



Erie County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Project Kickoff Meeting
Wednesday, August 24, 2011
6:00 pm - 1930

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks.....*Gerard Whittington, Deputy Commissioner, ECDES*
- Overview of the Project.....*Anna Foley, Project Manager, URS*
 - Mitigation and Mitigation Planning
 - Project Background
 - Benefits of Continued Participation
 - Participation Requirements
 - Mitigation Success Stories
 - Key Steps of the Plan Update Process
 - Project Timeline
 - Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders
 - Near Term Action Items for Participating Jurisdictions
 - Questions & Answers
- Closing Remarks.....*Gerard Whittington, Deputy Commissioner, ECDES*
- Adjourn

*Please remember to
SIGN IN
if you haven't already done so.
Thank you.*

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #1



Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

To: Gerard J. Whittington, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner, Erie County Department of Emergency Services
For County distribution to representatives from all participating jurisdictions

From: Anna Foley, URS

Date: July 12, 2011

Re: Erie County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The Project: An update of the 2005 Erie County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for continued compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and its implementing regulations.

The Issue: To meet FEMA's requirements for plan approval, municipal staff members must participate in the plan update process through attending meetings, providing various types of information and feedback, identifying and assessing mitigation actions, and reviewing draft documents. In addition, it is also required that the public and other stakeholders (such as neighboring jurisdictions, agencies, businesses, academia, nonprofits, and other interested parties) be given an opportunity to comment and become involved.

Memo Purpose: This memorandum has been prepared to provide the Core Planning Group (Erie County and its participating jurisdictions) with suggestions for engaging the public and other stakeholders in the plan update in a manner that will meet FEMA's minimum requirements for plan approval.

Keep In Mind: URS Corporation, as the consulting company, is able to provide the Core Planning Group with guidance on potential means to satisfy the FEMA requirements. Nevertheless, it is the members of the Core Planning Group (Erie County and its participating jurisdictions) who are ultimately responsible for selecting activities that they feel are most appropriate for their respective communities, carrying out these activities, and providing URS with a completed Outreach Log (last page of this memo) to be incorporated into the plan.

Action Items: Outreach to the public and other stakeholders during summer and early fall; completed Outreach Logs documenting these activities must be provided to URS no later than November 1, 2011. Please don't hesitate to contact Anna Foley of URS if you have any questions. She can be reached via phone at 973-785-0700 ext. 339 or via email to anna_foley@urscorp.com.



Overview

For this project, each participating municipality has committed to contributing to the development of an updated county-wide, multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan and has authorized local members to serve beside representatives from Erie County on the "Core Planning Group" and to actively participate as requested throughout the planning process.

