this is something for communities to consider. All agendas, minutes and other meeting materials will be on the hazard plan website (www.co.sangamon.il.us/NHMP)

After some discussion, Galco entertained a motion that communities must attend at least 2/3 of all meetings. Bob Thaxton made the motion to approve 2/3 attendance of all meetings. Don Mitchell seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mission Statement:

Wheeland pointed out there is a sample mission statement in the packets. This is a draft mission statement and can be changed as the task force sees fit. She wanted all task force members to think about what they would like in the mission statement and bring these ideas to the November 14th meeting.

Citizen Survey:

Discussion was brought up regarding the citizen survey that is in the task force packets. Paul Osman wanted to know if the survey was required and, if so, how distribution would take place. Wheeland clarified that the citizen survey is one tool for public participation. Direct mailings of the citizen survey are not necessary, in fact it would be a good idea to distribute them as part of the displays that will be publicly displayed in each community. Wheeland noted that all task force members need to review the citizen survey and bring any suggestions for changes to the November meeting. Linda Fulgenzi pointed out that an address to return the survey needs to be added to the final citizen survey.

Task Force Structure:

Johnson distributed the “tasks to be completed” page to each task force member. Wheeland made everyone aware that these items should be reviewed and completed prior to the November meeting.

Wheeland suggested that a Risk Assessment committee be formed to determine how to proceed with the risk assessment process. Several members of the task force volunteered to take part in this group and need to see Wheeland after the meeting to discuss further details.

Meeting Schedule:

The meeting schedule will remain the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm in the County Board Chambers. A meeting schedule will be distributed at the November 14th meeting.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

Thaxton made a motion to adjourn. Rich Pottier seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous.