

Columbia County
All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Risk Assessment Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 5, 2016

TIME: 10:00 am

LOCATION: Columbia County Commissioners Conference Room
 26 Rear West First Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

The following people were in attendance:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
1) Sandy Davis	Bloomsburg
2) Charles Fritz	Bloomsburg
3) Belinda DeLeon	Bloomsburg University Police
4) Tom Phillips	Bloomsburg University Police
5) Jennifer Whisner	Bloomsburg University
6) Dave Kovach	Columbia County Commissioners
7) Rich Ridgway	Columbia County Commissioners
8) Jennifer Long	Columbia County EMA
9) Jessica Shoup	Columbia County EMA
10) Amy Marshall	Columbia County GIS
11) Mitch Kishbach	Columbia County GIS
12) Rachel Swartwood	Columbia County Planning
13) Rich Kisner	Columbia County Housing Authority
14) Eric Stahley	Columbia County Resiliency
15) Kathi Lynn	Columbia County Area Agency on Aging
16) Loreen Comstock	Geisinger Nurse Family Partnership
17) Melissa Matthews	Hemlock Township
18) Joe Mullen	Montour Township
19) Paul Eyerly	Scott Township
20) Tom Hughes	PEMA

MEETING HANDOUTS: Handouts and forms that were given to each attendee included the following: Existing Mitigation Strategy Goals and Objectives Review, Risk Factor Evaluation, Summary of Risk Factor Approach, Mitigation Action Form, and Hazard Mitigation Techniques and Ideas,

MEETING OVERVIEW

- **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting started with introductions of key hazard mitigation planning team members and attendees. Jessica Shoup addressed questions concerning the daytime meeting. It was explained that this was a planning meeting and the invitation had been extended to all involved, but they were not required to attend this meeting. The participants were assured that all other meetings would be held after business hours. Then the agenda for the meeting was reviewed.

- **Project Overview & Kickoff Meeting Summary**

Kickoff Meeting was held on November 10, 2015. The planning process was reviewed. Capabilities were assessed and hazards were identified through the use of forms that were filled out and returned by each municipality. The data from those forms was compiled into charts available on the EMA website (HMP tab) for review. Local participation and requirements was also discussed at the kickoff meeting.

- **Capability Assessment, Evaluation of Identified Hazards & Risks, NFIP Review**

The data collected from the capability assessment, evaluation of identified hazards and risks, and NFIP review was briefly reviewed. The meeting attendees were advised of how to find the charts on the EMA website for review.

- **Risk Assessment**

Each of the following hazards and the Risk Factor Values assigned to them were reviewed. The data that was used to reach the conclusions were explained as well. Comments made by attendees during this part of the meeting are included below.

- **Hazard Risk Factor Values**

- ✓ **Drought (2.2)**

- ✓ **Flash Flood, Flood, Ice Jam (3.2)**

- ✓ **Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Nor'easter (1.9)**

- ✓ **Landslide (1.9)**

- ✓ **Pandemic (1.8)**

- Questions were raised concerning the Zika Virus. More research will be conducted on this and will possible inclusion in the plan will be considered. It was brought up that there may have been two women who tested positive for Zika virus in Pennsylvania.

- Climate changes that increase breeding cycles of insects and birds was brought up.

- The avian flu was discussed as well and its impact on agriculture and humans.

- The weight values assigned to the Risk Factor Value formula was reviewed.

- Tom Hughes advised that the formula has been used for the past twenty years and is from the FEMA 386 series. He said the state plan uses the same scale.

- ✓ **Tornado, Windstorm (2.7)**

- ✓ **Wildfire (1.7)**
 - ✓ **Winter Storm (2.9)**
 - ✓ **Environmental Hazards (3.0)**
 - **Hazardous Materials**
 - There was a question concerning the compression stations that may accompany the Atlantic Sunrise Expansion Project and whether they had been considered in the Risk Factor Value that was assigned.
 - There was also a question about the EPA Toxic Release Inventory and what they were being permitted to release into the environment. An example of the paint fume incinerator at Kawneer was provided.
 - **Coal Mining Incidents**
 - **Oil & Gas Well Incidents**
 - Questions were raised on whether or not the watersheds that are north of the county could have a potential impact on Columbia County as the contamination from fracking or coal mining may flow down towards our county. This will be review for potential impact to the Risk Factor Value as well.
 - Issues with the liner of White Pines landfill liner potentially leaking and contaminating the water supply in Millville were discussed. This will be researched.
 - ✓ **Nuclear Incidents (2.3)**
 - ✓ **Utility Interruption (2.0)**
 - Cyber-attacks or terrorism in relation to loss of service was discussed as a potential addition to the utility interruption section of the plan.
 - ✓ **Radon (1.9)**
 - ✓ **Levee Failure (1.8)**
 - The Kawneer levee was brought up as a consideration for inclusion in the plan.
 - Tom Hughes suggested that we add a definition of Levee to the plan if not already included.
 - ✓ **Dam Failure (2.2)**
 - There were questions raised about the damage that could be expected if a high-hazard dam breached and also why the dam failure section was kept in a separate annex. Both were addresses.
 - ✓ **Earthquake**
 - A question was raised about the heightened risk of earthquakes due to fracking. Jennifer Whisner stated that the earthquakes associated with fracking are due to the re-injection of fracking fluids into the earth. She said that we don't do that at all in Pennsylvania and all of our waste fluid is transported to Ohio, so it doesn't present an increased risk at this time to our county.
- **Countywide Hazard Ranking and Risk Factor**
 - **Jurisdictional Risk Factor Comparison**

The Countywide Hazard Ranking and Risk Factor Analysis were discussed. Attendees were advised how the rankings were set and how we decided how to rank the jurisdictional evaluations.

- **Task #1 – Countywide and Jurisdictional Risk Evaluation**

This form was explained and all participants were asked for their input on both the County Risk

Factor Values and the jurisdictional evaluations.

- **Mitigation Strategy**

Mitigation strategy was explained as the approach to reduce or avoid long term vulnerabilities. Goals, Objectives, and Actions & Projects were explained. Goals are the general guidelines on what we want to see done in our community. Objectives are a strategy on what we want to accomplish. Actions are specifically what action we are going to take to address the hazard.

- **Task #2 – Goals and Objectives Evaluation**

This form was explained. All participants were asked for their input on the Goals and Objectives that are currently in the plan.

- **Mitigation Action Techniques**
- **Mitigation Action Plan**

The mitigation action plan was described to the participants as a comprehensive set of mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of a hazard. There was a question about the implementation schedule and how strictly they would be held to the schedule. It was explained that it was more for their own use and they wouldn't be held to the specific schedule that they had provided.

- **Task #3 – Mitigation and Action Selection and Development**

This form was explained to participants as the basis for the next meeting, the Mitigation Strategy Workshop. Each municipality will have to include one mitigation action in the plan and this will be discussed at the next meeting. Municipal officials in attendance were advised that the form was being handed out early so they could get a head start on pricing, potential funding sources, or other information needed on projects they wanted to include.

- **Planning Timeline**

The planning timeline was reviewed. Participants were advised the next meeting would be the mitigation strategy workshop that would be held near the end of May.

- **Question and Answer Section**

The participants were thanked for their participation and attendance and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Meeting notes recorded by Jessica Shoup.