

Appendix B: Public Process

Public participation is an important component to any strategic planning document and offers citizens the chance to voice their thoughts, ideas and opinions. The Brown County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan attempts to include citizen input in all aspects of the planning process. The Core Group Committee is comprised of knowledgeable individuals representative of the community, questionnaires seeking input from other interested stakeholders were sent out and returned, individual meetings with elected and appointed officials were held, and public meetings were conducted to discuss the goals and actions of the mitigation plan and receive citizen input.

Core Group Steering Committee

The Core Group Steering Committee for the Brown County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was established by the Brown County Emergency Management Agency. The committee represents a cross-section of the county to include elected officials, local officials, planners, private industry, and building officials. Members of this committee are familiar with the impacts of natural hazards in Brown County and assisted in developing plan goals and action items.

The following lists the various people and organizations that participated on the Brown County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Core Group Steering Committee.

James Berry, Brown County Building Department
Bryan Mount, Village of Mt. Orab
Cathy Blevins, John Wood Insurance
Don Koewler, Ripley Fire Department
Tony Pfeffer, Ripley Fire Department
Lesley Myers, Village of Ripley
Pat Hopkins, Brown County 911
Christopher Renshaw, Renshaw Land Surveying
David Dugan, OSU Extension Office
Kirby Cornett, Brown County Commissioner
Perry Ogden, Brown County Commissioner
Dale Reynolds, Brown County Commissioner
Delmar Daniel, Union Township
Richard Heitz, Union Township
Tara Fisher, USDA/NRCS
S. Kelly Jones, Village of Georgetown
Bernie Vilvens, Village of Fayetteville
Sgt. John Black, Village of Mt. Orab
David Henderson, Pike Township
Scott Moore, Brown County Engineer's Office
Heather Carrelli, Village of St. Martin

Mary Carrelli, Village of St. Martin
Jim McMullen, Village of Fayetteville
Louis Johnson, Perry Township
Emery Holden, Green Township
Gary Frye, Green Township
Doug Green, Brown County Auditor
Marianne Lang, Perry Township
Steve Mezger, Sterling Township
Ed Shinkle, Sterling Township
Dwayne Wenninger, Brown County Sheriff
Jane Cahall, Brown County Emergency Management Agency

Flyers and newspaper articles begin on page 3, meeting notes begin on page 6, letters and questionnaires begin on page 21 and a public meeting summary is included on page 25.

NOTICE

OF INTENT TO

PLAN

The Brown County Emergency Management Agency has been awarded a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a natural hazard mitigation plan.

This plan will focus on flooding, tornadoes and other natural hazards that impact Brown County.

If you are interested in participating in this project, or would like to receive additional information about this project, please contact the Brown County EMA at (937) 378-5100.

Preventing future disasters

By HOLLEE CHADWICK
Editor

GEORGETOWN - Georgetown Village Administrator Kelly Jones met with Jane Cahall, director of the Brown County Emergency Management Agency, during which they discussed the creation of an All-Natural Hazards Mitigation plan.

According to Cahall, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, Section 322, requires local governments to have an approved local hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds for disasters declared after Nov. 1, 2003.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Mitigation is the cornerstone of emergency management. It's the ongoing effort to lessen the impact disasters have on people's lives and property through damage prevention and flood insurance. Through measures such as, building safely within the floodplain or removing homes altogether; engineering buildings and infrastructures to withstand earthquakes; and creating and enforcing effective building codes to protect property from floods, hurricanes and other natural hazards, the impact on lives and communities is lessened."

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is the FEMA program that authorizes funding for certain mitigation measures to be implemented during immediate recovery from disaster to prevent future loss of lives and property. This new requirement is to encourage the development of compre-

hensive mitigation plans before disaster strikes.

On behalf of the Brown County Emergency Management Agency, Cahall has applied for and received a grant from FEMA to develop a county-wide mitigation plan. Cahall said, "A steering committee made up of representatives from local government, private organizations, and businesses in the county will guide the development of the plan and assist in developing goals and action items. The purpose of the plan is to make Brown County a more disaster-resistant community by fostering partnerships among various agencies and the public."

Jones met with Cahall to discuss the Village of Georgetown's participation in the program in conjunction with BCEMA. Jones told the council on Thursday, Feb. 26, that for the village to develop its own mitigation plan, a proposal would need to be written, grant money sought, and the expense would be higher than if they joined the countywide plan.

