

Mitigation Strategy Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2025 @ 2:30pm

Attendees	
❖ Ryan Cox, Insight	❖ Joey Coleman, Bladen Co EM
❖ Danielle Taliaferro, Insight (scribe)	❖ Renee Babson, Bladen Co EM
❖ Nathan Slaughter, ESP	❖ Teresa Smith, Columbus County EM
❖ Justin Hunt, Robeson County EM	❖ Josh Ward, Tabor City
❖ Darren Norris, Columbus Regional EM	❖ Angela Pitchford, Town of Maxton
❖ Nancy Livingston, Town of Brunswick	❖ Ashli Barefoot
❖ Victoria Carter, Town of Pembroke	❖ Jason Robinson
❖ Kelly Keefe, AECOM	
❖ Carl Baker, NCEM	

- I. Opening/Introductions
- II. Agenda Review
- III. Critical Facilities Update
 - a. Thanks to all for the updates
- IV. Folks participating today
 - a. Ryan Cox
 - b. Nathan Slaughter
 - c. Kelly Keefe
- V. Housekeeping items
- VI. Meeting Objectives
- VII. Organize Resources – Step 2
 - a. Assessing capabilities as well
 - b. Between steps2-3
- VIII. Planning process update
 - a. Hazard Identification
 - b. Capability Assessment
 - c. AECOM/ESP has completed Vulnerability Assessment
- IX. Capability Overview (Nathan)
 - a. As a jurisdiction – how to mitigate hazards
 - b. What is the capacity and capability?
 - c. Indicators to look for
 - d. Grasp good understanding of what stake holders can sign up to do as part of the mitigation strategy
 - e. Review of indicators (Slide 10)
 - f. Indicator examples (Side 11)
 - g. Capability vs. Vulnerability Matrix (review slide 12)
 - i. Want High Capability with Low Vulnerability – Best Case Scenario
 - ii. Worst Case – Low Capability and High Vulnerability
- X. New FEMA Requirement on Substantial Flood Estimates (SDE) for Capability Assessment
 - a. Carl Baker in chat, *“Including the SDE procedures are a part of documenting NFIP compliance.”*
 - b. Nathan asks group to send email on how this is addressed
 - c. Smaller towns can defer to county – Can state that the county handles

- d. Ryan – has come up in a few communities that actually did not do anything with substantial damage. Created negative impact.
 - e. Larger cities handle their own substantial damage
 - f. Counties do it for a lot of local governments
 - g. Can affect status with NFIP down the road!
 - h. Nathan – been sharing this language with communities that has worked (reference slide 13)
 - i. Teresa Smith – flood damage ordinance – is it supposed to specify who is responsible for this function?
 - i. Ryan – doesn't need a name, but a title is required.
 - ii. Ryan – can get a contact sent over
 - iii. Teresa – planning and zoning ordinance
 - iv. Carl may be able to figure that out
 - v. Teresa to email ordinance to Carl for review.
 - j. Joey Coleman, Bladen also needs assistance
 - i. Joey will look at template and send it to Carl
- XI. Impact on Hazard Mitigation Actions
 - a. Want to make sure that we're looking at High Risk Vulnerabilities
 - b. Address both High Risk and moderate risk hazards
- XII. Mitigation Strategy Development
 - a. Step 3 – Comprehensive update
 - b. Need each region to review and update action plans
 - c. Purpose – Reduce vulnerability
 - d. Entails – Development, prioritization, and implementation of feasible measures to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from potential disasters.
- XIII. Basic types of mitigation
 - a. Mitigation against hazard impacts on existing development
 - b. Ensuring future development is conducted in a way that does not increase vulnerability
- XIV. Mitigation Techniques
 - a. Prevention
 - b. Property Protection
 - c. Natural Resource Management
 - d. Structural Projects
 - e. Emergency Services
 - f. Education and Awareness
- XV. Technique examples (reference slide 20)
- XVI. Review of goals
 - a. Ryan asks group to review goals (side 21)
 - b. Open floor – anybody want to change/update/remove goal? No responses goals to remain for update
- XVII. Mitigation Action Update
 - a. Need input from regions, counties, and smaller communities that have actions
 - b. Review of example (slide 23-24)
 - c. Funding sources were updated as some were inaccurate
 - d. Gave some updates in project status/language
- XVIII. New Action Plans

- a. Brainstorming session – potential actions that should be added to existing action plan?
 - b. Goals are staying the same - what are other community objectives
 - c. Bladen is looking for new EOC – add to plan
 - i. Build a more hardened facility that can withstand severe weather – could be funded by one of the HM Grants
 - d. Carl – BRIC 2024 was defunded; NC is still accepting apps for folks who submitted LOI – label under HMA (Hazard Mitigation Assistance)
 - e. Ryan – believes BRIC may return with new regulations
 - f. Carl agrees – nothing said it was gone forever
 - g. Regarding mitigation strategies – Ryan, Carl, Kelly, Nathan are great resources
 - h. Carl adds link to chat https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/fema-mitigation-ideas_02-13-2013.pdf - mitigation ideas handbook
 - i. Kelly – first step in mitigation is getting it in the plan – handbook is very helpful
- XXIX. Mitigation Strategy Examples (slides 26-28)
- a. Nathan mentions adding any mitigation plans into the plan for funding purposes. HMA will ask where it is noted in the plan
 - b. Question regarding
- XX. Schedule meeting for two weeks from today – need actions back asap
- a. If there are any questions, please reach out.
 - b. Nathan, Kelly, and Ryan are great resources
 - c. Separate meetings can be scheduled if necessary
- XXI. Need SDE procedures
- XXII. Draft plan slated for submittal for end of June
- XXIII. Nathan – existing plan expires in October this year
- a. Need to submit draft to Carl and team at NCEM then it goes to FEMA
 - b. Need ample time to review.
- XXIV. Don't want anyone's plan to expire
- XXV. Upon approval - every jurisdiction will need to adopt the plan
- a. Will have resolution ready for each
 - b. Needs to be added to agendas for adoption early enough
 - c. Early/Mid-September – may send out resolutions for adoption. Could be sooner
 - d. Nathan – once plan is submitted to NCEM, before it's sent to FEMA, we can start with adoptions.
 - e. Adopting the “approved” version
- XXVI. Nathan – will send out sample resolutions once draft plan is sent. Possibly July timeframe
- XXVII. Schedule meeting for June 13 – 45min – hour to fill gaps and check on any outstanding items.
- XXVIII. Questions/Comments/Concerns
- XXIX. Open floor/Wrap up

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