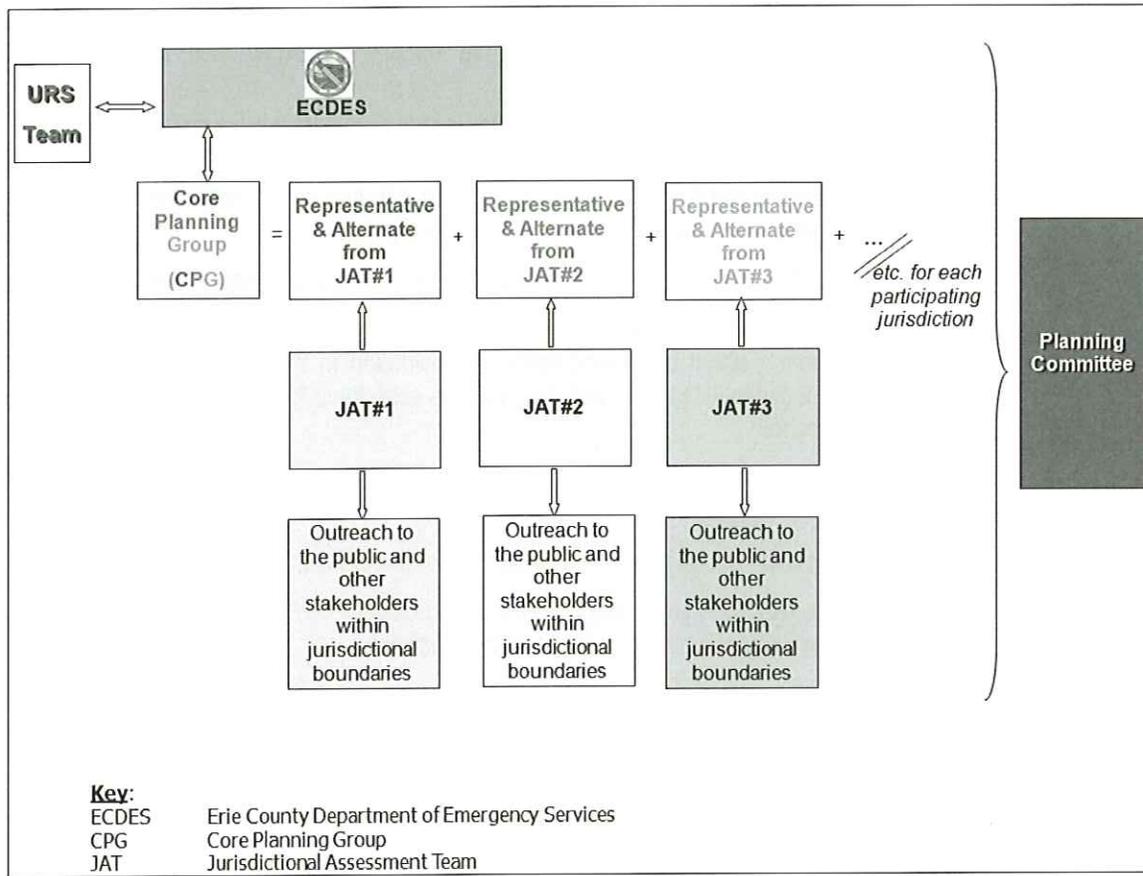
Each municipality is required to name its own local hazard mitigation planning committee ("Jurisdictional Assessment Team", JAT). CPG members will reach back to their JAT and pass along meeting information to them, keeping them apprised of the update process, as well as solicit their joint support in providing information and feedback for various stages of the plan update.

Each municipal JAT, headed by its CPG member(s), is required to provide opportunities for both the general public and other stakeholders to become aware of the process and be given an opportunity to comment, provide feedback, and become involved. Other stakeholders include entities such as:

- Neighborhood groups
- Non-profit organizations (i.e. scout troops, Red Cross, Salvation Army)
- Housing organizations
- Environmental groups
- Historic preservation groups
- Parent-teacher organizations
- Church organizations
- State, federal, and local government offices
- Neighboring communities/counties
- Business and development organizations
- Academic institutions
- Utility providers
- Large businesses
- Hospitals
- Tribal groups
- Transportation entities
- Parks organizations
- Regional planning organizations
- Chambers of commerce
- Emergency service providers (ie., police, fire, EMS)
- Member of municipal IT group (re: web link for mitigation planning effort)
- Any local office and/or group with a public outreach focus

The URS Team will serve as plan authors and will assist the Planning Committee by conducting the analyses necessary to provide information they need to make sound decisions, and help guide them through the necessary steps of the plan update process in a manner that is consistent with applicable regulations (DMA 2000), criteria (44 CFR Part 201.6), and guidance (FEMA's Mitigation Planning "How-To" guides; FEMA's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance document of July 2008).





Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

For FEMA to approve the updated plan, the County and each participating jurisdiction must take actions to: (a) alert the public and other stakeholders to the fact that the Planning Committee is working to develop this Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, and (b) provide the public and other stakeholders with a forum to ask questions, and submit comments and suggestions on the process.