Jones referred to Aberdeen's green space program, which turned flood prone areas into non-residential green space through a buy-out program. Regarding their program in Aberdeen, FEMA said, "During FEMA-assisted local recovery efforts, village officials were put in contact with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency Mitigation Branch and briefed on the availability of federal hazard mitigation grants. In discussing the possibilities with area residents and developing a local HMGP proposal, it became clear to community leaders

that they had a unique opportunity to 'kill two birds with one stone' through a property acquisition project that would:

- Eliminate most structures from the riverfront area, an area that was dangerous not only to occupants but also to public safety personnel, and for which thousands of tax dollars had already been spent and major future expenditures for flood rescue, recovery and repairs were virtually certain; and

- Convert the village's 'front yard' along a scenic stretch of the Ohio from an unsightly jumble of substandard housing into a three-quarter-mile long riverfront park that would enhance recreational opportunities for the whole community and dramatically improve the appearance of the downtown area."

Billie Eitel was the mayor of Aberdeen at the time the green space was being developed. Eitel said, "It wasn't the easiest thing I've ever done, and anyone who takes on a mitigation project should understand that there's a substantial time commitment involved. But the payoff has been a great improvement in the safety and appearance and quality of life in our community."

Cahall sent a letter to Brown County officials, informing them of the receipt of the grant. Cahall is asking that if anyone has any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions regarding this project, or if they would like a representative of their community to play an active role in the plan development process, to contact her at (937) 378-5100 or via e-mail at bcema@bright.net.

Hazard mitigation plan will be topic of forums

The Brown County Emergency Management Agency will host two public forums on Tuesday, Oct. 26, to allow the public to comment on the draft Brown County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. sessions that day will be held at The Gaslight Theater, 301 S. Main St., Georgetown.

This plan discusses the natural hazards most likely to impact Brown County and goals to mit-

igate Brown County from future natural hazard losses resulting from flooding, tornadoes and winter storms.

A public comment period will follow a brief presentation.

"I'm very proud of the hard work of the many community members who contributed to the development of this plan," EMA Director Jane Cahall said. "It provides a number of good ideas to help us address the hazards we face."

The public is encouraged to attend either of the sessions.

Anyone wanting additional information may contact Cahall at (937) 378-5100.

Public forum scheduled

The Brown County Emergency Management Agency will be hosting two public forums Oct. 26, to allow the public to comment on the draft, "Brown County Natural Hazard Mitigation" plan.

This plan discusses the natural hazards most likely to impact Brown County and goals to mitigate Brown County from future natural hazard losses resulting from flooding, tornadoes and winter storms. A public comment period will follow a brief presentation.

"I'm very proud of the hard work of the many community members who contributed to the development of this plan," said Jane Cahall, EMA Director. "It provides a number of good ideas to help us address the hazards we face."

The 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. sessions will be held at The Gaslight Theater in Georgetown, located 301 S. Main Street. The public is encouraged to attend either of the sessions. For additional information, contact Cahall at (937) 378-5100.

Meeting Notes

Meeting #1: January 22, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE:

James Berry, Brown County Building Department
Bryan Mount, Village of Mt. Orab
Cathy Blevins, John Wood Insurance
Don Koewler, Ripley Fire Department
Tony Pfeffer, Ripley Fire Department
Lesley Myers, Village of Ripley
Pat Hopkins, Brown County 911
Christopher Renshaw, Renshaw Land Surveying
David Dugan, OSU Extension Office
Kirby Cornett, Brown County Commissioner
Perry Ogden, Brown County Commissioner
Dale Reynolds, Brown County Commissioner
Jane Cahall, Brown County Emergency Management Agency
Eric Richter, Emergency Strategies Inc.

Introduction

Eric provided an introduction to the hazard mitigation planning process and a brief explanation of the Disaster Mitigation Act. Brown County has been tasked with having a mitigation plan in place by November 2004. This plan will be used to determine eligibility for future HMPG funds. Brown County was awarded a hazard mitigation planning grant to assist EMA in the development of this plan.

Eric pointed out that the grant has a timeline associated with it and a final plan will be approved by FEMA. Additionally, each political jurisdiction in Brown County will have to participate in the development of this plan and sign off on the final draft. Communities that fail to participate in this plan will be ineligible for future HMPG funds unless they develop their own plan specific to their jurisdiction.

Mitigation Actions

Eric gave a brief description of mitigating activities, including activities most communities already do to protect the lives and property of people in their community. He also discussed how the plan will be organized.

Hazard & Risk Assessment

Copies of the draft hazard analysis evaluated at the meeting in December were distributed to the Core Group for discussion. Data provided by the National Weather Service was used to rank historical incidents of natural hazards in Brown County. Many people on the committee felt this data lacked some historical events. Most historical information weighs very heavily on the side of flooding events in the county.

