

**Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation
Plan Task Force
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2008**

TASK FORCE MEMBERS	Oct.	Nov.	Jan.	Feb.	April	June
SSCRPC – Mike Galco, Chair	X	X	X	X	X	
Auburn – Mike White	X	X	X	X	X	
Auburn – Chris Bridges			X		X	X
Buffalo – Charles Thaxton	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cantrall – Brian Oliver	X					
Cantrall – Jerry Olson				X	X	
Cantrall – Marlene Olson						X
Chatham – Patrick McCarthy			X	X	X	
Chatham – Joseph Schatteman						X
Curran – Chris McDaniel	X	X	X	X		
Curran – Brian Markley				X		
Dawson – Jamie Sponsler	X	X	X		X	X
Dawson – Nancy Prytherch	X	X	X			
Divernon – John Caudle		X		X	X	X
Grandview – Colleen Dallaus	X					
Illioopolis – Rayeana Stacey	X					
Illioopolis – Josh Hilbert			X	X		X
Jerome – Greg Hashman	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Berlin – Terry Nydegger	X	X	X	X		
Pawnee – Cecil Mathews			X		X	
Pawnee – Kenton Manning				X	X	X
Pawnee – Greg DeBrun				X		
Pleasant Plains – Kevin Kesselring	X	X		X		X
Pleasant Plains – Robert Meringer					X	
Riverton – Rich Pottier	X	X	X	X	X	X
Riverton – Linda Viola			X			
Rochester – Derrick Pehlman	X	X	X	X	X	
Rochester – Dale Lanningham						X
Sherman – Jay Timm		X	X		X	
Sherman – Mike Moos			X	X		X
Southern View – Hilda Mangiaracina	X	X		X	X	X
Southern View – Louise Seaver			X	X		
Southern View – Nora Petrosky					X	
Springfield – Al Pinter	X	X	X	X	X	X
Thayer – Brian Wood			X	X	X	X
Williamsville – Paul Osman	X	X	X			X
Sangamon County – Linda Fulgenzi	X		X			X
Sangamon County – Charlie Stratton					X	
Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport – Tim Franke		X		X		
Ameren – Craig Gilson		X				
American Red Cross – Amy Eden	X				X	
American Red Cross – Colleen Stone		X	X			X
CMS – Diane Hoots	X	X	X	X	X	X
CWLP Water Division – Ted Meckes			X			X
IL Emergency Mgmt. Agency – Ron Davis	X		X	X		
Mid IL Medical District Commission – Michael Boer		X			X	X
Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative – Louis DeLaby		X	X	X	X	X

Sang. Co. Dept. of Agriculture – Steve Chard	X			X	X	
Sang. Co. Dept. of Public Health – James Henricks	X		X	X	X	
Sang. Co. Dept. of Zoning and Bldg. Safety – Mike Ashenfelter	X	X		X	X	
Sang. Co. Farm Bureau – Craig Hall	X					
Sang. Co. GIS Dept. – Tracy Garrison		X	X			
Sang. Co. Highway Dept. – Brian Davis	X	X	X			
Sang. Co. Office of Emergency Mgmt. – David Butt		X	X	X	X	X
Secretary of State – Michael Grimm			X			
SMTD – Linda Tisdale			X			
Spfld. Building & Zoning Dept. – Suzann Weissberg	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spfld. Homebuilders Association – Steve Sturm	X	X	X	X	X	X
Springfield Park District – Chuck Smith	X		X	X	X	X
Spfld. School Dist. #186 – Dave Smith	X					
Spfld. Metro Sanitary District – Bob Leinweber	X		X	X	X	
UIS – Don Mitchell	X	X	X		X	X
Jeff Ehrlich – Citizen Member	X		X	X		
Greg Michaud – Citizen Member	X	X	X	X	X	X
Carolyn Patterson – Citizen Member	X					
STAFF:						
Linda Wheeland	X	X	X	X	X	X
Abby Johnson	X	X	X	X	X	X
Susan Poludniak			X	X		
Norm Sims			X			
Dale Schultz			X	X		
Joe Zeibert			X	X		
OTHERS:						
Steve Gudgel – Village of Pawnee			X			
Jerald Jacobs				X		
David Leggans – Village of New Berlin				X		
Frank Maras – Village of Rochester			X			
Jared Owen – IEMA			X	X		X
Val Ross – Small Business Administration			X			
Joel Sander – Village of New Berlin			X			
Tom Shafer				X		
Steve Sullivan		X	X	X	X	X
Sheila Sullivan		X	X	X	X	X
Rose Burger	X					
Rey Evry					X	
Kim Eck						X
Nancy Tatarek						X
Jeff Tatarek						X
Louise Seaver						X
Curt Mosby						X
Amanda Mosby						X

Call to order:

Chairman Brian Wood called the sixth meeting of the Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Task Force to order.

