

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
COMMITTEE MEETING #1**

NOTES

Date: Friday, February 23, 2018
 Time: 11:00 a.m.
 Duration: 120 minutes
 Location: Jefferson County Maintenance Building
 128 Industrial Boulevard
 Kearneysville, WV 25430

The Jefferson County Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly introduced the project. He then turned the meeting over to JH Consulting, the firm contracted to update the plan.

The consultant briefly reviewed the definition of mitigation and went over the different parts that integrate the hazard mitigation plan. During this initial introduction she also reviewed what was expected of the committee members throughout the process of the update. She presented a tentative schedule for the plan in which she outlined the different meetings, agenda items, and expected progress of the project. Delivery to the state is expected to occur in May.

| MONTH | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY |
|----------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Meetings | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 | Meeting 3 | Meeting 4 |
| Meeting Agenda Items | Plan priorities Goals Asset list Surveys | Objectives Hazards Future development New projects | Review draft Maintenance Project prioritization | Approve draft Submit to the state |
| Activities | Outreach & research | Outreach & research Narrative writing | Public meeting Narrative writing | |

The consultant posed two questions for discussion to the committee: why is mitigation important to you? And, how have your priorities for mitigation changed in the past five years?

The attendees began giving examples of why mitigation is important to them. Among the answers were the following.

- To reduce loss of life and property
- To reduce flooding and flash flooding
- It is cheaper to mitigate some things in the long term than pay for the same thing repeatedly
- When a hazard is mitigated, such as a flood, first responders do not have to risk their lives to save people

As to the changes in plan priorities, attendees commented the following.

- It is important to know what the plan priorities were five years ago
- Resource availability will affect that can be done in terms of mitigation, preparedness, and response
- Integrate municipal projects into county projects
- The opioid crisis is present now more than before
- Strategically look at how best to utilize the resources (i.e. purchase of new ambulances due to the wear and tear from the roads vs. finding a solution to fixing the repetitively damaged roads)

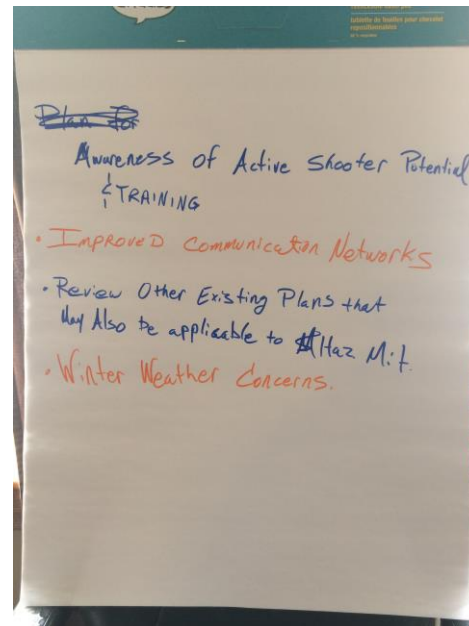
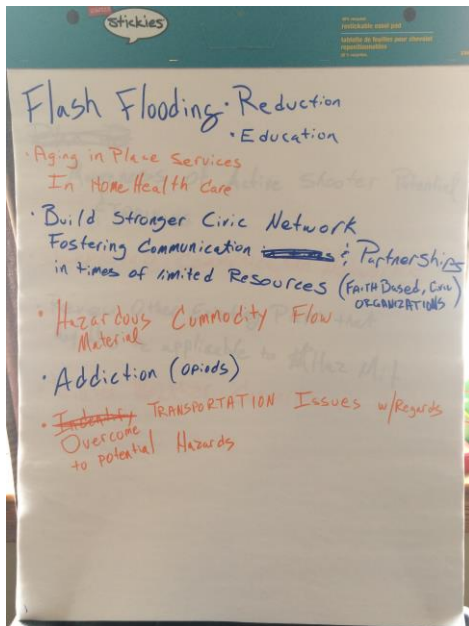
After lunch, the committee transitioned to talking about the goals for the plan. The consultant presented a few examples of goals from the FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook as a guide. The committee discussed the goals in three groups for around 20 minutes and at the end presented their findings to the entire group.

As the committee members were giving their presentations, the consultant pulled themes and commonalities amongst the three groups and wrote them on a whiteboard for all to see.

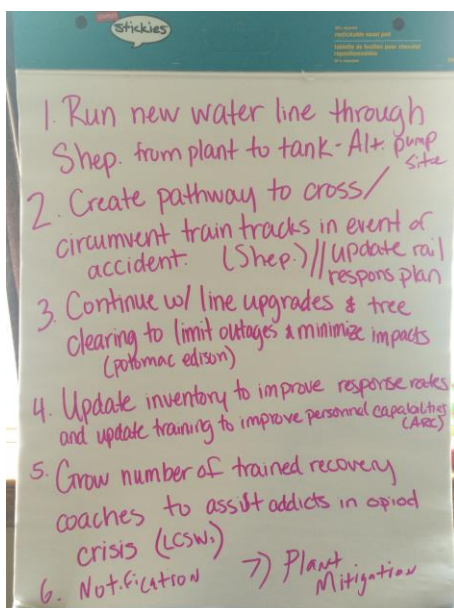
The hazards that the committee was most concerned with included aging population, floods and flash floods, opioid use, transportation issues (ingress and egress),

communication (infrastructure and personal), winter weather effects, power outages, and water (either too much [floods] or too little [droughts]). These would mainly be the hazards that the goals would address.

