

Westchester County  
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update  
Meeting Notes



Purpose of Meeting:	Steering Committee Meeting
Location of Meeting:	Teleconference Teams Meeting
Date of Meeting:	July 13, 2021 1:30 pm – 3:35 pm

**Attendees:**

- Daniel Olmoz, Program Administrator for the Department of Emergency Services
- Susan Spear, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services
- Dennis Delborgo, Director, Office of Emergency Management
- Captain James Luciano, Department of Public Safety
- Linda Luddy, Department of Emergency Services
- Dave Kvinge, Director of Environmental Planning, Westchester County Department of Planning
- Lisa Reyes, Westchester County Public Information
- Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner of Health, Westchester County Department of Health
- CJ Gelardo, Capital Program Coordinator, Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities
- Douglas Wessells, Westchester County Department of Planning
- William Bland, Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation
- Ilir Tota, Westchester County GIS
- Xiabo Cui, Westchester County GIS
- Hernane De Almeida, PE, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works and Transportation
- Jason Chapin, Director of Workforce Development, Westchester County Association
- Barbara Sabater, Westchester County Department of Social Services
- Steve Courage, Associate Transportation Planner, Westchester Department of Planning
- Valerie Monastra, Town of Ossining
- Daniel Sarnoff, Village of Mamaroneck
- Dana Levenberg, Town of Ossining
- Paul Hoole, FEMA
- Kevin Clapp, NYS DHSES
- Cynthia Addonizio-Bianco, Tetra Tech
- Chris Huch, Tetra Tech

**Agenda Summary:**

Item No.	Description	Action item(s):
1	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting started at 1:30 pm</li> <li>• Opening remarks given by Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear, providing an overview of the importance of this planning process and thanking the participants for agreeing to serve on the Steering Committee.</li> <li>• Cynthia Addonizio-Bianco, project manager from Tetra Tech (Tt), also thanked participants and noted the plan update is moving forward on an expedited schedule.</li> <li>• Paul Hoole from FEMA explained FEMA’s priorities and discussed FEMA’s High Hazard Potential Dam grant program. Mr. Hoole also noted that new guidance/interpretation of guidance is coming out</li> </ul>	



