



Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan  
Task Force  
Risk Assessment Committee

MEETING MINUTES  
October 18, 2007

Present: Mike Ashenfelter, Sangamon County Department of Zoning & Building Safety  
Ron Davis, Illinois Emergency Management Agency  
Greg Michaud, Citizen Member  
Derrick Pehlman, Village of Rochester  
Steve Sturm, Springfield Homebuilders Association  
Linda Wheeland, Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

The Risk Assessment Committee was formed to determine how best to address the assessment of risks from natural hazard events to our communities. The four worksheets from the FEMA guide Understanding Your Risks – Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses were used as a basis for discussion.

Worksheet #1 Identify the Hazards

This worksheet identifies the different types of hazards that should be considered.

The Planning Commission had provided historical information on natural hazards events over the past 50 years in Sangamon County and a chart from the state hazard mitigation plan that rates specific types of events in the County.

It was determined that the following hazards would be addressed in the plan: dam failure, drought, earthquake, extreme heat, flood, severe thunderstorm (including lightning, hailstorm and windstorm), land subsidence, severe winter storm, and tornado. The hazards with the greatest possibility for occurrence and impact are extreme heat, flood, severe thunderstorm, severe winter storm, and tornado.

Likewise, it was determined that the following hazards would not occur in the County and would not need to be addressed: avalanche, coastal erosion, coastal storm, expansive soils, hurricane, landslide, tsunami, volcano, or wildfire.

Worksheet #2 Profile Hazard Events

A base map to present the potential impact area of each type of hazard is needed along with relevant profile information.

The Planning Commission had provided each community with an aerial photo base map with the special flood hazard area (also known as the 100-year floodplain) overlaid from the Flood Insurance Rate Map dated August 2, 2007 provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The boundaries of the areas of impact in the event of failure of the Lake Springfield dam or the Lake Sangchris dam are fairly contiguous with the special flood hazard areas downstream from these structures.

The peak ground acceleration (pga) related to an earthquake event (with 2% probability of being exceeded in 50 years) for Sangamon County is 11. With the epicenter having a pga of 350, the number for our County is fairly low.

The design wind speed for a tornado event in Sangamon County is 250 mph. It is possible that the path of the 1957 tornado could be overlaid on an aerial photo map and the number and value of structures that would be impacted today calculated.

A mine subsidence map will need to be obtained. All other hazards have a chance of occurring anywhere in the County.

#### Worksheet #3 Inventory Assets

This worksheet suggests the plan must identify the number and value of structures and the number of people vulnerable to each hazard in each community, identify the critical facilities in each community, and provide a detailed inventory of what can be damaged by a hazard event.

The Planning Commission had provided each community with current population figures, projected population growth over the next ten years, and a map showing the location of critical facilities. Each community representative was asked to review the maps and provide any corrections or additions.

The committee decided it would be a monumental task to identify and detail the value of each individual structure in each community. The Planning Commission will use the assessed value from property tax records to determine the total value of structures in specific categories such as residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural. The critical facilities will be individually inventoried although not valued as they are not assessed for taxing purposes.

The critical facilities maps identify major roads. It was suggested that the Illinois Department of Transportation be contacted for maps and information related to roads in the County.

The structures located in a special flood hazard area can be identified from the aerial photos and a value established from property tax records.

#### Worksheet #4 Estimate Losses

A detailed estimate of losses would include the projected dollar loss to each structure, to the contents of each structure, and associated with the use and function of each structure. Once

again it was determined that this information is not available so estimates related to each individual structure cannot be calculated. The average replacement cost per square foot per category of structure should be identified but beyond that loss estimates are most reasonably calculated when projects are evaluated for implementation.

### Additional Discussion

Ron suggested using the FEMA provided software related to risk assessment called HAZUS. Derrick stated that his current employer, the Illinois National Guard, could benefit from using this software and he would acquire a copy.

It was suggested that the insurance industry be invited to participate in the planning process.

Ron suggested that although a hazard mitigation plan is not required to obtain grants from the federal Public Assistance program, a project may be looked upon more favorably for funding if it is included in the plan. An example of such a project would be the upgrading of a road culvert to alleviate the backup of water.

It was decided that although the critical facilities maps would be included in the plan sent to FEMA, for security reasons the maps would not be included in copies of the plan made available to the public.

Several ideas were generated at this meeting for discussion during the goals and mitigation phases of the planning process.