Over the course of the summer and early fall, each participating jurisdiction should:

- Discuss the plan update at regularly scheduled council/board meetings (that are already advertised and open to the public and other stakeholders).
- Post the plan update Fact Sheet throughout the municipality on notice boards at locations such as municipal offices, libraries, fire/police stations, etc.
- Establish a link on the jurisdiction's web site to the overall County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update page (currently under development; it will include information about the project and planning team as well as meeting summaries, points of contact for questions/comment/feedback, and links for further information).
- Target for outreach key stakeholders that each jurisdiction would like to solicit particular feedback from, at the discretion of the jurisdiction. Targeted outreach can be as simple as a phone call, one page letter or email sent to a list of a few key stakeholders from a range of areas that:
 - Alerts the stakeholders to the planning process that is being undertaken;



- Provides them with a link to the upcoming County web site for more information on the process;
 - Identifies a point of contact for more information if they have detailed questions or would like to become involved;
 - Offers to send them copies of meeting minutes and a notification when the Draft is released, if they respond requesting such.
- Make the Fact Sheet available if, for example, your municipality has a booth at a local fair/festival.
 - Publish information about the municipality's participation in the plan update in a local newspaper, if possible (or local newsletter, if one is scheduled for regular release later this summer or early fall).
 - Ensure that the public and other stakeholders are invited to review and provide comments on the Draft Plan Update, when it becomes available.
 - Consider using radio announcements, press advisories/releases, and local television.
 - For all of the items above, interested parties should be provided with an avenue for asking questions, submitting comments, and providing feedback.

CPG members should use the Outreach Log included on the last page of this memorandum to document their activities, and submit a completed form to URS by November 1, 2011 for incorporation into the plan.





**Erie County Multi-Jurisdictional
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

OUTREACH LOG:

Summary of Outreach Activities to the General Public and Other Stakeholders

PARTICIPATING JURISDICTION: _____

DATE OF ACTIVITY	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY DETAILS	LEAD DEPARTMENT AND/OR STAFF TITLE WHO UNDERTOOK ACTIVITY

**Please add additional pages as needed and return by November 1, 2011 to URS, Attn. Anna Foley,
201 Willowbrook Boulevard, Third Floor, Wayne, New Jersey 07470-7005.
Phone: 973-785-0700 ext. 339. Fax: 973-812-0985. Email: anna_foley@urscorp.com**





Erie County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Kickoff Meeting
August 24, 2011
 6 pm
 Erie County Fire Training and Operations Center

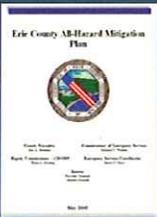



Today's Agenda

- Opening Remarks.....Jerry Whittington, ECDES
- Overview of the Project.....Anna Foley, URS
- Questions.....All
- Closing Remarks.....Jerry Whittington, ECDES
- Adjourn



Opening Remarks



Jerry Whittington
 Deputy Commissioner
 Erie County Department of Emergency Services
 716-858-4799



"Nature, as we know her, is no saint." - Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Building Disaster Resistant Communities

- Disasters are a part of our past, and they will inevitably be a part of our future.
- Costs of repair/recovery can be staggering and often have long-term consequences.
- Federal dollars are not always available to aid in the recovery process for every occurrence.




Case in point: Upstate NY Landslide

- One mile northwest of Keene Valley on the side of Porter Mountain (Adirondacks)
- Largest landslide in NY State history (82 acres)
- Began May 4, 2011 and is still ongoing
- 2 inches to 2 feet per day
- Five homes have been impacted, one of which is totally destroyed





Hazard Mitigation Planning

- Study natural hazards,
- Evaluate hazard effects, and
- Identify **hazard mitigation measures** that will reduce risks.



Hazard Mitigation: *"Recovery With Foresight"*

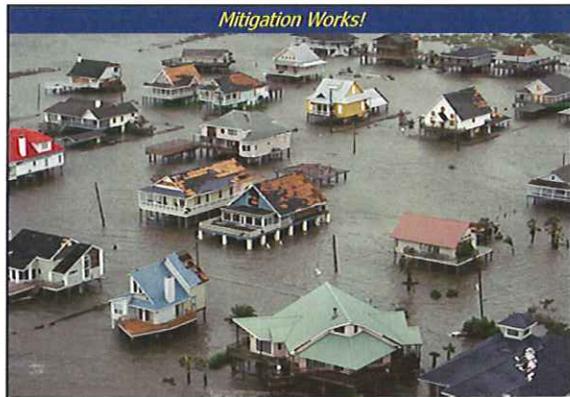
- Hazard mitigation measures:
 - ◆ Save time and money
 - ◆ Protect lives and property
 - ◆ Help to preserve economic and social fabric of the community



Building Disaster Resistant Communities



- Returning a damaged building or piece of infrastructure to the pre-disaster status quo leaves people and property in harms way.
- **Natural hazards will always be present, but by planning ahead, mitigation projects can work to reduce their effects.**



Mitigation Works!