Wood reminded everyone to sign in if they hadn't already done so.

Approval of minutes:

Wood entertained a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. David Butt made a motion to approve the April minutes. Don Mitchell seconded this motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Brief review of planning process:

Linda Wheeland announced that this was this last meeting of the task force and everyone had been working hard for a long time to get to this point. She went through a brief review of the planning process.

In July 2007 the Planning Commission received a Hazard Mitigation planning grant from FEMA. When the grant application was completed, the commission indicated they would like to do a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. In August all communities in Sangamon County were invited to participate, with twenty that have committed. Those communities are listed on the front cover of the draft plan. A press release and a website were also generated. In mid-September 2007 letters were sent to various stakeholders in the communities and 24 technical partners signed on to be a part of the task force, including UIS, several state agencies, CWLP, Springfield School District, Homebuilders Association, among many more. In October 2007, letters were mailed to interested parties, including township supervisors, utility companies, social service agencies and neighborhood associations. The first task force meeting was held in October 2007 and involved an orientation to the planning process. One important concept of this planning process was to meet the requirements set up by FEMA for communities to be able to apply for hazard mitigation grant money. A mitigation program has been in place for several years, however, FEMA now requires communities to have a hazard mitigation plan in place in order to be eligible for funds. Wheeland noted that mitigation is not about response to natural hazards. It means identifying what communities and residents can do before a natural hazard takes place, to lessen the impact of the hazard and the effect it has on the community.

At the October 2007 meeting, a Risk Assessment Committee was formed and met later that month. This committee identified nine hazards to be addressed in the plan. Those include dam failure, drought, earthquakes, extreme heat, flood, mine subsidence, severe storms, tornados and winter storms. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency put together a State Plan that included seven of those hazards. The Risk Assessment Committee determined that mine subsidence and dam failure should be included in this plan. In November 2007 the task force adopted a mission statement that is also in the plan. At this time the Task Force finalized a citizen survey to be distributed among communities to be available through the end of December. Communities also had displays in various locations that included a poster and citizen surveys. These surveys were also featured on the website.

In January 2008 a profile of each hazard was put together by Planning Commission staff and mailed to all task force members. The result of each profile showed Sangamon County's vulnerability to each hazard and which communities were affected by these nine hazards and the probability of each hazard occurring. The highest probability (in any given year) is severe storms (83%), winter storm (75%), tornado (44%), extreme heat (45%), flooding (15%). The other hazards haven't occurred on a regular enough basis or there is not enough data to determine their probability.

At the January 2008 task force meeting, goals and objectives were generated through an exercise where everyone completed the sentence "During a natural hazard event, a prepared community is a place where..." Goals and objectives were formulated from this exercise. Four goals were established and are included in the Plan. After the goals and objectives were reviewed, communities then put together a project list. Representatives from each community went to their respective boards or city councils, and generated these projects. The projects were listed on the back wall of the meeting room and there are 106 total projects included in the Plan.

Project priority was determined by a Project Prioritization Committee using a prioritization method. The committee decided they didn't want to assign an importance to each project, but came up with a method that groups projects by intended results. "A" projects are those that address the most dangerous hazards in Sangamon County in such a way that people are no longer at risk. "B" projects are those that address the most dangerous hazards, but over a widespread area that reduce the risk of those hazards. "C" projects are those that address the lesser impact hazards. "J" projects

are those that can just be done with no additional money needed and that can be done at this moment.

In May 2008 a draft plan was prepared. An executive summary that highlights the plan is also included. Public participation has always been encouraged. Press releases were sent before every meeting and all meetings were open to the public. There have been five newspaper articles and three radio interviews. There was one ad in the paper about this particular meeting, where the task force will take final public comment.

Wheeland welcomed any questions or comments regarding the planning process. There were none.

