

Hampshire County

2013 Annual Evaluation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan

For

Floodplain Management

The report was prepared by the Hampshire County Planning Office for compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) program Community Rating System (CRS) through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The report was submitted to the Hampshire County Commission who governs the NFIP in the un-incorporated areas of Hampshire County, West Virginia at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting. The report was made available to the public through the Hampshire County Planning Office at 91 North High Street, Romney, WV 26757 and Region 8 Planning and Development Office, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847. The report is also available on the internet at www.planning.hampshirewv.com and www.regioneight.org. The public was made aware of the report through a Hampshire Review newspaper ad which is the local media outlet. Copies of the Region 8 Planning and Development Council, Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard mitigation Plan can be obtained by contacting the Region 8 Office at 304-257-2448.

The first objective concerning flooding is to minimize loss of life, property, and economic losses due to flooding. The first strategy is to continue to enforce ordinances that new structures do not interfere with flood mitigation measures. The Hampshire County Planning Office administers the Hampshire County Building Code, Hampshire County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, and the Hampshire County Floodplain Ordinance. Hampshire County recently updated their Building Code Ordinance, which includes appendix G, Flood-Resistant Construction in the 2012 International Building Code. The 2009 International Residential Code also has provisions for Flood-Resistant Construction in Section R322. The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and Floodplain Ordinance were un-changed however they are strictly enforced and adhered too. The second strategy to mitigate losses is to educate the public on flooding hazards. This strategy is accomplished through numerous outreach projects in the local newspaper and handouts in the Hampshire County Planning Office. The third strategy is to coordinate with gas companies to secure propane tanks. This objective is accomplished through the enforcement of building codes, with final inspection requiring securing the tanks. Notice of a propane or natural gas tank is given on the building permit application.

The second objective is to minimize repetitive losses due to flooding. The first strategy is to continue buyouts of repetitive loss and non-repetitive loss properties when funding is available. Notice is made to all areas that are repetitive loss areas through a Planning Office mailing which states there are programs available for buyouts. Any person willing to participate in a buyout is assisted and an application is made to WV Department of Homeland Security. There has been no application presented within the past year due to money being available, there was one property owner interested, however he recently sold the property. The second strategy is to participate in the CRS program. Hampshire County has applied to the CRS program and is anticipating becoming active as a Class 8 effective October 1, 2013.

In conclusion it appears that Hampshire County is progressing with the objectives and accompanying strategies listed in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Additional progress could be made by rewriting the plan to allow for the pursuit of additional programs. This would allow for better floodplain management and potentially more points in the CRS program. One item that may be explored is requirements for the submission of construction drawings for plan review in residential construction. This would allow for better classification at ISO and additional points for CRS. Current requirements are minimal and only require construction prints for alternative building methods. Another bench mark should reflect resubmission to FEMA and ISO to obtain a Class 7 rating in CRS. Hampshire County also has a tremendous outreach program to other counties and jurisdictions. The Hampshire County Floodplain Administrator also acts through inter-governmental agreement to provide services to the Town of Capon Bridge. The Hampshire County Commission has formally stated multiple times to assist other jurisdictions when in need; and allows the Floodplain Administrator to serve as Chair of the West Virginia Floodplain Management Association.

Formally Submitted,

Charles Baker, CFM

Hampshire County Floodplain Administrator