After much discussion, the group determined that the hazards most accurately ranked in the following order:

Flooding
Tornadoes
Severe Thunderstorms/Hail/Lightning
Earthquake
Winter Storms
Drought

Cathy Blevins and David Dugan will research data they have related to crop damage as a result of hail or drought. Eric and Jane will work on gathering Presidential Disaster Declaration information for the county.

The group will decide at the next meeting the specific hazards the plan should focus on.

Community Profile

Eric noted that Brown County experienced a 21% increase in population from the 1990 to 2000 census. As such, the plan will also focus on development and growth in Brown County, and its affects on stormwater runoff, drainage and flooding. Current zoning resolutions regarding floodplain management will also be included in the plan.

Discussion was held on the various natural hazards that have affected Brown County, including the earthquake tremor in July 1980 and ice jams that took out a covered bridge. Due to limited historical information regarding specific events for the community profile, the group felt the News Democrat and Ripley Bee newspapers may be excellent resources to gather additional information regarding weather events in Brown County.

Meeting #2: February 26, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE:

James Berry, Brown County Building Department
Bryan Mount, Village of Mt. Orab
Cathy Blevins, John Wood Insurance
Delmar Daniel, Union Township
Richard Heitz, Union Township
Tony Pfeffer, Ripley Fire Department
Lesley Myers, Village of Ripley
Pat Hopkins, Brown County 911
Christopher Renshaw, Renshaw Land Surveying
Tara Fisher, USDA/NRCS
S. Kelly Jones, Village of Georgetown
Bernie Vilvens, Village of Fayetteville
Sgt. John Black, Village of Mt. Orab
Kirby Cornett, Brown County Commissioner

Dale Reynolds, Brown County Commissioner
Jane Cahall, Brown County Emergency Management Agency
Eric Richter, Emergency Strategies, Inc.

Community Profile

Eric distributed draft copies of the Community Profile of the plan. There was some historical information that he was not able to find as it pertained to the blizzard of 1977/78, flood of 1997 and development/planning documents for new growth. Eric received additional information for the plan from the Brown County Extension Office, the Brown County building department and for recent EWP projects.

Identifying Hazards for the Plan

Discussion was held about which hazards the Core Group wanted the plan to focus on. The group determined flooding should receive the most detail since it has occurred most frequently in the county. The impact from an earthquake or drought would most likely be minimal and will probably have the least detail. Tara noted that a major hazard was not listed specifically and should be included in the plan. Subsidence, or landslides, has occurred in Brown County during heavy rainfall. This hazard has contributed to damaged roads, and mudslides could potentially impact some homes. The group decided that this hazard also needed to be included.

The Core Group ultimately decided that the plan should address all of the hazards in the following order: flooding, tornadoes, thunderstorms/lightning/hail, winter storms/ice, landslides, earthquake and drought.

Identifying Hazard Areas and Problems

Eric asked the group if they could brainstorm about areas of the county that are habitually prone to hazards, and specific problems related to each hazard. After some discussion, the problems identified included the following items:

Flooded roads in low lying areas
Mudslides during heavy rains (undermining some homes) north of Aberdeen
Roads undermined by slippage
Log jams
Tree trimming programs, debris left behind clogs ditches and streams
Flooding near water treatment plant (Mt. Orab)
More tornado sirens needed in southern part of county (most susceptible to high winds/tornadoes)
Stormwater runoff from new paved areas
Township ditches are full of debris
Inconsistent drainage systems between existing properties and new development
Weather radios are not commonly available in all schools and businesses
Additional public education needed about all hazards
Clarification needed on emergency snow levels

Meeting #3: March 25, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE:

James Berry, Brown County Building Department
Bryan Mount, Village of Mt. Orab
Cathy Blevins, John Wood Insurance
Delmar Daniel, Union Township
Richard Heitz, Union Township
Tony Pfeffer, Ripley Fire Department
Pat Hopkins, Brown County 911
Tara Fisher, USDA/NRCS
Kirby Cornett, Brown County Commissioner
Dale Reynolds, Brown County Commissioner
Perry Ogden, Brown County Commissioner
David Henderson, Pike Township
Scott Moore, Brown County Engineer's Office
Heather Carrelli, Village of St. Martin
Jim McMullen, Village of Fayetteville
Louis Johnson, Perry Township
Emery Holden, Green Township
Gary Frye, Green Township
Doug Green, Brown County Auditor
Jane Cahall, Brown County Emergency Management Agency
Eric Richter, Emergency Strategies Inc.