Public review of the plan:

Wood welcomed any comments, questions and/or suggestions on the draft plan. David Butt asked about the proposed addition to the Plan regarding community participation in the Workgroup that had been sent to Task Force members with the meeting notice. Wheeland explained that Derrick Pehlman, the community representative from Rochester, volunteered to chair the Workgroup. This Workgroup will involve all the community representatives plus three technical partners that include David Butt from the Sangamon County Office of Emergency Management, Steve Sturm from the Springfield Area Home Builders Association, and Louis DeLaby from the Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative. The purpose of the Workgroup is to do an annual review of project progress and implementation as well as complete a Plan update every five years. Pehlman suggested that certain criteria should be established for continued community participation in the Plan. This would require each community representative to attend at least one of the two meetings scheduled each year and the same criteria in creating the plan will also be used in updating the plan. Wood noted that Chairman Pehlman's idea is to encourage community participation with continued support from everyone. Wood entertained a motion that requires community representatives to attend at least 1 of the 2 Workgroup meetings and the same criteria in creating the plan would also be used in updating the plan. A motion was made by Steve Sturm. It was seconded by Greg Hashman. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Hashman asked if the community representatives will continue to be notified of Workgroup meetings. Wood, who will serve as Vice-chair of the Workgroup, expressed that everyone will be notified in a timely matter. Hilda Mangiaracina asked where the Workgroup meetings will be held. Wheeland noted that Chairman Pehlman had indicated the Workgroup meetings will be held in Rochester.

Wood welcomed any other suggestions or comments. Paul Osman noted that there have been significant flood updates that are worth putting in the Plan. Also, two of the most significant flood prone areas in the County have had recent buyouts and as a result have had minimal damage and minimal costs compared to previous years. Wheeland thanked Osman for his suggestion.

Kim Eck, a member of the public, asked why the mine subsidence information in the Plan only dates back to 1998. She thought the plan does not take mine subsidence on a serious enough level, as there is significant mine subsidence concern for residents in Springfield. Wheeland noted that the data received from the Department of Natural Resources is the most current mine subsidence data they have. Eck noted that the Illinois Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund would be a good way to obtain more recent data. Wheeland noted that she will contact this entity, however, since it is insurance information it might not be information that she will be able to obtain.

Nancy Tatarek, a member of the public, asked what the result of this Plan will be. Wheeland explained that the result of the Plan is all projects posted on the back wall. Tatarek asked if this Plan allows people to apply for funds to pay for these projects. Wheeland noted that some projects are eligible for hazard mitigation grant money from FEMA; however mine subsidence issues are not eligible. Tatarek also noted that mine subsidence is not a natural hazard, it is a man-made hazard. She expressed that mine subsidence is a very important issue and needs to be addressed in more detail. Tatarek lives in a condominium, which is considered a commercial property by insurance companies, and will suffer a 50% loss of her property value as a result of mine subsidence. She noted that this is a financial disaster, and these can be as equally as devastating as natural disasters

and needs to be addressed in some way. Wheeland pointed out that the issue with mine subsidence was recognized by the Task Force and this is why it was included in the plan, even though it is not a natural disaster. Jeff Tatarek, a member of the public, noted that it is hard to mitigate mine subsidence issues, but it is important to make people aware with education and communication, and this could be the key component. Wheeland noted that there is one community that is specifically addressing mine subsidence education and the City of Springfield has a project in place to educate the public on all hazards, including mine subsidence. She pointed out that Commander Pinter was present and aware of the problem. Al Pinter, the representative for the City of Springfield, expressed that there will be a website available about educating the public on all hazards. Wheeland thanked those members of the public for expressing their concerns. This information is very helpful and will be addressed. Wood thanked the group for public comment and encouraged continued public participation as the plan is reviewed and updated.

David Butt asked if a statement could be put in the plan before it is finalized regarding mine subsidence. He learned that a residential property is considered a commercial property, and highlighting that in the Plan is subject to consideration by the insurance industry and may cause someone to investigate further on closing a deal on a condominium.

Public comment:

Wood welcomed public comment.

Louise Seaver, a member of the public, announced that public officials need to use the funds they have to do the basics, like dig out ditches, because when a small problem such as this isn't considered, it makes her worried about the bigger problems. She noted that if the small problems are addressed, the larger ones will eventually take care of themselves. Wheeland thanked Seaver for her comment, and pointed out that in regards to this Plan, the people with the power are the community leaders.

Butt announced that he would like everyone to look at page 79 of the Plan where a Sangamon County project states "Create volunteer network to monitor conditions of road culverts." should be amended to read "...monitoring conditions of road culverts and ditches." Wheeland pointed out that since the responsible party for this would be the County Highway Department, she would need to check with them first.

