



TALBOT COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION & RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #3 (MITIGATION ACTION ITEM WORKSHOP)

November 19, 2021, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The following members of the Talbot County Hazard Mitigation & Resilience Planning Committee (HMRPC) attended the Mitigation Action Item Workshop:

Name	Organization/Department
Sarah Abel	Town of St. Michaels
Nancy Andrew	Talbot Family Network
Maria Brophy	Town of Oxford
Mark Cohoon	Talbot County Public Works
Parker Durham	Talbot County Department of Information Technology
Kia Gibbs	Easton Utilities
Bill Hildebrand	MEMA
Bill Keswick	Talbot County Public Schools
Scott Mergenthaler	Talbot County Sheriff's Office
Mike Mertaugh	Talbot County Public Works
Chase Phillips	Talbot County Planning and Zoning
Rebecca Saduk	Easton Utilities
Geneva Schaffle	Talbot County Emergency Services
Rich Williams	Talbot County Health Department

Agenda

- Introductions/Icebreaker Polls
- Plan Status Update
 - Draft Natural Hazard Chapters
 - Outreach Activities (Public, Social Media)
- Mitigation Action Item In-Person Workshop
- Mitigation Action Item Prioritization Exercise
- Next Steps

Plan Status Update

Draft Natural Hazard Chapters

- All nine natural hazards identified in the plan have received a draft update, including: flood, coastal hazards, winter storm, tornado, high wind & thunderstorm, drought & extreme heat, and emerging infectious diseases.
 - These chapters have received a thematic and visual update, as well as updates to data, tables, text, vulnerability assessments (where applicable), and mapping (where applicable).
 - The drafts have been sent to stakeholders for review and comment.



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- Stakeholders were provided with a feedback form with each draft natural hazard chapter. This form included newly recommended action items.
- The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Method (Appendix A) was completed and provided to stakeholders. This appendix is also available on the project website (www.talbothazardplan.org).
- The Mitigation Action Items Status Report (Appendix B) was completed and provided to stakeholders.

Outreach – Public and Social Media

- The project website was launched at the beginning of summer; it has since received hundreds of unique visitors. The website is posted on Talbot County’s DES social media (e.g., Facebook) which drives traffic to the public survey.
- The **public survey** currently has 368 unique responses.
 - Municipal response breakdown: Easton (145), Oxford (45), Queen Anne (3), St. Michaels (35), Trappe (19), Unincorporated (89).
 - Preliminary results indicate the public is **most concerned** with Emerging Infectious Diseases, Coastal Hazards, and Flood.
 - Those action items identified as “on schedule” or “delayed” are being assessed to determine if they will be refined and integrated into the Plan Update.
- Full results are available in *Appendix B: Mitigation Action Items Status Report*.

Mitigation Action Item In-Person Workshop

- Members of the HMPC met in-person at the Talbot County Community Center to provide feedback on the 28 mitigation action items in the plan update.
- **Project sheets** were developed for each mitigation action item, including the following information:
 1. **Hazard**
 2. **Location**
 3. **Background/Issue**
 4. **Ideas for Integration**
 5. **Responsible Agency**
 6. **Partners**
 7. **Potential Funding**
 8. **Cost Estimate**
 9. **Benefits (losses avoided)**
 10. **Timeline**
 11. **Goals**
- Working in small groups, stakeholders present at the workshop were asked to complete the project sheets to the greatest extent possible based upon their group’s knowledge and expertise.
 - Groups were based on Talbot County’s Community Pillars and some pillars were combined to make three (3) working groups in total:



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1. **Health, Safety, Welfare**
 2. **Education & Economic Stability**
 3. **Infrastructure & Environmental**
- These three groups worked on completing their mitigation action items project sheets for an hour before reporting their findings to the larger stakeholder group. Groups were asked to share the following:
 1. “What are your group’s major takeaways?”
 2. “Which mitigation action item(s) does your group think should be considered high priority?”
 3. “Does your group have any other comments?”
 - Comments and information gathered from the HMPC during this workshop will be incorporated into the plan update within *Chapter 12: Mitigation & Resilience Goals, Objectives, and Action Items*.
 - Additionally, two new action items were added during this workshop, including:
 - Flood-Proofing Easton Utilities Head-End Building
 - Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Relocation

Mitigation Action Item Prioritization Exercise

- Individuals were asked to complete a **Mitigation Action Item Prioritization Questionnaire**. The purpose of this questionnaire is to determine high priority action items.
 - For each action item, the following six (6) yes/no/null questions were asked:
 1. Do you think there would be community acceptance/general support for this mitigation action?
 2. Do you think implementation of this mitigation action will enhance the health and safety of the community?
 3. Do you think the County/Municipalities will be able to sufficiently staff and/or provide technical support to implement this mitigation action?
 4. Do you think the benefits of this mitigation action will exceed the likely costs?
 5. Do you think the maintenance requirements for this option will be affordable and not provide an undue burden on the County or its Municipalities?
 6. Is this project consistent with environment goals?
- Results of this prioritization exercise will be incorporated into the plan update and provided to HMPC members.



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- Based on the results of the questionnaire, **12 action items** were determined to be “**high priority**” by the HMPC.

NEXT STEPS

- Meeting #3 Notes - distributed to all stakeholders and uploaded to project website.
- Scheduling the first THIRA meeting (estimated timeframe: December thru February 2022)
 - The THIRA Appendix will include the following threats: Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack, Active Assailant, and Cyber-Attack/Threat
 - Developing the THIRA will require input from stakeholders via small-group meetings. Be on the lookout for an invitation.
- Results from the public survey will be integrated into the plan update
- Complete draft of natural hazard chapters for HMPC review (December 2021)

Plan Update Website: www.talbothazardplan.org
Public Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/K6ZZ9HS

Contact:

Smith Planning and Design, LLC

E: emessick@smithp-d.com

P: (301) 724-7611