Eric began the meeting by providing an overview of the Brown County natural hazard mitigation plan project for the new people in attendance. He then distributed a summary of the brainstorming session from the last meeting (attached). The summary divided the problem statements developed at the last meeting into four main areas. These include zoning regulations and enforcement, stormwater management, forestry and waterway management, greater emphasis on public education, protocols and procedures for severe weather, and the need for additional tornado sirens.

Discussion was held about tree trimming programs and the impact debris left behind can have on ditches and streams. Questions were raised about changing protocols, and who would serve as enforcement if procedures change. Additional discussion was held about low-lying roads and how they are impacted by heavy rains. The County Engineer's Office does take that into account when planning or upgrading roads. In some places there is no place to move the road, and identifying funding for many projects is also difficult.

Additional discussion occurred about township ditches. Many of the ditches were put in several years ago by the townships, but it became the owner's responsibility to keep them clear of debris. Some landowners do not keep their ditches clean, which affects other landowners downstream, and this will continue to be a problem as new development occurs. If funding was available within the township's budget, they could pay to remove

the debris and assess the property owner's taxes. Most townships do not have the money available and it's also not always popular with the property owners. Many in the group felt a legal opinion from the County Prosecutor would need to be obtained before any such action could occur. Once again, funding for these types of problems is also a major problem.

Regarding development and land use, discussion was held about construction in floodplains. Many regulations are in place and there has not been any push to develop within the floodplains. Since the 1997 flood, there has been more interest from mortgage companies and banks about properties located in the floodplains. Most mortgaged properties are required to have flood insurance. Eric asked if the county had ever reviewed the requirements to participate in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS). Many communities in Brown County may have adopted some of these requirements, making them eligible to participate in the program.

Potential Activities & Actions

Eric began the task of brainstorming with the group about potential activities and actions that could occur to address the five primary goals.

Manage Development

Enforce subdivision standards

Develop land use maps that identify floodplains and water flow

Seek funding to upgrade inconsistent or inadequate drainage systems

Participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)

Manage Debris

Develop new tree trimming procedures

Work with involved parties to understand mitigation and the secondary effects of tree trimming programs.

Enforce codes. Work with Solid Waste and/or Health District to insure homeowners keep areas susceptible to flooding free of debris.

Foster new relationships with volunteer and conservation groups to check the status of streams and waterways, and develop a course of action before problem becomes too big.

Brainstorming for the remaining goals will occur at the next meeting.

Meeting #4: April 22, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE:

James Berry, Brown County Building Department

Bryan Mount, Village of Mt. Orab

Cathy Blevins, John Wood Insurance

Delmar Daniel, Union Township

Richard Haitz, Union Township

Pat Hopkins, Brown County 911

Dale Reynolds, Brown County Commissioner
David Henderson, Pike Township
Heather Carrelli, Village of St. Martin
Mary Carrelli, Fayetteville, St. Martin
Louis Johnson, Perry Township
S. Kelly Jones, Village of Georgetown
Gary Frye, Green Township
Doug Green, Brown County Auditor
Martin Lang, Perry Township
Marianne Lang, Perry Township
Jane Cahall, Brown County Emergency Management Agency
Eric Richter, Emergency Strategies Inc.

Eric began the meeting by providing an overview of the Brown County natural hazard mitigation plan project for the new people in attendance. He and Jane have briefly discussed having the community meetings for the plan at a location in conjunction with the Tobacco Festival and the Brown County Fair. Updates will be provided at a future date.

He briefly reviewed the brainstorming ideas from the March 25th meeting for two of the plan's goals. They included:

Manage Development

Enforce subdivision standards
Develop land use maps that identify floodplains and water flow
Seek funding to upgrade inconsistent or inadequate drainage systems
Participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)

Manage Debris

Develop new tree trimming procedures
Work with involved parties to understand mitigation and the secondary effects of tree trimming programs.
Enforce codes. Work with Solid Waste and/or Health District to insure homeowners keep areas susceptible to flooding free of debris.
Foster new relationships with volunteer and conservation groups to check the status of streams and waterways, and develop a course of action before problem becomes too big.

Potential Activities & Actions Continued

Eric began the task of brainstorming with the group about potential activities and actions for the remaining goals.

