



**Linn County
Multi-Jurisdictional
Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

Minutes

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

1:30 PM– 3:00 PM

Online Only meeting format



Welcome and Introductions

Attendees include Kate Bentz, Katherine Daniel, Julia Fox, Ric Lentz, Ginger Allen, Jason Rush, Erik Anderson, Jason Ogden, Cecily Pretty, Matt Straite, Susan Milhauser, Jeff Carlson, Joe Samaniego, Traci Archer, Michele Eldridge, Micki Valentine, Kevin Kreitman.

Welcome Jason Ogden from City of Sweet Home and Emily Huchinson from the Lyons Rural Fire District (LRFD). Both of their jurisdictions have their own NHMP, but are joining efforts to be incorporated with Linn County's overall NHMP. Welcoming Susan Milhauser as the new project lead from DLCD, to be replacing Katherine Daniel.

Review and adopt notes from 7/17/24

Committee Members voted to adopt the meeting minutes from the July 17, 2024 meeting.

Project updates

The county-wide online survey received 69 responses and was open to the public for 3 months. Discussion was had over leaving the survey open longer to allow the City of Sweet Home and Lyons Rural Fire District to conduct community outreach. Ric Lentz voiced concern that this may delay the completion of the NHMP updates, and reminded everyone that the county is currently out of compliance by having an outdated NHMP. Kate Bentz suggested Sweet Home and LRFD should push the survey out to their communities as soon as possible to keep the NHMP update on track.

Katherine reminded jurisdictions to review their pieces of the NHMP.

Mitigation Strategy and Capability Assessment

Breakout Rooms: attendees were divided into three breakout groups to discuss the following questions about their jurisdictions:

- What were the sources of mitigation actions for your city?
- How would your jurisdiction prioritize mitigation actions?
- What capacity does your jurisdiction have to implement mitigation strategies?
- What skills, people, or resources would assist in implementing mitigation strategy actions?

Group Summary

Most jurisdictions answered that they had sourced funds from the county and individual and community donations, and were looking for additional government and FEMA funding

opportunities. Most jurisdictions answered that they had looked at the natural hazards they have been responding to within the last few years to identify mitigation actions to prioritize. There was a general consensus that working with local jurisdiction staff, public works, and the local fire and school districts was a common place to check in for input and prioritizing mitigation actions. Many jurisdictions also commented that they choose to prioritize certain mitigation actions based on funding and staff capacity. Time constraints, limited staff with large workloads, and staff training were identified as limiting staff capacity to implement mitigation strategies among many jurisdictions. Having dedicated staff to focus on hazard mitigation work was identified as a helpful measure for implementing hazard mitigation. Some jurisdictions suggested pooling resources to hire a position at the county to oversee hazard mitigation projects within local jurisdictions.

Plan Maintenance:

Kate Bentz voiced a need for the NHMP committee to convene regularly without the follow-up meetings cutting into too much of people's time. She suggested using some meeting time for staff trainings and technical assistance that can assist local jurisdictions with their mitigation strategies. Ric Lentz let the group know he is required to host two meetings annually, and offered to host some of those meetings as the county's emergency coordinator. Ginger Allen voiced her intention to focus her attention on hazards inside her community, and wants future meetings to focus on supporting local jurisdictions with their individual needs and projects, and how jurisdictions can brainstorm and collaborate together.

Proposal: Project manager will request mitigation project updates using an online form every six months and an annual group meeting will be convened to prepare for grant applications and to identify support from state and federal agencies that would assist in implementation

Next Steps: Transition to new project manager and completion of Mitigation Strategy for all addenda and for Section 3 of the Basic Plan (county's plan).

Susan Milhauser introduced herself as the new NHMP Coordinator from DLCD. She will be helping the county complete the final phases of the NHMP. Next steps will include an opportunity for the public to comment on the NHMP, and needing to brainstorm how to get notices out to the public. Final Draft is set for final review in February 2025.