

Sussex County, NJ – Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update
Steering Committee Risk Assessment Meeting | Meeting Minutes



Purpose of Meeting:	Steering Committee Kickoff Risk Assessment Meeting	
Location of Meeting:	Teleconference	
Date of Meeting:	April 9, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST	
Attendees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sussex County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James Aumick, Deputy Coordinator ○ Eric Muller ○ Steven Sugar, Deputy Coordinator ○ Lorrain Hentz, Vision Director ○ Jessica Caruso, Administrator ○ Ed Hayes, OEM Coordinator ○ Joe Sesto, Executive Director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tetra Tech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chris Huch ○ Grace Altenburg
Agenda Summary:	The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the hazard mitigation planning process, discuss public and stakeholder outreach efforts, review the risk assessment results, including the hazard ranking, and introduce the SWOO exercise to the Steering Committee, and identify next steps.	
Item No.	Description	Action item(s):
1	Introductions – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each person on the call identified themselves through the chat function. 	-
2	Project Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goals and Objectives – April 2024 ○ Risk Assessment – April-May 2024 ○ Identify Actions – April-June 2024 ○ Finalize Plan Maintenance – late June 2024 ○ Draft Plan – July 2024 ○ Draft to NJOEM – mid-September 2024 ○ Draft to FEMA – November 2024 • Municipal Participation Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have not yet received all worksheets from all municipalities. Assigned planner will be reaching out. • Public Outreach and Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post links on social media and department/agency websites ○ Stakeholder and neighboring community surveys have been distributed ○ Make efforts to reach out to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Public ▪ Stakeholders ▪ Neighbors • Socially Vulnerable Populations 	Steering Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post links on social media and department/agency websites • Make efforts to reach out to general public, stakeholders, neighbors, and socially vulnerable populations



<p>3</p>	<p>Risk Assessment Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk is defined as a function of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hazard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Source of potential danger or adverse condition ○ Exposure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manmade or natural features that are exposed to the hazard ○ Vulnerability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damage susceptibility of the exposed features ○ Adaptive Capacity (or capability) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plans/policies ▪ Response/recovery ○ Financial resources 	<p>-</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Risk Assessment Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an overview of the results from the risk assessment for each hazard. Results were a combination of qualitative and quantitative data. • Dam Failure: 136 dams in the County (40 are HDD). MED 4.4 • Disease Outbreak: Entire County is susceptible. LOW 3.5 • Drought: Entire County is susceptible; relies on surface water. LOW 3.6 • Earthquake: Entire County is susceptible. Recently an earthquake happened in April 2024. LOW 3.8 • Flood: 682 people/462 Buildings exposed to 1% and 856 people/562 Buildings exposed to 0.2%. MED 4.2 • Geological Hazards: over 41 thousand people exposed to Karst soils. MED 4.1 • Hazardous Materials: over 26 thousand people within a mile of a hazardous site. MED 4.0 • Hurricane: Entire county is susceptible. MED 4.8 • Infestation: The entire County is vulnerable. LOW 2.5 • Nor’easter: Entire County is exposed. HIGH 5.4 • Severe Weather: The entire County is susceptible. HIGH 6.3 • Winter Storm: The entire County is exposed. HIGH 6.3 • Wildfire: 2% of the population is exposed (2,834). Impacts from Wildfires occurring elsewhere can also have effects on the County. MED 4.2 	<p>-</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Hazard Rankings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The calculated probability of a hazard occurring based on historical data • <i>Impacts to <u>people</u>, <u>property</u>, and the <u>economy</u></i> based on GIS data and analysis of exposure. • The degree to which <i><u>climate change</u></i> will affect future occurrences based on best available data. • The degree to which existing <i><u>capabilities</u></i> (the ability of your community to respond to the hazard based on ordinances, mitigation strategies and procedures, and readiness) decrease overall risk. • Ranking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High: Severe Winter Weather, Severe Weather, Nor’easter ○ Medium: Hurricane, Dam Failure, Flood, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials ○ Low: Earthquake, Drought, Disease Outbreak, Geological Hazards, Infestation 	<p>-</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities (SWOO)</p>	<p>Steering Committee</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths – what the County and communities do well; things upon which we can capitalize. • Weaknesses – what can be done better; what can be strengthened. • Obstacles – what stands in the way of implementation to prevent mitigation or response (for example regulatory, geographical, environmental, and financial issues). • Opportunities - actions or projects to mitigate issues or improve resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and return SWOO worksheet to Jessica Stokes.
7	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information about the HMP Update via social media, community groups, and networks • Attend the Planning Partnership Risk Assessment Meeting on Thursday, April 11 @ 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. via Teams • Attend the Mitigation Strategy Workshop on Wednesday, May 8 at 10:00 a.m. in-person. 	-
8	<p>Questions/Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Sesto: <i>I think flood as medium risk is correct. We (the authority) have sufficient stormwater infrastructure.</i> • Joe Sesto: <i>Having winter weather and severe weather as the top two high hazards is correct. These are high risks for us. We have seen a lot of really heavy rain in the last year.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve Sugar <i>agrees that the preliminary rankings look accurate.</i> • Steve Sugar: <i>Thursday public meetings we will be in training, so we cannot make the day meeting. One of us from the County will be able to attend the PM meeting.</i> 	-