
SECTION 7.

PLAN MAINTENANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

The Plan Maintenance and Implementation section of the plan has been prepared to reflect the region's intentions for implementation, maintenance, and public participation over the next five years. This section provides a clear explanation of how the strategies detailed throughout Section 6 will be implemented.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Southeastern NC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan will commence with adoption of the document by all participating jurisdictions. Resolutions of Adoption are provided in Appendix I of the plan.

Upon adoption, this Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan faces the truest test of its worth – implementation. Implementation implies two closely related concepts: action and priority. While this plan puts forth many worthwhile and high priority recommendations, the first task facing the Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) is the decision about which action to undertake first. There are two factors to consider in making that decision: the priority of the item and available funding. Thus, pursuing low or no-cost high-priority recommendations will have the greatest likelihood of success. Central to the success of this plan is the need for regional coordination regarding implementation of some of the mitigation strategies.

Another highly effective and low-cost implementation mechanism is incorporation of the hazard mitigation plan recommendations and their underlying principles into other regional, county, and municipal plans and regulatory mechanisms, such as Capital Improvements Plans and Land Use Plans. The Counties and participating municipalities will utilize this plan as a starting point toward implementing policies and programs to reduce losses to life and property from natural hazards. Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties will all be charged with ensuring implementation of strategies specific to their jurisdiction. If these efforts require intergovernmental coordination the Regional MAC should also be involved. If a strategy has been documented as regional, all participating jurisdictions should assist in carrying out the function and/or strategy.

Mitigation is most successful when it is incorporated into the day-to-day functions and priorities of government and development. This integration is accomplished by constant efforts to network, identify, and highlight the multi-objective benefits to each program and its stakeholders. This effort is achieved through the routine actions of monitoring implementation efforts, attending meetings, and promoting a safe, sustainable community. Additional mitigation strategies could include consistent and ongoing enforcement of existing policies and review of regional, county, and municipal programs for coordination and regional multi-objective opportunities.

Coincidentally with these efforts, it is important to maintain a constant monitoring of funding opportunities that can be leveraged to implement some of the more costly recommended actions. This process will include creating and maintaining a bank of ideas on how any required local match or participation requirement can be met. When funding does become available, MAC members will be in a position to capitalize on the opportunity for their respective jurisdictions. Funding opportunities to be monitored include special pre-

and post-disaster funds, special district budgeted funds, state or federal earmarked funds, and grant programs, including those that can serve or support multi-objective implementing actions.

ROLE OF THE MAC IN IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE

With adoption of this plan, the Regional MAC will be tasked with plan implementation and maintenance. The MAC, led by Tom Collins of the Pender County Emergency Management Department, agrees to:

- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Pursue the implementation of high-priority, low/no-cost recommended actions;
- Keep the concept of mitigation in the forefront of community decision-making by identifying plan recommendations when other community goals, plans, and activities overlap, influence, or directly affect increased community vulnerability to disasters;
- Continuously monitor multi-objective cost-share opportunities to help the community implement the plan's recommended actions for which no current funding exists;
- Monitor and assist in implementation and update of this plan;
- Report on plan progress and recommended changes to the County Boards of Commissioners; and
- Inform and solicit input from the public.

The MAC will not have any powers over County or municipal staff personnel; it will be a purely advisory body. Its primary duty is to see the plan successfully carried out and to report to the community governing boards and the public on the status of plan implementation and mitigation opportunities for the region, counties, and participating municipal jurisdictions. Other duties include reviewing and promoting mitigation proposals, considering stakeholder concerns about hazard mitigation, passing concerns on to appropriate entities, and posting relevant information on the Counties' websites.

EVALUATION, MONITORING, AND UPDATING

Plan maintenance implies an ongoing effort to monitor and evaluate plan implementation and to update the plan as progress, roadblocks, or changing circumstances are recognized. In order to track progress and update the mitigation strategies identified in the policy section of the plan, the Regional MAC will revisit this plan on an annual basis and after a hazard event. Tom Collins, acting as chair of the MAC, is responsible for initiating this review and will consult with members of the MAC. This monitoring and updating will take place through a formal review by the MAC annually, and a five-year written update to be submitted to the NCEM and FEMA Region IV, unless disaster or other circumstances (e.g., changing regulations) require a change to this schedule.