Maintain Public & Private Infrastructure

Insure Dam EAP is consistent with county EOP
Plant vegetation on hillsides
Tree removal/bank stabilization projects
Cleaning debris from ditches

Rip rapping (Lake Lorelei)
Elevate roads

Minimize Damage to Public & Private Property

Burying phone/electric lines
Dry hydrants in farming community
Utilize green space
Use retention ponds

Minimize Loss of Life from Severe Weather

Identify special needs populations (nursing homes, daycares, schools, senior centers, churches and recreational areas)
More sirens are needed
Advocate purchase and use of weather radios
Promote weather spotter programs, amateur radio
Identify shelter locations for mobile home park residents
Increase public education about disasters and preparation in schools
Increase public education about snow level warnings
Encourage family disaster plans
Review reverse 911 capabilities
Develop protocols for the use of bullhorns for warning

The next meeting will be used to establish short and long term goals for the mitigation plan.

Meeting #5: May 20, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE:

James Berry, Brown County Building Department
Bryan Mount, Village of Mt. Orab
Cathy Blevins, John Wood Insurance
Delmar Daniel, Union Township
Richard Haitz, Union Township
Pat Hopkins, Brown County 911
Heather Carrelli, Village of St. Martin
Mary Carrelli, Fayetteville, St. Martin
S. Kelly Jones, Village of Georgetown
Gary Frye, Green Township
Chris Renshaw, Renshaw Surveying
Clem Schumacher, Union Township
Steve Mezger, Sterling Township
Tara Fisher, USDA/NRCS
Jane Cahall, Brown County Emergency Management Agency
Eric Richter, Emergency Strategies Inc.

Eric began the meeting by providing an overview of the Brown County natural hazard mitigation plan project for the new people in attendance. He condensed the information from the previous meetings into potential action items for Brown County.

A summary of the discussion follows.

Mitigation Plan Goals

Goal 1. Minimize the loss of life of the citizens of Brown County from the effects of natural hazards.

Goal 2. Protect critical facilities and minimize damage to public and private property.

Goal 3. Manage new development to limit exposure to damage from natural hazards.

Goal 4. Manage debris along streams, waterways, roadways and ditches.

Goal 5. Reduce the number of repetitively damaged existing structures.

Action Items

Action Item 1

Improved Code Enforcement

Conduct training

Enforce development standards

Limit development in high hazard areas

Identify extra measures

Responsible Agency(ies): Brown County Building Department
 Brown County Health Department
 Solid Waste Authority
 Division of Wildlife – Stream Litter
 EPA
 Coast Guard
 Planning Commission
 Local Zoning (Perry, Washington, Eagle & Pike)

Deadline: 1-2 Years

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: A staff educated about the dynamics of hazard mitigation can facilitate preventative measures when reviewing plans and inspecting sites.

Action Item 2

Develop A Countywide Growth Plan

Address farmland preservation/open space.

Identify how growth should occur.

Establish a working committee (Planning Commission)

Responsible Agency(ies): Planning Commission
 Brown County Commissioners
 Economic Development Director

Deadline: 1-2 years

Cost: Planning Consulting (Brown County is currently working on GIS capabilities and identifying farmland preservation grants.)

Benefits: Incorporating mitigation actions into plans and regulations will help avoid hazardous areas and new development will be better protected.

Action Item 3

Infrastructure Audits

Evaluate at risk roads and/or bridges, dams, water treatment facilities, electrical power and other utilities. Identify alternative energy sources (generators) for pump stations.

Responsible Agency(ies): County Engineer
 Village Officials
 Private Utility Companies
 Rural Water

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time
 Generators

Benefits: Keeping critical roads, facilities and equipment operational during and after a natural disaster is vital to public health and safety.

Action Item 4

Retrofitting Incentives

Establish a program of technical assistance and financial incentives to encourage property protection measures on private property such as drainage improvements, dam control and dry hydrants.

Responsible Agency(ies): Village Officials
 County Engineer
 Army Corps of Engineers

Local fire departments

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time- Watershed Management
Dry hydrants
Installation of larger culvert pipes

Benefits: Better drainage control can protect against flooding of downstream areas. Dry hydrants can help prevent excessive loss of private property.

Action Item 5

Repetitive Loss/High Risk Projects

Identify repetitive loss structures and at-risk structures.

Responsible Agency(ies): EMA

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Undetermined

Benefits: A benefit/cost analysis would need to be completed for repetitive loss and high risk structures to be eligible for future FEMA funds.

Action Item 6

Drainage Maintenance

Implement a formal stream and ditch/drainage maintenance program to protect against build-up of debris and/or log jams.

Responsible Agency(ies): Village Officials
County Engineer
OSU Extension Agent
Volunteer/conservation groups

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time
Undetermined

Benefits: Obstruction to ditches and channels results in flooding. By inspecting and maintaining drainage systems, potential flood problems can be identified and corrected before heavy rains.

