



MEETING NOTES

Meeting	Somerset County, Pennsylvania Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting		
Date	December 19, 2023	Time	9:00 – 9:40 a.m.
Location	Zoom Webinar		
Attendees	Joel D. Landis, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director, Somerset County Department of Emergency Services (DES)		
	Kevin Broadwater, EMA Specialist, Somerset County DES		
	Bradley A. Zearfoss, Planning Director, Somerset County Planning Commission		
	David Reeder, Superintendent, Berlin Brothersvalley School District		
	Tracey Karlie, Superintendent, Meyersdale Area School District		
	Louis Lepley, Superintendent, North Star School District		
	Mark Bower, Superintendent, Rockwood Area School District		
	Sam Romesberg, Superintendent/Curriculum Coordinator, Shanksville-Stonycreek School District		
	Karen Remick, Administrative Director, Somerset County Technology Center		
	Nicole Dice, Superintendent, Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District		
	Tony Subbio, Project Manager, Tetra Tech		

Discussion Points

This section summarizes each discussion point addressed during the PAC Meeting.

Overview of Hazard Mitigation

Mr. Subbio provided a brief overview of hazard mitigation for attendees. He defined hazard mitigation and statistics regarding the benefits of mitigation versus their costs.

Funding

Mr. Subbio described the mitigation funding available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He informed the group that school districts are now treated as their own jurisdictions in multi-jurisdictional HMPs in Pennsylvania.

Planning Process

Mr. Subbio provided an overview of the mitigation planning process. The process assesses the risks that the County and its communities face and the capabilities that exist throughout the county to address those risks. From those two assessments, a mitigation strategy is developed to reduce vulnerability. The risk assessment, capabilities assessment, and mitigation strategy each have their own section of the HMP. Mr. Subbio described other sections of the HMP. After the plan is drafted, it is reviewed by the public, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and FEMA Region 3. Once it meets FEMA requirements, the HMP is adopted by all participating jurisdictions, and then implemented over the next five years.



MEETING NOTES

What Do We Do?

Mr. Subbio identified participation requirements of school districts that wish to be eligible for mitigation funding. Districts need to attend planning meetings and submit information via the set of standard worksheets, as the municipalities do. Overall, the planning process requires that school districts provide information to the County, and it is beneficial to the planning process for the school districts to share information provided by the County to other stakeholders.

School districts will email Mr. Landis to ensure they are added to the HMP mailing lists.

The HMP portion of the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

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**Somerset County
Hazard Mitigation Plan
2024 Update**




PAC Meeting
December 19, 2023



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Agenda

- Overview of Hazard Mitigation
- Funding
- Planning Process
- What Do We Do?
- Questions




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What is hazard mitigation?

Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event



“...provides the blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources, and local ability...” (CFR).







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Mitigation Works!

- The nation saves **\$6** for every **\$1** spent through mitigation grants, funded through select federal agencies.

National Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) Per Peril <small>*BCR numbers in this study have been rounded</small>	Beyond Code Requirements	Federally Funded
Overall Hazard Benefit-Cost Ratio	\$4:1	\$6:1
 Riverine Flood	\$5:1	\$7:1
 Hurricane Surge	\$7:1	Too few grants
 Wind	\$5:1	\$5:1
 Earthquake	\$4:1	\$3:1
 Wildland-Urban Interface Fire	\$4:1	\$3:1




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Funding

- **\$1.8 billion** in annual FEMA mitigation funding (FY23)
 - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
 - Up to 20% of disaster assistance
- School districts now apply as their own entity!




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Planning Process

- Update the Risk Assessment
- Update the Capabilities Assessment
- Update the Mitigation Strategy
- Update Other Sections of the HMP
- Submit the HMP for Review
- Adopt the HMP
- Implement the HMP



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What Do We Do?

- Meet the formal participation requirements
 - Attend meetings
 - Complete worksheets
- Provide information to the County
 - Vulnerabilities
 - Capabilities
 - Actions
- Share information sent by the County
- Email Joel Landis to make sure you receive emails



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Questions?

Thank you for your time!



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Contacts



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