

Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan (MJAHP)

Plan Update Committee Meeting [VIRTUAL]

October 13, 2021, 2pm eastern

Meeting Attendees		
Name	Jurisdiction	Title/Position
Dan Albrecht	Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Senior Planner
Brad Holden	Town of Underhill	Town Administrator
Darlene Palola	Town of Huntington	Volunteer
Barbara Elliott	Town of Huntington	Town Administrator
Chief Audy	City of Winooski	Fire Chief
Michaela Foody	Town of Milton	Public Safety Director
Ron Hoague	Essex and Essex Junction	Police Chief
Ravi Venkataraman	Town of Richmond	Town Planner
Christopher Davis	Town of Charlotte	Charlotte EMD
Caroline Massa	State of Vermont	State Hazard Mitigation Planner
Matthew Boulanger	Town of Williston	Planning Director
Kail Romanoff	Town of Underhill	Zoning Administrator
Karina Warshaw	Town of Charlotte	Charlotte EMC
Larry Lewack	Town of Charlotte	Town Planner
Melissa Manka	Town of Westford	Town Planner
Dean Bloch	Town of Charlotte	Town Administrator
Norm Baldwin	City of Burlington	P.E. City Engineer
Paul Conner	City of South Burlington	Director of Planning and Zoning
IEM Team		
Leroy Thompson	Senior Planner/ Project Lead	
Nancy Freeman	Senior Planner	
Elizabeth Burnett	Jr. Planner	

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Leroy Thompson, IEM.

Elizabeth Burnett, IEM, requested that participants enter their name, jurisdiction and title/position into the chat box for verification of participation in the meeting.

Introductions and Welcome

- Mr. Thompson introduced the IEM team and Dan Albrecht, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.
- Mr. Thompson welcomed all participants to the virtual Chittenden County MJHMP Update Risk Assessment meeting. He provided an overview of the meeting agenda and stated copies of the PowerPoint presentation and minutes from the meeting will be provided to all participants and will be available for any planning committee members who were not able to attend meeting.

- Ms. Burnett conducted the roll call for attendees and requested they place their positions/title in the chat box as this information will be needed as part of final project documentation.
- Minutes from the previous Kick-off meeting were approved by the Planning Committee.
- Mr. Thompson congratulated the Town of Saint George for joining the National Flood Insurance program and mentioned this is a great accomplishment which will afford their residents the opportunity to purchase flood insurance.

Planning Process and Schedule

- Mr. Thompson provided a general overview of the planning process and what will be happening as we progress through the steps in the process, including who will be taking the lead at various points. This included a discussion on the process of updating the risk assessment from the previous plan and a review of new data to be included as part of the update. He discussed several changes that we would like to make to current plan format to be more aligned with the FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool.
- This was followed by a review of the project schedule. We will make every attempt to stay on schedule.
- There was discussion about scheduling the next meeting sometime in late November. Mr. Thompson emphasized the importance of continuing to hold the one-on-one meetings with each jurisdiction in order to better understand the needs and issues of each jurisdiction and provide technical assistance to them during the planning process.

Public Outreach

- Ms. Burnett provided an overview of the Public Hazard Survey has been distributed to the jurisdictions with the assistance of the CCRPC. Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Albrecht and the staff at the Regional Planning Commission for invaluable assistance in posting and getting the work out to the public regarding the availability and completing the survey.

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- The lists of critical facilities from the 2017 plan were sent to each jurisdiction for review and revision. Critical facilities will be categorized in the 2022 plan in the format of FEMA's Community Lifelines as the plan becomes more integrated with updated FEMA planning guidance. The Community Lifelines categories include; safety and security, food and water, health care, medical, energy, communications, transportation, and hazardous material. Additionally, there is not a true designation for schools as they are treated as shelters, more so that we'll be looking at schools as critical facilities. The update will include a review of facilities identified in the previous plan and see if they are still valid or new ones have been brought on-line since the last plan update.
- Mr. Albrecht mentioned the F-14 planes that are flying in the area of a few jurisdictions, and home buy outs over time, and what the importance of covering this issue would be.