Action Item 7**Forestry Programs**

Implement a formal and regular tree trimming (and removal) program.

Responsible Agency(ies): Engineer
 Village Officials
 Power Companies

Deadline: 1 Year

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: An active forestry program will address problems caused by high winds, winter storms and flooding.

Action Item 8**Flood Threat Recognition**

Identify the need for additional rain and stream gauges throughout the county.
Establish a better monitoring system of the gauging network.

Responsible Agency(ies): EMA
 National Weather Service

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Additional rain gauges

Benefits: Early recognition of impending flooding can save lives and prevent property damage.

Action Item 9**Community Rating System**

Review the criteria for Brown County communities to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS).

Responsible Agency(ies): EMA
 Village Officials

Deadline: 1 Year

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: A community's participation in the Community Rating System enables residents required to have flood insurance to take advantage of discounted rates.

Action Item 10**Bank Stabilization Projects**

Identify areas susceptible to mudslides or slippage during periods of heavy rain and develop a strategy to stabilize those areas.

Responsible Agency(ies): Village Officials
County Engineer
Ohio Department of Transportation

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Planting/Vegetation Programs

Benefits: Stabilizing hillsides susceptible to mudslides will prevent damage to roads and allow emergency vehicles continuous access during emergencies.

Action Item 11**Purchase Additional Tornado Sirens**

Identify areas in greatest need of tornado sirens and seek funding sources to purchase and maintain additional sirens.

Responsible Agency(ies): EMA
Village Officials

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Installation of new sirens

Benefits: Additional sirens will provide a larger warning area to help protect lives of Brown County residents.

Action Item 12**Establish Reverse 911 Capabilities**

Identify the equipment and costs associated with establishing reverse 911 capabilities in Brown County.

Responsible Agency(ies): EMA

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Installation of capabilities and per use fees are undetermined.

Benefits: Reverse 911 allows emergency communication directly to homeowners. This system also helps warn special needs populations, such as the hearing impaired.

Action Item 13**Strengthen Public/Private Partnerships and Communications**

Identify the parties that can have an impact on hazard mitigation. Open lines of communication between involved parties to understand what hazard mitigation is and how they fit into the “big picture”.

Responsible Agency(ies): EMA
 County Engineer
 Village Officials

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: Open lines of communication can prompt changes to occur that do not necessarily cost anything.

Action Item 14**Develop and Implement Public Education Programs**

Implement programs to educate the public about hazard mitigation and make them stakeholders in protecting their own lives and property.

Responsible Agency(ies): EMA

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Brochures, training and advertisement.

Benefits: Better educating residents will protect lives and property during emergencies.

Action Item 15**Establish a Mitigation Coordinating Committee**

The committee would meet regularly, be responsible for implementing these action items and report progress to the Board of Commissioners.

Responsible Agency(ies): EMA

Deadline: 6 Months

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: Those responsible for implementing the various recommendations have many other jobs to do. A monitoring system helps to ensure the actions recommended in the plan are carried out.

Meeting #6: August 24, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE:

James Berry, Brown County Building Department
Delmar Daniel, Union Township
Richard Haitz, Union Township
Heather Carrelli, Village of St. Martin
Mary Carrelli, Fayetteville, St. Martin
S. Kelly Jones, Village of Georgetown
Gary Frye, Green Township
Steve Mezger, Sterling Township
Tara Fisher, USDA/NRCS
Ed Shinkle, Sterling Township
Jane Pack, Brown County 911
Dwayne Wenninger, Brown County Sheriff
Jane Cahall, Brown County Emergency Management Agency
Eric Richter, Emergency Strategies Inc.

This meeting provided a general discussion about the final draft goals and action items for the Brown County natural hazard mitigation plan.

Jane and Eric emphasized that all jurisdictions in Brown County must participate in this plan to be eligible for future hazard mitigation program funds. Any jurisdiction that does not participate will have to develop their own plan to be eligible for future program funds.

Eric opened the meeting up for discussion regarding any items not currently addressed in the action items. Additional items to be addressed in the plan included:

- The need for more “high water” signs for roads that are susceptible to flooding to provide additional warning during heavy rains.
- The need to address who is responsible for monitoring of illegal dumping of trash and other waste.
- Providing additional public education about emergency snow level warnings and what they mean to the driving public.
- Providing assistance to farmers who store fuel and fertilizer in substantial enough quantities that they require an emergency response plan.