Elevated homes in Sweet Lake, LA (near Lake Charles) after Hurricane Rita (09/24/05).



Project Background

- Initial plan was approved by FEMA in 2005
- FEMA requires that the plan be updated and re-approved every five years
- The plan must be expanded upon to address:
 - New requirements that went into effect in 2008
 - Unique requirements for plan updates



Project Background

- Each municipality must directly participate in the update in order to receive re-approval from FEMA and maintain eligibility to apply for hazard mitigation project grants.



Hazard Mitigation: "Recovery With Foresight"

- According to a study by the Multihazard Mitigation Council (part of the National Institute of Building Sciences):

Every \$1 paid toward mitigation saves an average of \$4 in future disaster-related costs



What kinds of projects can be applied for?

Once the plan is approved, jurisdictions that participate fully will be able to apply for projects like these (few examples):

- Acquire/elevate/floodproof/relocate structures
- Road raising/relocation
- Culvert upgrades
- Bridge retrofits
- Utility system protective measures
- Wind retrofits for buildings
- Minor localized flood reduction projects (inc. retention/detention basins)
- Soil stabilization (geotextiles, rip rap, etc.)
- Wildfire mitigation (defensible space, ignition-resistant construction, fuel reduction)

How much of project costs could typically be funded by FEMA grants?

- Programs and Federal Share
 - HMGP 75%
 - PDM 75%
 - FMA 75%
 - RFC 100%
 - SRL 90%

How much of project costs could typically be funded by FEMA grants?

- Programs and Federal Share

HMGP	75%	\$0.25
PDM	75%	\$0.25
FMA	75%	\$0.25
RFC	100%	\$0.00
SRL	90%	\$0.10
- Bottom Line: Free money**



Why participate in this plan?

- Bottom Line: Free money**

- \$\$ Maintain eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project grants.
- \$\$ Good projects will be "on the shelf" for when funding opportunities open up.



What will it take to be part of the update?

Participating jurisdictions must:

- Attend meetings
- Conduct outreach to the public and other stakeholders
- Provide feedback (questionnaires)
- Update their municipal mitigation action plans
- Review and comment on the Updated Plan Draft

To Do:



How much time is this going to take?

In many ways, the choice is yours (getting the job simply done, versus doing a really good job).



Remember:

- Participation is by municipality, not by person, so tasks should be divided amongst a small group of people in your municipality (your "Jurisdictional Assessment Team" (JAT)).



Mitigation Success Story: Village of Ellicottville (Cattaraugus County)

Population 472; just under 1 square mile

■ Problem

- ◆ Bridge at confluence of two creeks
- ◆ Abutments restricted flow
 - ◆ Water backed up during even moderate rain/snowmelt
 - ◆ \$125,000 in annual damages
 - ◆ January 1996 Flood (DR-1095) → \$371,000



■ FEMA Mitigation Grant

- ◆ Bridge replacement (widen abutments), channel reconfiguration
- ◆ Cost \$421,000 (75% FEMA HMGP; 25% County)
- ◆ Completed in 1998
- ◆ Public investment already recouped



Mitigation Success Story: Hamlet of Morrisonville (Clinton County)

Population 1,702; just under 3 square miles

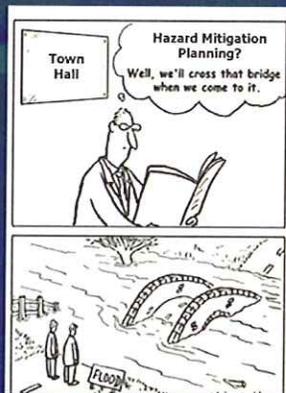
■ Problem

- ◆ Ice jam flooding along Saranac River
- ◆ Roughly once every 10 years
 - ◆ January 1996 Flood (DR-1095) damages \$667,000
 - ◆ Residents had to be evacuated at night during dangerous ice and high water conditions