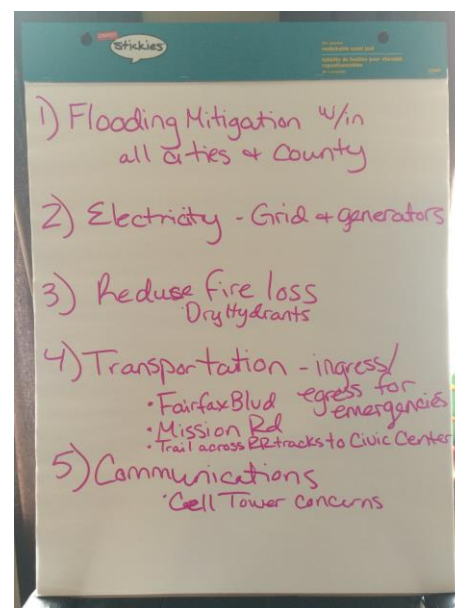
Group 1 Notes



Group 2 Notes



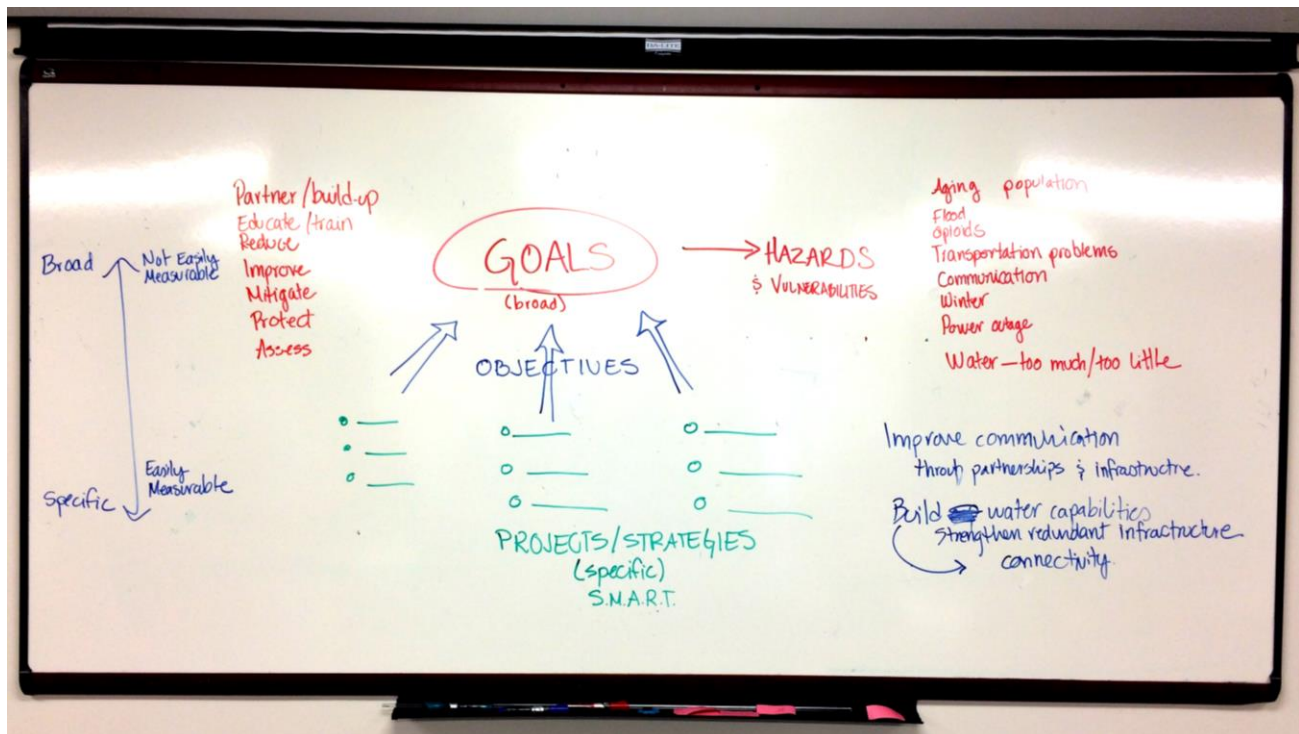
Group 3 Notes



During the presentation, the spokespersons mentioned words that identified action goals such as: partner or build-up, educate or train, reduce, improve, mitigate, protect, and assess. These were then used to create goals that addressed the hazards.

As a group, the committee came up with two clear goals that could address a variety of hazards and would mitigate them.

- Improve communication capabilities through partnerships and infrastructure
- Strengthen redundant infrastructure (i.e. build water capabilities)



The projects or strategies will be addressed in a later meeting, but the committee recognizes that the individual, specific projects will work together to achieve a broader, common goal.

The next item on the agenda was to address the existing community asset list and review and update it. The GIS department mentioned that they could provide the specific addresses for the assets, so the committee did not have to focus on that aspect. The committee, in turn, focused on making changes to the existing list, for example, by noting the assets' change in location, change in name, adding new assets, or simply eliminating assets that no longer exist.

The consultant provided a brief overview of the surveys certain committee members needed to take. The towns and cities will need to complete an NFIP survey as well as an online capabilities survey. As for public involvement, the consultant suggested an online survey made available to the public via social media and newsletters to garner public input about hazards.

The committee scheduled the next in-person meeting for Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the same location, the Jefferson County Maintenance Building.