	<p>and will not be applicable to the plan unless it can meet new, less stringent requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin Clapp from NYS DHSES explained the state’s priorities and offered his assistance to the County and municipalities.</li> </ul>	
<p>2</p>	<p><b>Project Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Addonizio-Bianco noted the need to track time spent working on the plan outside of meetings through in-kind tracking to provide match for federal funding support for the planning effort. An online tracker will be sent out to all plan participants.</li> <li>• Chris Huch from Tetra Tech gave an overview on hazard mitigation.</li> <li>• Mr. Huch described past hazard impacts and disaster declarations in the County (27 federal disaster declarations since 1953).</li> <li>• Mr. Huch gave an overview of the phases of the hazard mitigation planning process including description of the project organization:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Core Planning Team (CPT)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Westchester County DES/OEM, Westchester County Planning, Tetra Tech</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Steering Committee (SC)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Numerous County Departments, Outside Agencies, Several municipal representatives</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Planning Partnership (PP)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All participating municipalities and Steering Committee members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ FEMA</li> <li>○ Stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mr. Huch reviewed Steering Committee roles and responsibilities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide guidance and leadership</li> <li>○ Oversee the planning process</li> <li>○ Act as point o contact for partners and stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mr. Huch described the focus on updating the 2015 critical facilities inventory to ensure completeness and identify lifeline facilities. The County and planning partners will provide input to update the list of critical facilities and lifelines via an online survey. Once updated, the information will be used during the risk assessment and mitigation strategy development.</li> <li>• Mr. Huch noted that review of plans and studies has begun. Mr. Huch asked if there have been updates to the 2012-2014 series of Stormwater Reconnaissance Plans.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Olmoz noted that other County staff may have input.</li> <li>○ Ossining worked with Cornell on Town and Village adaptation plan and know climate impacts</li> <li>○ It was suggested to gather information on emergency planning/hazard information from:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MTA</li> <li>▪ Ferry Services</li> <li>▪ Flood Resiliency Network</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC to start tracking In-Kind hours via online survey on a weekly basis preferred– to be distributed by Tt via email</li> <li>• Tt to provide SC member access to the project OneDrive site and SC members to confirm access to OneDrive – access to be provided in separate email</li> <li>• Online critical facility inventory survey to be distributed by Tt to the County and municipal representatives for update.</li> <li>• Mr. Olmoz to reach out to other County contacts to provide input on relevant plans.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Addonizio-Bianco noted that participants will be given access to OneDrive to share documents and information.</li> </ul>	
<p>3</p>	<p><b>Risk Assessment and Hazards of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Huch discussed the process of the risk assessment and reviewed the hazards of concern identified in the last HMP. These hazards of concern will need to be reviewed and updated as necessary. A survey will be sent out to the Steering Committee.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Addonizio-Bianco noted that dam failure is not needed as a stand-alone hazard to maintain access to the High Hazard Potential Dam program.</li> <li>Mr. Huch noted that pre-disaster mitigation funding addresses natural hazards. The previous HMP included 3 non-natural hazards including chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear (CBRN) incidents, cyber attack, and critical infrastructure failure. Mr. Olmoz noted that some of these types of hazards are covered in other emergency plans the County has. Mr. Huch noted that review of the hazards of concern could involve removing these hazards as stand-alone hazards and note them as cascading impacts of other hazards.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Amler asked if the building collapse in Florida should warrant considering building structural catastrophic failure as a hazard. It was noted that unless the failure was human caused (which is not the main focus of HMPs), structural failure is likely a cascading impact from other natural hazards (severe storm, earthquake, etc.)</li> <li>Valerie Monastra asked if we should look at steep slopes and landslide. Dr. Amler noted that a building in Yonkers had to be evacuated after a mudslide.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that this event was caused as a result of flooding and could be a cascading impact of flooding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Dana Levenberg noted that there could be a terrorist attack at Indian Point so keeping CBRN as a hazard of concern for the county may be warranted. Mr. Olmoz noted that there is a radiological preparedness plan that addresses the Indian Point facility.</li> <li>Susan Spear asked how to include climate change as a hazard. Ms. Addonizio-Bianco noted that all hazard profiles include a section discussing the impact of climate change on the hazard.</li> <li>Mr. Huch noted that when reviewing hazards of concern, it is important to consider whether a hazard has potential mitigation actions that would reduce</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steering Committee to take online survey to update Hazards of Concern– to be distributed by Tt via email.</li> </ul>

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	<p>the impact of the hazard (true mitigation) rather than emergency planning which should take place in other plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Addonizio-Bianco noted that NFIP data gathering for information on policies, losses, and NFIP assistance visits is underway.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Goals and Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Addonizio-Bianco noted that the last HMP did not have a mission statement and recommended the addition of a statement to summarize the purpose of the plan.</li> <li>Ms. Addonizio-Bianco introduced the goals and objectives from the last HMP. The goals and objectives will need to be reviewed. A survey will be sent out to the Steering Committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steering Committee to take online survey to update Goals – to be distributed by Tt via email.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>CRS Integration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several communities in Westchester County participate in the Community Rating System to address flooding and reduce flood insurance premiums.</li> <li>Ms. Addonizio-Bianco noted that hazard mitigation plans qualify for CRS points as “Floodplain Management Plans” through Activity 510. This HMP update will include methods to meet CRS standards, including having meetings open to the public.</li> </ul>	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Addonizio-Bianco reviewed upcoming meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning Partnership – July 20<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Steering Committee Meeting – August 2021</li> <li>Risk Assessment Meeting – August 2021</li> <li>Mitigation Strategy Workshop – September 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Conclusion</b> - The meeting concluded at 3:25 pm.</p>	