Sheila Sullivan noted that several communities have storm shelters on their project list and she would like to know when the Request for Proposals are submitted. Sullivan lives in the dome house located in Riverton, and their builder is very interested in taking part in the bids for storm shelter construction.

Jeff Tatarek asked what kind of commitments these communities have to carry-out these projects, fund them and complete them in a timely matter. Wheeland noted that some of the projects are dependent on whether grant money is available and whether the community can obtain this money. Also, the Workgroup will produce a report annually that includes the progress of project implementation. Wheeland further explained that a community doesn't get considered for grant money if they do not have a plan in place. The grant money that this Plan is geared towards is the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. That money becomes available after there has been a presidential disaster declared in the State of Illinois. Wheeland noted that 15% of the total amount of money spent on recovery is then made available for hazard mitigation projects. It is also important to point out that the availability of this grant money is dependent upon whether or not there is a presidential disaster declared somewhere in the state. Nancy Tatarek asked if each community has to write their own grants. Wheeland said yes, and communities can work together to write these grants. Writing grants is not as hard as it may seem, and it works to the community's advantage that the headquarters for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency is located in the City of Springfield. Wheeland noted that Ron Davis, the State Mitigation Hazard Mitigation Officer, is a member of this Task Force and has been very helpful during the planning process and also is available to assist communities in completing grant applications. She also noted that Jared Owen,

Disaster Services Planner with IEMA and reviewer of local plans, has been attending Task Force meeting and providing invaluable guidance.

Owen stated that he has reviewed the Plan and applauds the County and everyone on the Task Force for a great job. The fact that a draft Plan is being reviewed at this point in time is a great accomplishment to everyone. Wheeland thanked Jared for all his assistance

Task Force discussion to finalize Plan:

Wood welcomed further discussion of the Plan before the Task Force finalizes it. Wheeland noted that there were several suggestions discussed that she can incorporate into the plan, and if everyone agreed with those suggestions she will make final changes.

Butt would like to give credit to Riverton, Pawnee and Wheeland for the buyouts after the 2002 flood. For this, response officials aren't feeling the effects of the current flood because of mitigation efforts put forth in 2002. This Task Force should feel positive with the work put forth over the past year.

Wheeland welcomed any further suggestions or comments before the Plan be finalized. There were none. A motion was made by Don Mitchell and was seconded by Steve Sturm to finalize the plan, incorporating the changes discussed. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Other business:

Wheeland noted that the Planning Commission staff will make the changes to finalize the Plan. FEMA has the Plan and once the Planning Commission gets final approval, Wheeland will mail out the final Plan to all Task Force members. At that point, all communities will need to adopt the plan. Once a resolution is approved by the village board or city council, it should be sent to Wheeland who will forward it to FEMA. Pinter asked when the Commission expects to hear from FEMA. Owen noted that he is hoping to hear by mid-July. Colleen Stone asked if the American Red Cross was required to adopt the Plan. Wheeland said since the Red Cross is not a taxing body they do not have to adopt the Plan, however the Springfield Park District and Springfield Mass Transit District Boards would have to adopt the Plan.

Mangiaracina asked for the final changes Wheeland plans to make in the Plan. Wheeland noted that included in the Final Plan will be information on communities that did buyouts, the most recent flood data, more research on the mine subsidence issues, statement regarding residential condominiums are considered commercial properties for insurance purposes, and inquiring with the Sangamon County Highway Department regarding culvert and ditch cleaning.

Wheeland wanted to make everyone aware that Chairman Pehlman and Co-Chairman Wood will be contacting everyone to take part in the Workgroup one year to the date the first community adopts the Plan. At this time, the annual review will take place. Wheeland encouraged the Workgroup not to hesitate to contact the technical partners for any assistance along the way. Specifically she suggested the American Red Cross, UIS, Ameren, and Central Management Services. Wheeland also thanked the citizen members, Greg Michaud and Jeff Ehrlich, who assisted with the Plan. She thanked Sheila and Steve Sullivan who have supported this effort since the beginning. Wheeland thanked the members of the Risk Assessment Committee and the Project Prioritization Committee who put forth the extra time and effort to get this Plan complete. She thanked Hashman for the use of the Jerome Civic Center over the past three meetings. She also stated that the Task Force was made up of a great group of people who worked together cooperatively and efficiently to produce a Plan that will lessen the impact of natural hazards in their communities.

Adjournment:

Wood entertained a motion to adjourn. Hashman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Kenton Manning. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abby Johnson