Public Meetings

The group also discussed the two public meetings to be held for the plan. The group decided to hold two meetings (morning and early evening) regarding the plan at a date still to be determined in October. Jane will contact local newspapers, radio and officials once the date has been determined.

Letters & Questionnaires

Date: October 2003

To: All Brown County Jurisdictions

Subject: Notice of Intent to Plan

This notice is to advise all jurisdictions in Brown County that the Emergency Management Agency is preparing a countywide All-Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, Section 322, requires local governments to have an approved local hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds for disasters declared after November 1, 2003. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is the Federal Emergency Management Agency program that authorizes funding for certain mitigation measures to be implemented during immediate recovery from a disaster to prevent future losses of lives and property. This new requirement is to encourage the development of comprehensive mitigation plans before disaster strikes.

The Brown County Emergency Management Agency has received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop a countywide mitigation plan for Brown County. A steering committee made up of representatives from local government, private organizations and businesses in the county will guide the development of the plan and assist in developing goals and action items. The purpose of the plan is to make Brown County a more disaster-resistant community by fostering partnerships among various agencies and the public.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions regarding this project, or if you would like a representative of your community to play an active role in the plan development process, please contact Jane Cahall, Director of the Brown County Emergency Management Agency, at (740) 378-5100, or via e-mail at bcema@bright.net.

We want your help! The Hazard Mitigation Plan committee wants to provide as much input as possible from all facets of the community who have a role in protecting life and property in Brown County. We kindly ask that you provide us with your thoughts about the progress of the committee thus far. Feel free to attach any additional comments on a separate piece of paper. *Please return to us by **September 30, 2004.***

HAZARDS

The Brown County Hazard Mitigation Plan committee determined that ***flooding, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, severe winter weather, mudslides, earthquakes and drought*** were the greatest natural hazard threats in Brown County.

Do you agree with this assessment? _____

If not, what other hazards do you think should be addressed in this plan? _____

PROBLEM STATEMENTS

The committee brainstormed various problems occurring in Brown County that contribute to natural hazards in Brown County. The major problems are listed below:

Flooded roads in low lying areas

Mudslides during heavy rains (undermining some homes) north of Aberdeen

Roads undermined by slippage

Log jams

Tree trimming programs, debris left behind clogs ditches and streams

Flooding near water treatment plant (Mt. Orab)

More tornado sirens needed in the county

Stormwater runoff from new paved areas

Township ditches are full of debris

Inconsistent drainage systems between existing properties and new development

Weather radios are not commonly available in all schools and businesses

Additional public education needed about all hazards

Clarification needed on emergency snow levels

Based on your own assessment of natural hazards in Brown County, are there any other situations occurring in Brown County that could potentially result in the loss of life or property? _____

MITIGATION GOALS

Our problem statements led us to establish five mitigation goals. These include:

- Manage new development to limit exposure to damage from natural hazards
- Protect critical facilities and minimize the damage to public and private property
- Manage debris along streams, waterways, roadways and ditches
- Reduce the number of repetitively damaged existing structures
- Minimize loss of life of the citizens of Brown County from the effects of natural hazards

Are there any additional goals you feel the Hazard Mitigation Plan committee should be focusing on? If so, what are they? _____

OTHER COMMENTS:

Please use the space below to provide us any other thoughts you have about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, or suggested items to improve the plan.

Please return questionnaire by September 30, 2004 to Jane Cahall, Brown County EMA,
800 Mt. Orab Pike, Georgetown, Ohio 45121.

Adjacent County Commissioners/EMA Directors

Re: Countywide All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Dear County Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to notify adjacent counties that Brown County is actively developing a Countywide All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The purpose of this plan is to allow all of Brown County to better plan for natural hazard events.

This plan will be developed to meet the standards and requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 as published in the Federal Register, February 26, 2002 at 44 CRF Parts 201 and 206.

One of the requirements in the Disaster Mitigation Act is to notify adjacent communities of the intent to plan. **Therefore, let this letter serve as notification to adjacent counties and communities that Brown County is actively developing a Countywide All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.**

Please contact me with any questions or comments, or for more information regarding the development of this plan.

Sincerely,

Jane Cahall, Director
Brown County Emergency Management Agency

Public Meetings

Attendees

2:00PM

Charles Ashmere, Village of Ripley
James Berry, Brown County Building Department
Jane Cahall, Brown County EMA
Heather Carrelli, Village of St. Martin
Mary Carrelli, Perry Township
Richard Haitz, Union Township
David Henderson, Pike Township
S. Kelly Jones, Village of Georgetown
Lesley Myers, Village of Ripley
Dale Reynolds, Brown County Commissioner

7:00PM

Jane Cahall, Brown County EMA
Hank Dingus, Sterling Township
Gary Frye, Green Township
Emery Holden, Green Township
Louis Johnson, Perry Township
Ed Shinkle, Sterling Township

Two public meetings were held on Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at 2:00PM and 7:00PM. A brief presentation was given at the beginning of each session and then the floor was opened for questions and audience participation.

