

Westchester County
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Meeting Notes



Purpose of Meeting:	Steering Committee Meeting – Risk Assessment
Location of Meeting:	Teleconference Teams Meeting
Date of Meeting:	September 14, 2021 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Attendees:

- Daniel Olmoz, Program Administrator for the Department of Emergency Services
- Dennis Delborgo, Director, Office of Emergency Management
- Dave Kvinge, Director of Environmental Planning, Westchester County Department of Planning
- Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner of Health, Westchester County Department of Health
- CJ Gelardo, Capital Program Coordinator, Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities
- 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
- Valerie Monastra, Town of Ossining
- Daniel Sarnoff, Village of Mamaroneck
- Joan Aracich, City of Mount Vernon
- Cynthia Addonizio-Bianco, Tetra Tech
- Kate Long, Tetra Tech

Agenda Summary:

Item No.	Description	Action item(s):
1	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting started at 1:30 pm. • Cynthia Addonizio-Bianco, project manager from Tetra Tech (Tt), also thanked participants and noted the plan update is moving forward on an expedited schedule despite impacts from Hurricane Ida. 	
2	<p>Project Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Addonizio-Bianco emphasized 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. • Municipal Participation Status and worksheet collection was reviewed, as well as upcoming steps. • Reminder about Public Engagement and posting about the plan and survey links on department/agency websites. 	HMP Website: www.westchesterhmp.com
3	<p>Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities (SWOO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Addonizio-Bianco presented a background and purpose of conducting a SWOO assessment for 	SWOO Survey Link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WestchesterSWOO



	<p>hazards of concern in each community, focusing on those that are of greatest concern/highest risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This information will be used to develop mitigation strategies and projects. 	
<p>4</p>	<p>Risk Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazards of Concern Confirmed: Disease Outbreak, Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Flood, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm, Wildfire, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, or Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents. • To be discussed as cascading impacts of the above hazards: Critical Infrastructure Failure, as well as potential for Cyber Attacks. • Ms. Addonizio-Bianco presented the formula for calculating risk based on probability of occurrence, impacts to (population, property, and economy), adaptive capacity, and climate change. • Preliminary <i>county-wide</i> hazard rankings were presented for the hazards of concern, with the following notes and final rankings. Municipal ranks were presented to indicate the distribution of the local results across the county. In general the county ranks reflect the highest municipal ranks rather than the county-wide averages. The Steering Committee will confirm the county rankings after review of the final local input and municipal adjustments to ensure the county ranks reflect the risk on the local level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disease Outbreak – MEDIUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary ranking of LOW was increased to MEDIUM due to Steering Committee recommendations ▪ Rationale: Concerns about ongoing COVID-19 risk and impacts, as well as other annual disease occurrences. ○ Earthquake – MEDIUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steering Committee agreed with calculated ranking to coincide with the highest municipal ranking. ○ Extreme Temperature – MEDIUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary ranking of Low was increased to Medium due to Steering Committee recommendations ▪ Rationale: Extreme temperatures affect other populations in addition to the elderly and young. Also the heat island effect affects urban and vulnerable communities which leads to issues of social equity. 	<p>-</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flood – HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steering Committee agreed with calculated ranking, due to urban flooding outside of the floodplain and impact on roadways and evacuations/travel/EMS capabilities. ○ Severe Storm – HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steering Committee agreed with calculated ranking and risk posed . ○ Severe Winter Storm – MEDIUM ○ Steering Committee agreed with calculated ranking in light of high adaptive capacity for this hazard after review of the ranking factors. ○ Wildfire – LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steering Committee agreed with calculated ranking, after review of the ranking factors. ○ CBRN – LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steering Committee agreed with calculated ranking. ● Other notes from Steering Committee members include: risk at Nursing Homes along Long Island Sound and flooding impacts on at-risk individuals and roadway flooding for EMS transport; strain on County Health Department resources after floods to inspect all food service establishments (stores/restaurants) before they can resume operation; historical fuel leakage due to flood damages; improper generator use inside buildings and poor ventilation; improper debris cleanup methods by private residents (i.e. chainsaw accidents). 	
5	<p>Looking Ahead and Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk Assessment Presentation to the Planning Partnership: September 22 @ 1:30 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Municipalities will receive a worksheet to review and adjust their individual risk rankings based on local knowledge and conditions ○ This presentation will include the risk assessment information presented at this Steering Committee meeting but will focus on the Municipal Partner input and concurrence with the local results to form the basis of the municipal mitigation strategies. ● Mitigation Strategy Workshop with FEMA and NYSDHSES in October, date TBD. ● Plan Submittal, December 2021. 	Attend Planning Partnership Risk Assessment Meeting on September 22, 2021 at 1:30 PM.

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	Conclusion - The meeting concluded at 3:00 pm.	-
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