- Paul Conner, South Burlington, asked if it would be beneficial in this plan to have it in the plan, and then what about taking a step back and look at having a populous airport for civilian and military in a populous area in general.
- Mr. Thompson raised a question regarding military facilities and the role they play in the MJAHP, and when it comes to critical facilities, we are would be only be concentrating on the ones for which your jurisdiction has authority, and that those facilities that are supported by feds are mentioned but not technically locally owned.
- Mr. Thompson stated in a conversation with Town of Bolton regarding governmental facilities and military, the Town Official was supportive of not including these facilities as part of their critical facilities, since they have no jurisdiction. As a result of these discussions, we're looking at some options or how to how to better do that, how to better address the issue? Government- or military-owned facilities could be mentioned as such in the plan with the explanation of who has authority.
- Nancy Freeman followed with a discussion of the natural hazards that are in the current plan and some potential realigning of the hazard profiles to be consistent with the FEMA Local Plan Review Tool. She explained why we are recommending that Dam failure be treated as a separate hazard due to the emphasis on High Hazard Potential Dams, and moving epidemic (now human infectious disease) and invasive species into the natural hazards. This included a discussion of each of the natural hazards individually, to provide data and information updates since the 2017 plan.
- Paul Conner, South Burlington, asked about the lack of recording for drought conditions, and if it meant that it was not an issue for the county even though near drought conditions have been recorded in the State. Ms. Freeman replied that although NCEI does not capture that information, other sources would be used to document information if any was recorded. In follow-up, Mr. Conner asked if there are parts of the planning area that are in a drought or pre drought conditions, what the findings show are not nearly as severe in Chittenden County, so it could come off the list. Ms. Freeman confirmed that we also look at current conditions to see about future impact and what other parts of the state or neighbors have or are going through, and what may be currently developing even though there might not be enough information to make the best estimation, in order to justify why the hazard is included or excluded from the plan.
- Mr. Thompson posed a question about Dam and Drought information. Mr. Albrecht responded that those were not done, yet.
- Norm Baldwin, City of Burlington, stated they are near a lot of water and have seen an increase in storm events and slope erosion, and they have development that is inappropriately placed on a slope. Is there a way to buy out or enforce ordinances that prevent inappropriate construction on slopes for public safety or property damage purposes? Mrs. Freeman responded, short answer is yes, there are different kinds of events, landslides and slope failure are parts of it, and identifying funding can be found in the Mitigation Strategy. Action Items could be developed that look at how the hazard impacts the community, where it occurs, and what can be done about it. Alternate solutions should be identified to select the most effect way to low the hazard's impacts to help the community become safer. Mr. Baldwin stated it has been in excess of \$5,000 to

fix 5 properties and it's not a part of the standard to fix those issues, and if this would even be worth funding to keep them or buy them out, especially with the ones that have people living in them still. Mr. Albrecht answered that to some extent there is new data for landslide with three jurisdictions since 2017 plan, and now there is a more comprehensive analysis to look at, and what might be available to help with that hazard.

- Mr. Thompson discussed the list of Technological and Societal hazards that could or have affected the county/jurisdictions. He stated that several of the technical hazards such as loss of electrical service, sewer service, water service and gas service will be combined into a single category, titled "Loss of Key Services". Additionally, he stated there will not be a detailed profile of each of the technical and societal hazards to the level that will be completed for the natural hazards.
- Mr. Thompson reviewed several maps that will be updated as part of the planning process to include land development maps, critical facility maps in the river corridor, and floodplain maps.

Capabilities Assessment

- Mr. Thompson discussed the capabilities assessment which will start as a self-assessment/gap-analysis reviewing each jurisdiction's strengths and weaknesses as it relates to the planning and regulatory, administrative, and technical, financial, and educational and outreach programs that support implementation of the community's mitigation plan. He explained that we are not writing a new plan. We're updating the existing plan, so one of the tools that will be used as part of this update is to look at what is in the existing plan, what you've identified as your community's capabilities and we will place that information in a format and send it to each jurisdiction for you to review and update as needed. This will be sent in the next week. This assessment provides for local self-assessment of your community's capabilities to implement the mitigation actions identified in the local hazard mitigation plan.
- Mr. Albrecht followed and stated that the jurisdictions can review the capabilities assessment information in the current plan. He reminded the jurisdictions of location of the current plan and their respective jurisdictional annexes. He provided the following a link (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation-plan/>) to the plan.

Mitigation Strategy

- Mr. Thompson stated that our next major activities moving from the risk assessment will be the update of the mitigation strategy. This will include reviewing the goals and objectives in the current plan and determining if they are still valid or need to be updated; have the jurisdictions' priorities changed. We'll start with the regional goals and look further to individual jurisdiction goals.
- This will be followed with a review of the status of mitigation actions from the previous plan and the development of new mitigation actions for inclusion in the 2022 Plan update. Mr. Thompson referred to Mr. Baldwin's conversation earlier regarding the potential landslide type activities as an example of potential mitigation actions.

- Mr. Thompson reemphasized the project timeline and the need to speed up on the activities as the current plan expires in March of next year. We would like to have the draft plan completed by the end of the year. He stated after the strategy updates, we will start working on the draft plan, but again, this is just a snapshot of a timeline and the State will appreciate getting at least some type of draft by early next year at least, probably January.

Meeting Summary

- Feel free to call or email of any our team for clarification, technical assistance, or other support. We're available to assist you in in updating the plan.
- Mr. Thompson closed by stating we want to sure this is your plan and not IEMs, or the regional planning commission's plan, so we want make sure to include information that reflects the hazard risks and vulnerabilities you face as well as your community's goals, objectives, and priorities.
- Mr. Thompson thanked all attendees for their participation and opened the floor for additional questions or comments. Mrs. Freeman also thanked the participants and reminded them to give us a call to set up a jurisdiction meeting at any time that's convenient.

Meeting concluded at 3:05 p.m., EDT