Evaluation of progress can be achieved by monitoring changes in vulnerabilities identified in the plan. Changes in vulnerability can be identified by noting:

- Decreased vulnerability as a result of implementing recommended actions;
- Increased vulnerability as a result of failed or ineffective mitigation actions; and/or
- Increased vulnerability as a result of new development (and/or annexation).

Updates to this plan will:

- Consider changes in vulnerability due to project implementation;
- Document success stories where mitigation efforts have proven effective;
- Document areas where mitigation actions were not effective;
- Document any new hazards that may arise or were previously overlooked;
- Incorporate new data or studies on hazards and risks;
- Incorporate new capabilities or changes in capabilities;
- Incorporate growth and development-related changes to County inventories; and
- Incorporate new project recommendations or changes in project prioritization.

In order to best evaluate any changes in vulnerability as a result of plan implementation, the MAC will use the following process:

- A representative from the responsible office identified in each mitigation strategy will be requested to report on a annual basis to the MAC on project status and provide input on whether the project as implemented meets the defined objectives and is likely to be successful in reducing vulnerabilities.
- If the project does not meet identified objectives, the MAC may recommend additional measures to be implemented, and an assigned individual will be responsible for defining project scope, implementing the project, monitoring success of the project, and making any required modifications to the plan.

Changes will be made to the plan to accommodate for projects that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review for their consistency with established criteria, the time frame, County priorities, and/or funding resources. Priorities that were identified as potential mitigation strategies will be reviewed as well during the monitoring and update of this plan to determine feasibility of future implementation.

Updating of the plan will be accomplished by written changes and submissions as the MAC deems appropriate and necessary, and as approved by the Board of Commissioners for each participating County or the participating municipalities' governing boards, if applicable. In keeping with the process of adopting the plan, a public involvement process to receive public comment on plan maintenance and updating will be held annually, and the final product will be adopted by each County and all participating municipalities.

CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public participation is an integral component to the new mitigation planning process and will continue to be essential as the Southeastern NC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan evolves over time. Significant changes or amendments to the Plan shall require the involvement of the general community as deemed appropriate prior to any formal adoption procedures.

Efforts to involve the general community in the plan maintenance, evaluation, and review process will be made as necessary. These efforts may include:

- Advertising meetings of the MAC with invitation for public participation;
- Designating knowledgeable and willing members of the community to serve as official representatives on the MAC;
- Utilizing local media to update the community of any maintenance and/or periodic review activities taking place;
- Utilizing the Pender, New Hanover, and Brunswick County government websites to advertise any maintenance and/or periodic review activities taking place; and
- Keeping copies of the Plan in local libraries.

INCORPORATION INTO EXISTING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS

The MAC, which will meet at a minimum annually, will provide a mechanism for ensuring that the actions identified in this plan are incorporated into ongoing County and municipal planning activities for each participating jurisdiction as follows:

Pender County

Atkinson
Burgaw
Saint Helena
Surf City
Topsail Beach
Watha

New Hanover County

Carolina Beach
Kure Beach
Wilmington
Wrightsville Beach

Brunswick County

Bald Head Island
Belville
Boiling Spring Lakes
Bolivia
Calabash
Carolina Shores
Caswell Beach
Holden Beach
Leland
Navassa

Northwest
Oak Island
Ocean Isle Beach
Sandy Creek
Shalotte
Southport
St. James
Sunset Beach
Varnamtown

The participating jurisdictions currently utilize comprehensive land use planning and building codes to guide and control development in the communities. After all participating jurisdictions adopt the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, these existing mechanisms will have hazard mitigation strategies integrated into them. The communities will utilize the planning tools outlined under Table 4-7 for Brunswick County, Table 4-8 for New Hanover County, and Table 4-9 for Pender County.

