

Hazard Mitigation Plan
February 22, 2012
1:30PM
Macon County Board Room
141 South Main, Room #514

Jim Root, Coordinator of the Macon County EMA, introduced himself to the attendees. He is the one that is spearheading this project. He stated they have hired a consulting firm to assist them through this process.

Jim Root introduced John Menninger, PE – Plan Consultant. He is with Stantec Consulting, Services. Inc.

Local Participating Communities present were from the Villages of Harristown, Long Creek, Niantic, Mt. Zion and Warrensburg and from the Cities of Macon and Maroa. John Menninger stated Jim Root will be representing Macon County and the unincorporated areas. He felt there was a good representation of the local communities.

Mr. Menninger introduced the Hazard Mitigation Planning Process to the group. The people in this room represent the Planning Committee. He stated it is their plan and will. His firm will help them put the plan together. The plan will need to meet FEMA guidelines, and his firm will help the committee with that. This plan will need to speak to the community's needs and concerns. The input from the local residents is the most important piece of it.

The primary goal of this plan is to identify the specific natural hazards that threaten the County. The plan will determine your vulnerability to these hazards and start planning projects or activities to reduce that risk over time. The main goal is to reduce the risk to life loss and property damage. Benefits that comes by developing a Mitigation Plan would be the eligibility for additional federal funding through the Hazard Mitigation Program and to get grants from FEMA to help implement this plan. Generally it is almost 75% comes from the federal government and 25% for the local community during this grant program.

At today's meeting, we will start the discussion of what are the specific hazards that concern Macon County, and by the end of meeting a list of the hazard will be compiled so the committee can go forward to develop the risk assessment and mitigation process.

Mr. Menninger went over what is involved with a mitigation plan. FEMA provides the framework for the plan. The plan will need to follow FEMA regulation to meet their requirements for a federal approved plan. **The specific content of the plan will all be directed to Macon County, but the generally outline and framework of the plan is FEMA's.**

The Primary Elements are the Initial Planning Group and Local Input, the risk assessment, mitigation strategies, plan review and adoption by the locals and finally maintenance and implementation of their plan.

Today's meeting is the first of three meeting that will be held with the planning group. The second meeting will discuss the vulnerability assessment for the community and start to discuss the potential

mitigation projects. The third meeting will be discussion on how the communities rank this mitigation projects and prioritize them.

Throughout the process they will be communicating with the committee thorough mail and email. There will be information published on the County EMA's website for the public to access this information.

The role of the Planning Committee is 1) maintaining awareness of the process 2) gathering local information and reporting it to Jim Root and himself for the development of the plan. 3) Utilize local expertise 4) Provide documents and data 5) review the draft plan.

The local jurisdiction participation requirements are 1) attend planned meetings. 2) provide local data. He stated if you don't have a lot of local data that is ok, but they would love to have as much information as you can provide. 3) identify the critical facilities within your town. 4) review the mitigation actions and then review the plan. 5) adopt the plan by City or village by passing a resolution. This is the final step needed for FEMA approval.

Next step is Risk Assessment. Risk Assessment is the understanding the vulnerabilities of the communities in Macon County to each individual hazard. What this means is to determine how much damage would a certain event cause to that community and how likely this event would occur. Next you will need to assess vulnerabilities such as the threat to human population, potential to life loss, and the potential to economic damage.

He stated now at this point, you have determined what hazards you are really vulnerable to. Now the process starts to identify the specific mitigation actions for the community to implement to reduce risk. This could be either to reduce your chance for damages or reducing the probability of something occurring. This could be a flood control basin that would reduce the occurrence of flooding downstream. You are looking for either one. Some hazards you cannot reduce that probability so you would have to look at what is vulnerable and how you would be provide better hardiness for that disaster.

In the hazard mitigation plan you will need to be very specific and measurable. FEMA wants you to provide an update on your plan in 5 years and they will look at your progress. It is important when you start to develop the mitigation process that you are realistic in your goals and expectations. You will need to take into account, special fundings. In other words, you don't want to make a goal a number one priority, if it is not going to be funded immediately. It could be a high priority to the community, but you could put it into a longer time frame to be completed. There will be more discussion on this at a later meeting.

The mitigation strategies are to 1) develop goals and objectives. 2) develop alternatives and costs. 3) create evaluation criteria. 4) Prioritize projects.