■ FEMA Mitigation Grant

- ◆ Acquisition of 19 residential homes and 3 vacant lots
- ◆ Cost \$1.4M (75% FEMA HMGP; 25% State/County/Private)
- ◆ Most homes vacated by November 1996 when next event occurred
- ◆ Substantial savings realized in less than one year



Overview of the Plan Update Process: Key Steps

- Planning process just as with the original plan, including more outreach to the public and other stakeholders
- Update hazard and vulnerability data to reflect recent events
- Update NFIP data





Overview of the Plan Update Process: Key Steps

- Update mitigation strategies to there are a comprehensive range mitigation actions for each jurisdiction covering the identified risks
- Updates to reflect changes in development in hazard prone areas



Overview of the Plan Update Process: Key Steps

- Describe status of actions in previous plan
 - Completed?
 - If not, describe if action is no longer relevant or if it will be included in the updated action plan (and why)
 - Have any priorities changed? If so, how/why?



Project Timeline

- Kickoff Meeting: August 2011
- Plan Development: Ongoing
- Local Feedback: Ongoing
- Next Meeting: October 2011
- Draft Plan to County: November 2011
- Draft Plan to NYSEMO: December 2011



Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

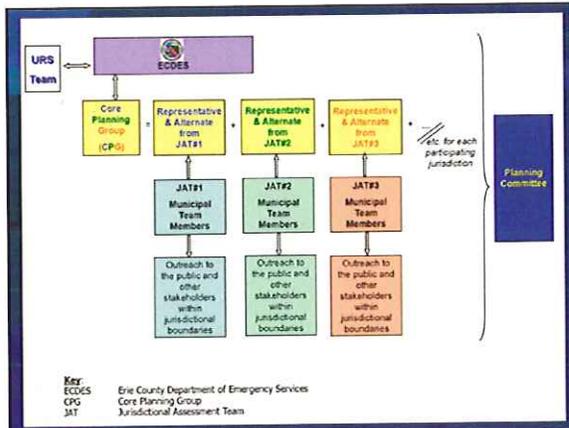
- Required by FEMA
- To be done by each participating municipality
- See guidance memorandum in today's handouts for tips



Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

■ Who Are Other Stakeholders?

- ◆ Neighborhood groups
- ◆ Non-profit organizations (i.e. scout troops, Red Cross, Salvation Army)
- ◆ Housing organizations
- ◆ Environmental groups
- ◆ Historic preservation groups
- ◆ Parent-teacher organizations
- ◆ Church organizations
- ◆ Parks organizations
- ◆ State, federal, and local government offices
- ◆ Neighboring communities/counties
- ◆ Business and development organizations
- ◆ Academic institutions
- ◆ Utility providers
- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Tribal groups
- ◆ Transportation entities
- ◆ Regional planning organizations
- ◆ Emergency service providers
- ◆ Jurisdiction web site managers / IT staff
- ◆ Any local office and/or group with a public outreach focus





Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

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- Establish a link on the jurisdiction's web site to the overall County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update page (currently under development)



Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders




Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

Web site:
www.erie.gov/disaster

Click on "Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan"




Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

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Targeted outreach to key stakeholders can be as simple as a phone call, letter or email sent to a list of a few key stakeholders that:

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Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

For all of the items above, interested parties should be provided with an avenue for asking questions, submitting comments, and providing feedback.



Near-Term Action Items for Participating Jurisdictions:

- Be ready to complete and return worksheets that will arrive via email in the coming weeks from Jerry –
 - This will provide vital information that is needed from you for mandatory inclusion in the plan for FEMA approval
- Begin your outreach efforts
- Next meeting will be in October



Hazard Mitigation: Recovery With Foresight



▶ "The world we have created today as a result of our thinking thus far has problems which cannot be solved by thinking the way we thought when we created them."

Albert Einstein



Questions and Answers

URS

Anna Foley, Project Manager
973-785-0700 ext. 339
anna_foley@urscorp.com

Richard Franks, Deputy Project Manager
973-785-0700 ext. 449
richard_franks@urscorp.com

Our Commitment:
A FEMA-Approved Plan Update



Closing Remarks



Jerry Whittington
Deputy Commissioner
Erie County Department of Emergency Services
716-858-4799