After the adoption of the HMP, the participating jurisdictions will work with the State Building Code office to make sure the jurisdictions adopt and enforce the minimum standards established in the new State Building Code. This effort will ensure that life/safety criteria are met for new construction. These efforts will be carried out by the Regional MAC, as well as each respective County MAC. The following County MAC participants will be responsible for implementation at the County level:

Brunswick County Mitigation Advisory Committee	
MAC Member	Jurisdiction/Agency
Marc Pagès, Land Planner	Brunswick County Planning Department
Chris McCall, Assistant Village Manager/Shoreline Erosion Specialist	Village of Bald Head Island
Athina Williams, Town Administrator/Clerk	Town of Belville
Bill Murphy, City Engineer	City of Boiling Spring Lakes
Terri Knox, Town Clerk	Town of Bolivia
Chuck Nance, Town Administrator	Town of Calabash
Gail Treglia, Code Compliance Officer	Town of Carolina Shores
George Kassler, Administrative Chief of Police	Town of Caswell Beach
Timothy Evans, Planning & Inspections Director Rhonda Wooten, CAMA/Zoning Official	Town of Holden Beach
Steven Spruill, Public Work Director	Town of Leland
Eulis A. Willis, Mayor	Town of Navassa
Gwendolyn K Spicer, Town Clerk	Town of Northwest
Steve Edwards, Building Codes Administrator Donna Coleman, Code Enforcement Officer	Town of Oak Island
Chuck Rash, Assistant Fire Chief Keith Dycus, Development Services Specialist	Town of Ocean Isle Beach
Tina Colby, Town Clerk	Town of Sandy Creek
Robert Lewis, Planning Director	Town of Shallotte
John Allen, Community Development Specialist	City of Southport
Don McGuire, Emergency Management Team Member	Town of St. James
Rawls Howard, Planning and Inspections Director Randy Walters, Building Inspector Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief	Town of Sunset Beach
George Ennis Swain, Mayor Pro Tem	Town of Varnamtown

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New Hanover County Mitigation Advisory Committee	
MAC Member	Jurisdiction/Agency
Warren Lee, Director	New Hanover County Emergency Management & 911
Steven Still, Senior Emergency Management Specialist	New Hanover County Emergency Management & 911
Kristen Skinner, Emergency Management Specialist	New Hanover County Emergency Management & 911
Charles Smith, Public Information Officer	New Hanover County Emergency Management & 911
Debora Cottle, 911 Manager	New Hanover County Emergency Management & 911
Tim Burgess, Assistant County Manager	New Hanover County Administration
Ken Vafier, Planning Manager	New Hanover County Development Services
Wanda Coston, Community Development Planner	New Hanover County Development Services
Joshua Swift, Deputy Health Director	New Hanover County Health Department
Jeremy Hardison, Senior Planner	Town of Carolina Beach
Captain Ed Kennedy, Assistant Fire Chief	Town of Kure Beach
Tom Crews, Technical Services Manager	City of Wilmington
Corey Harrison, Senior Systems Analyst	City of Wilmington
Kathryn Thurston, Zoning Administration/Floodplain Manager	City of Wilmington
Tony Wilson, Planning & Parks Director	Town of Wrightsville Beach

Pender County Mitigation Advisory Committee	
MAC Member	Jurisdiction/Agency
Tom Collins, Director	Pender County Emergency Management
Kyle Breuer, Director	Pender County Planning Department
Randell Woodruff, County Manager	Pender County Manager's Office
David Williams, Chairman	Pender County Board of Commissioners
Jack Turner, Mayor	Town of Atkinson
Margie Craver, Town Clerk	Town of Atkinson
Eugene Mulligan, Mayor	Town of Burgaw
Chad McEwen, Town Manager	Town of Burgaw
Rebekah Roth, Planning Administrator	Town of Burgaw
Robert Barnhill, Mayor	Village of St. Helena
Mary Bakan, Village Clerk	Village of St. Helena
A.D. (Zander) Guy, Jr., Mayor	Town of Surf City
Larry Bergman, Town Manager	Town of Surf City
Todd Rademacher, Planning Director	Town of Surf City
Howard Braxton, Mayor	Town of Topsail Beach
Michael Moore, Interim Town Manager	Town of Topsail Beach
Needham C. Hall, Mayor	Town of Watha
Retha C. Garriss, Town Clerk	Town of Watha

The capital improvements planning that may occur in the future will also contribute to the goals in the HMP. The jurisdictions will work with capital improvements planners to secure high-hazard areas for low risk uses. During the HMP planning/implementation period, each participating jurisdiction will strive for the objective of formal adoption of the HMP policies.