

## Risk Assessment Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2017

1:30pm - 3:00pm

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Recap of Kick-Off Meeting
4. Risk Assessment Overview and Hazard Review
  - Exercise #1: Risk Identification Map
5. Next Steps and Action Items

### Welcome and Introductions

Matt Bodnar, a hazard mitigation planning consultant with Michael Baker International, welcomed all attendees and asked participants to introduce themselves. Matt also requested that everyone indicate which community or organization they represented. He then thanked all committee members for participating on the committee and attending the meeting. A list of meeting attendees is shown below:

Name	Organization
Michelle Lilly	Charles County Department of Emergency Services
Jennifer Adams	Charles County Department of Emergency Services
Chris Thompson	Charles County Department of Emergency Services
Esther Read	Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management
Cathy Thompson	Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management
Steve Staples	Charles County Department of Public Works
Elsa Ault	Charles County Engineering and Floodplain Permits
Brian Hayden	Charles County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
Luis Dieguez	Charles County Soil Conservation District
Bill Smith	Charles County Volunteer Fire Department
Donna Thomas	Charles County Department of Health
Jason Stoddard	Charles County Sheriff's Office
Patrick Goode	Maryland Farm Service Agency
Karen Lindquist-Williams	Town of Indian Head
Michelle Miner	Town of La Plata
Julie Simpson	Port Tobacco River Conservancy
Ashley Farmer	Maryland State Highway Administration

## Charles County 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Name	Organization
Matthew Bodnar	Michael Baker International
Mark James	Michael Baker International
Laura Johnson	Training Outreach

### Project Overview

Matt Bodnar defined hazard mitigation and described the purpose of the HMP Update, including:

- Identifying projects that will reduce risk, both day to day and in a disaster situation
- Identifying potential funding sources for mitigation projects
- Maintaining eligibility for certain mitigation funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Matt also reviewed the contents and outline of the HMP and explained that this meeting will focus on the Risk Assessment. Matt noted that the goals of the meeting were to:

- Finalize the list of hazards to profile in the 2018 HMP Update
- Rank hazards based on their potential risk to Charles County
- Discuss any local data or information that could inform the Risk Assessment

### Recap of Kick-Off Meeting

Matt provided an overview of topics discussed and activities conducted at the Kick-Off meeting. He also shared results from the Capability Assessment Survey and highlighted tools that Charles County and its jurisdictions can utilize to implement mitigation projects. He emphasized that committee members should think about these capabilities while discussing risks and potential mitigation solutions.

### Risk Assessment Overview and Hazard Review

A major portion of the meeting focused on reviewing the hazards to be profiled in the 2018 HMP and asking for feedback or comments from committee members about the identified hazards. Matt then presented maps showing the location, magnitude, or past occurrences of each hazard that was mapped, and reviewed each of the hazards with the group. Below is a summary of key discussions related to several of the hazards:

#### Hazard Review

**Temperature Extremes:** Matt asked the group whether they still agree that extreme temperatures are a high-risk hazard for the county. The group agreed, and cited that the probability and spatial extent of temperature extreme events both remain high.

**Thunderstorms, Lightning, and Hailstorm:** While discussing thunderstorms, lightning, and hailstorms, one attendee noted that he submitted three separate insurance claims for damage from hail. It was also noted that the Health Department experienced damage to air conditioning units at its facility from hailstorm events.

**Tornado:** Attendees were concerned about risks associated with tornados, particularly because a tornado recently impacted Charles County in February 2017, and an F4 tornado caused considerable damage in La Plata in 2002. This prompted a conversation about strong winds, micro-bursts, and hail

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associated with tornado events. The group also discussed storm dynamics, including how the county has experienced many storms with little to no warning. The group also discussed that tornados, thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms, and strong winds would have similar prevention, response, and mitigation techniques. As a result, the group decided to address tornados and high winds together with thunderstorms, lightning, and hail storms in the 2018 HMP. This hazard profile will be called Extreme Weather.

The group also discussed other hazards that were profiled in the 2012 HMP and will continued to be profiled in the 2018 HMP, including recent significant events and changes in risk since 2012.

### **Hazard-Risk Assessment Exercise Results**

Matt shared additional hazards that were identified during the Hazard-Risk Assessment Exercise at the Kick-Off Meeting. The group discussed the results of this exercise and determined that the following new hazards should be included in the 2018 HMP Update:

- Natural Gas Emergency
- Dam Failure
- High Winds
- Hailstorms
- Sinkholes/Subsidence
- Landslide
- Utility Interruption
- Building and Structure Collapse
- Criminal Activity/Civil Disturbance
- Transportation Accidents

During the same exercise at the Kick-Off Meeting, Matt had also asked whether the risks associated with hazards profiled in the 2012 HMP had changed over the past five years. Matt shared the hazards that were most frequently identified as having changes in risk during this exercise:

#### *Increase in Risk*

- Tornado
- Thunderstorm and Lightning
- Public Health Emergency
- Flood
- All hazards to some extent because of more extreme weather events and changing future conditions

#### *Decrease in Risk*

- None

### **Hazards for the 2018 HMP**

While discussing potential new hazards to include in the 2018 HMP, as well as changes in risk, the committee determined the following hazards and risk rankings for the 2018 HMP. When possible, the committee consolidated related hazards into a single profile (see Extreme Weather, Environmental Hazards, and Earth Disturbance)

#### *High-Risk Hazards for the 2018 HMP*

- Temperature Extremes

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- Flood (increase in risk since 2012)
- Public Health Emergency (increase in risk since 2012)
- Extreme Weather
  - Thunderstorm and Lightning (increase in risk since 2012)
  - Hailstorm (new hazard for 2018)
  - Tornado (increase in risk since 2012)
  - Wind Storm (new hazard for 2018)

### *Moderate-Risk Hazards for the 2018 HMP*

- Hurricane, Tropical Storm, and Nor'easter
- Environmental Hazards
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Natural Gas Emergency (new hazard for 2018)
- Utility Interruption (new hazard for 2018)
- Building and Structure Collapse (new hazard for 2018)
- Dam Failure (new hazard for 2018)
- Civil Disturbance and Criminal Activity (new hazard for 2018)
- Transportation Accident (new hazard for 2018)

### *Low-Risk Hazards for the 2018 HMP*

- Drought
- Erosion
- Earth Disturbance
  - Earthquake
  - Land Subsidence and Sinkholes (new hazard for 2018)
  - Landslide (new hazard for 2018)
- Nuclear Events
- Wildfire

### *Exercise #1: Risk Identification Map*

Matt also directed participants to a large paper map of Charles County and ask Committee members to submit comments about past occurrences of hazard events or high-risk areas on the map using a dot or post-it note. The information gathered from this exercise will be included in the HMP.

## Next Steps and Action Items

Matt reviewed the project timeline, which is shown below:

Task	Dates
Full Project Timeline	October 2017 – March 2018
Kick-Off Meeting	November 8, 2017
Risk Assessment Meeting	November 29, 2017
Mitigation Solutions Meeting	December 13, 2017
Plan Writing	October 2017 – January 2018
Draft Plan Review Public Meeting	January 23, 2018
Deliver to MEMA/FEMA for Review	February/March 2018

## **Charles County 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Distribute to Municipalities for Adoption	March 2018

Matt noted that committee members do not need to attend the draft plan review meeting on January 23, since this meeting will primarily involve presenting the plan to the Charles County Board of Commissioners.

Matt also encouraged the committee to visit the project website ([www.charlescountymdhmpu.com](http://www.charlescountymdhmpu.com)) to review the 2012 HMP and obtain copies of forms if needed.