

3.0 MITIGATION PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 Mitigation Mission Statement

“The mission of the Mitigation Core Group Committee for Butler County, Ohio is to develop a working document that fulfills the mandates of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and satisfies the requirements of FEMA and the Ohio EMA, as well as meets the needs of all of Butler County. By further researching and planning for future natural hazards as well as implementing appropriate mitigation techniques, Butler County lives and property can be saved, costs from disasters can be reduced, and a rapid and efficient recovery can occur.”

3.2 Notification of Jurisdictions and General Public

All jurisdictions of the County, as well as other agencies that work within the County, were notified of the mitigation planning process. The Butler County EMA Office created a master list of jurisdictions they felt necessary to participate in this planning effort. Individuals that will make up the Mitigation Planning Core Group Committee were notified of the mitigation planning process.

Prior to commencing this planning process, in addition to contacting the Mitigation Planning Core Group Committee, Butler County EMA notified the general public regarding this mitigation planning process. A press release was sent on September 3rd, 2010. Please see Appendix D for copies of this press release.

3.3 The Mitigation Overhead and Development Committee

3.3.1 Meeting 1 Information

January 15, 2010

A preliminary meeting was held to outline the objectives and strategies for creating the new Hazard Mitigation Plan.

3.3.2 Meeting 2 Information

June 16, 2010

The GIS department and Emergency Management Agency identified the critical maps that will be created for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Specific layouts for the maps were determined as well.

3.3.3 Meeting 3 Information

August 24, 2010

A meeting was held with a representative from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Mitigation Branch to finalize all grant funding for the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

3.3.4 Meeting 4 Information

October 6, 2010

The GIS department provided a preliminary map format that was agreed upon by the committee. Floodplain maps were also provided by the GIS department for review and discussion by the committee. It was agreed upon that the GIS department would begin developing the maps to be used in the mitigation plan based off of their proposed format.

3.3.5 Meeting 5 Information

December 3, 2010

Officially finalized all maps created by GIS department.

3.4 The Mitigation Core Group Committee

The Mitigation Planning Core Group Committee is the original planning unit for this project. All Mitigation Planning Core Group Committee members are involved for the entire planning process. The purpose of the committee is to provide information to the various entities of Butler County that have a stake, either directly or indirectly, in Mitigation Planning such as neighboring communities/counties, local businesses & industry, non-profit organizations, and any colleges or universities. They provide feedback, input, and review as the process of the Mitigation Plan development is completed, leading to a better quality and more inclusive scope of the Mitigation Plan that everyone can acknowledge and adopt, truly implementing a countywide plan.

Obtaining support from the whole community required a comprehensive approach to preparing the Mitigation Plan. Identifying those persons, community leaders and government agencies with the knowledge and authority to help the community organize a plan was key to the planning effort. Establishing a group of leaders was necessary to give this task validity. Please see Appendix D for a complete list of participants.

3.5 Mitigation Core Group Committee Meetings

There were 2 Mitigation Planning Core Group Committee meetings.

3.5.1 Meeting 1 Information

November 10, 2010

The Core Group Committee met and reviewed the most current draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. They were made aware of the upcoming public meetings that were going to take place within their jurisdictions in the following weeks. An electronic copy of the Mitigation Plan was sent to all administrators who requested one for closer review and edit.

3.5.2 Meeting 2 Information

January 13, 2011

The Core Group Committee met and was updated on the previous 2 months of planning, including information on public input from open houses that were held. They were also given the opportunity to again review mitigation goals and actions outlined in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and make suggestions to the plan they saw fit.

3.6 Public Open Houses

A total of 5 public open houses were held during the creation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. 1 was held to review the old plan and 4 were held to review the newly created plan.

3.6.1 Old Plan Review Open House Information

September 9, 2010

The open house was held in the Government Services Center located at 315 High St. Hamilton, Ohio 45011. Please see Appendix D for a press release about this meeting.

3.6.2 City of Fairfield Open House

December 14, 2010

The open house was held at Fairfield's Fire Station #32 located at 6540 Dixie Highway Fairfield, Ohio 45014. Please see Appendix D for a press release about this meeting.

3.6.3 City of Hamilton Open House

December 16, 2010

The open house was held in the Government Services Center located at 315 High St. Hamilton, Ohio 45011. Please see Appendix D for a press release about this meeting.

3.6.4 West Chester Township Open House

December 28, 2010

The open house was held in West Chester's Township Hall located at 9113 Cincinnati-Dayton Road West Chester, Ohio 45069. Please see Appendix D for a press release about this meeting.

3.6.5 City of Middletown Open House

December 29, 2010

The open house was held in Middletown's City Building located at One Donham Plaza Middletown, Ohio 45042. Please see Appendix D for a press release about this meeting.

3.7 Plan Finalization

Upon incorporation of all comments into the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the plan will be prepared and submitted to the State of Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency for review.

Each incorporated jurisdiction, as well as any township choosing to adopt this Hazard Mitigation Plan as a separate entity from the County, will also receive a digital copy of the plan.