The next step of the plan is the review and adoption. Every member of the planning committee will be provided a draft copy of the plan for review. They encourage the committee to provide comments on items that are specific to their community, as well as, the overall plan. They will take into account the comments and incorporate and roll them in a plan that will be submitted to the State and FEMA for review. If the State and FEMA approves it; it is approved pending local adoption. At that point, the local community takes over and it is up to them to accept the plan under their ordinances.

At this point, it is now time to implement the strategies that were identified. Annual meeting will be held to access the plan and make sure it is working for the community. If things need to be changed, identify them and schedule a time to update. The plan needs to be updated every 5 years.

Examples of mitigation projects are public awareness; early warning systems (Macon County is currently implementing this); levees/floodwalls; and tornado shelters.

He asked if anyone had any questions. No questions noted.

The next part of this meeting will be the discussion of the 7 hazards that are identified in the State plan. He suggested in order to be in compliance with the State, Macon County will need to include these same hazards. These hazards are severe storms, floods, severe winter storms, drought, extreme heat, earthquakes and tornados.

In the 2010 update of the State plan, Macon County vulnerability is ranked as severe hazards are severe storms and severe winter storms. Floods, drought and extreme heat are ranked high, and earthquake and tornado are ranked as elevated. He stated these could change in their ranking to a higher level of concern.

He provided the Committee with a list of Macon County Hazard Vulnerability Flood Insurance Policies and Data and a list of Macon County Hazard Vulnerability Reported Weather Events to review. He stated the most damages Macon County has had is from Thunderstorms.

He shared with the Committee a Disaster Declarations for Macon County over the last 50 years. The majority of these are severe storms and flooding.

He asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the first seven hazards.

Jim Root said Macon County has 147 hazardous material facilities within the County. He thought maybe a Hazardous Chemical Assessment should be done, because of the number of facilities the County has.

John Menninger agreed with Mr. Root. He stated this should be discussed and considered within the plan.

After this meeting Mr. Menninger will look at the data listed and other data provided by the communities and develop a vulnerability rating.

Additional Possible Hazards of Concerns other than the first seven are: 1) Dam Failure, 2) Expansive Soils – this may not be an issue in Macon County. 3) Levee Failure 4) Land Subsidence (Mines) 5. Landslide. 6) Wildfires. He asked the Committee which of these they felt should be listed as additional hazards or concerns.

Jim Root stated Dam Failure and Levee Failure should be considered in the plan.

?? asked what is an expansive soil.

John Menninger stated this is clay soil which basically changes when water is added to the content of the soil. He said this could cause structure damages to roads and bridges.

??stated he feels one of the concerns with villages are the transportation of hazard waste through rail yards. There is a lot of truck traffic that hauls hazardous waste through most of the villages, because most villages have railways that go through them.

John Meninger stated one of the mitigation plans they assisted with, included train derailment as a concern. It was associated with hazard material being transported by trains. He stated this is not

considered a natural hazard, but it may be something that they should look at. He will talk with the State to make sure that fits within their framework.

??Greg Pyles stated the area has a nuclear power plant. It is not located in Macon County, but if a disaster happened it could affect Macon County.

John Meninger said they will look at the transportation and storage of hazard materials, nuclear power plant, dam failure and levee failure. This will be included in the plan.

John Meninger stated what they need from the Committees are 1) Data on Past Historic Events 2) Locations of Critical Facilities 3) Regulatory and Planning Documents 4) Existing and Planned Mitigation Projects. Please submit this information via email to Jim Root or John Meninger. You can also bring it by Jim's office and he will make copies of it and forward it on.

Jim Root gave an example of an existing and planned mitigation project. He stated the Village of Long Creek is doing water drainage for the roads which will eliminate some of the flash flooding problems in their area.

John Meninger reviewed with the Committee the time line and completion of the project. He stated right now the data is being collected until the middle or end of March. The risk assessment is also taken place now. He would like the Committee to discuss with their communities of which mitigation projects they would like to see included in the plan. At the next meeting they will lay out the mitigation strategy, and at the third meeting they will have the plan development.

John Meninger said the Mitigation Plan is important if you want to apply for funding from FEMA.

By the end of August, his firm will have a draft plan developed for the communities to review.

John Meninger asked for any questions or comments.

He said next meeting is scheduled for May. They would like the data back from the communities before they scheduled the date in May. He will notify them in plenty of time when the meeting will be held in May. Most of the meeting will be held here at the Macon County Office Building.

He stated they would like to have a representative from each community at each meeting.

He thanked everyone and stated he was looking forward to working with them.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately at 2:15PM.

Angela Sarver, Planning and Zoning Dept.