At these meetings discussion was held about elevating roads in areas subject to flooding along the Ohio River. Flooding impacts residents' ability to enter and exit properties during high waters. Many of the residents who live in these areas are elderly and do not want to leave during evacuations. Meals on Wheels and other social services cannot get to these residents during these flood scenarios which impacts the health and safety of elderly residents who do not want to leave their homes. The road closures also make it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass through.

Additional discussion was held about ditches, storm drains and culverts. This will continue to be a problem unless funds become available to assist residents in replacing culverts with larger versions.

Finally, discussion was held about tree trimming programs operated by the townships and county engineer. Local budgets are so tight that there is very little money available to expand these programs beyond emergency debris clearance. Also, local governments would like to work more cooperatively with power companies in this effort.

Other Jurisdiction Participation

Brown County is a predominantly rural county. Most Villages in Brown County are administered by part-time mayors, clerks and councils who often maintain full-time jobs in addition to their duties as part-time elected and appointed officials. As such, they were not always available to attend each meeting held by the Core Group Committee of the Brown County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

In order to obtain input from all jurisdictions participating in the plan and verify the information already given to us by others, the draft of Section 1 of the plan was sent to all participating jurisdictions on August 25, 2004. The Brown County EMA copied the stamped packages to verify they had been sent. Additionally, the memorandum cited on the next page accompanied these packages.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Core Group Committee and jurisdictions in Brown County

FROM: Jane Cahall, EMA Director

DATE: August 24, 2004

RE: Section 1 draft, Brown County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Attached is the draft for Section 1 of the Brown County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Chapter 4 is essentially the most important part of this plan. FEMA requires each jurisdiction in Brown County (specifically villages) to participate in this plan in order to be eligible for future Hazard Mitigation Program Funds. These are federal funds made available to Brown County for specific mitigation projects. Any community that does not participate in this plan will be responsible for developing a plan of their own in order to be eligible for these federal funds in the future. As such, every jurisdiction in Brown County is highly encouraged to participate in this grant funded plan.

Many jurisdictions in Brown County were involved in the development of the 15 Action Items listed in Chapter 4 of the plan. Based on our notes from these meetings, Action Items that affected a specific jurisdiction have been indicated on the “Jurisdiction Project” list at the end of Chapter 4. Please review this document as it pertains to your jurisdiction. If an Action Item was excluded from your section, please give us the additional Action Items that should be added. If we included an Action Item that is not relevant to your jurisdiction, please let us know that as well.

Finally, please give us additional information if there is a specific project that needs to be addressed in your jurisdiction. Examples include know log jams, damaged or debris filled culverts, or other specific problems that are not currently being addressed.

Thanks for your assistance in this effort!

Following up on this memorandum, Jane Cahall, the Brown County EMA Director, met with each jurisdiction to discuss the draft plan, their Action Items and the need to pass a resolution adopting the plan.

Jane met personally with five jurisdictions where officials were unable to attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the Core Group Committee. A summary of those meetings follows:

October 21, 2004

Jane met with Mayor Donald Salisbury of the Village of Russellville. They reviewed Chapter 4 of the plan. The Village felt that obtaining additional tornado sirens was the greatest need in their jurisdiction (Action Item 11).

October 23, 2004

Jane met with Mayor Bill Williams of the Village of Sardinia. The northeast corner of the County lacks significant warning for tornadoes and they also felt that was the greatest need in their jurisdiction (Action Item 11).

November 3, 2004

Jane met with Mayor Robert Meadows of the Village of Aberdeen. Aberdeen rests along the Ohio River and is subject to periodic flooding. The sloped terrain along Aberdeen's roads results in mud, debris and flooding. Additionally, some residents reside in areas that are difficult to reach due to significant flooding. As a result, the Village of Aberdeen felt that bank stabilization projects and the ability to provide emergency information to residents were the greatest needs of their jurisdiction (Action Items 10 and 12).

November 5, 2004

Jane met with Mayor James Adams of the Village of Higginsport and Mayor Wyndal Staggs of the Village of Hamersville on this day. She reviewed Chapter 4 of the plan with them. Both felt the greatest need in their jurisdiction was additional tornado sirens to warn residents (Action Item 11).