

Meeting	State of West Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) State Planning Team (SPT) Kickoff Meeting
Date	September 13, 2022 Time 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location	Holiday Inn and Suites, 400 2 nd Ave. SW, Charleston, WV 25303 and Microsoft Teams webinar
	Kelli Batch, Section Chief, West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WV EMD)
	Matt Blackwood, Deputy Director, WV EMD
	Lonnie Bryson, Section Chief, WV EMD (remote)
	Brent Burger, Hazard Mitigation Planner, WV EMD
	Tim Keaton, State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)/Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Coordinator, WV EMD Jason Means, Public Assistance Lead, WV EMD
	Brian Penix, Hazard Mitigation Project Officer, WV EMD
	Gabriel Reed, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, West Virginia Emergency Management
	Division (WV EMD)
	Christopher Rucker, Preparedness Specialist, WV EMD
	Nuvia Villamizar, GIS Manager, WV EMD
	Al Whitaker, Lead Planning Officer, WV EMD (remote)
	Timothy Priddy, Director, WV Center for Threat Preparedness
	Kurt Donaldson, Senior Project Manager, West Virginia Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technical Center (remote)
	Robert Martin, Director, West Virginia State Resiliency Office
Attendees	Ed Martin, Deputy Director, West Virginia State Resiliency Office
	Stephen Allen, Director, Jefferson County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (remote)
	Melissa Wall, Project Administrator, Region 2 Planning and Development Council (remote)
	Jamie Baker, Project Assistant, Region 4 Planning and Development Council (remote)
	John Tuggle, Executive Director, Region 4 Planning and Development Council (remote)
	Carla Dent, Administrative Staff, Region 8 Planning and Development Council (remote)
	Terry Lively, Executive Director, Region 8 Planning and Development Council (remote)
	Ray Perry, Floodplain Administrator, Logan County; Chair, West Virginia Floodplain Management Association
	Kristine Huber, PEW Charitable Trusts (remote)
	Jamie Bielinski, Meteorologist in Charge, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS)
	Casey Garnett, West Virginia Hazard Mitigation Community Planner, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
	Meesh Zucker, Supervisory Community Planner, FEMA (remote)
	Tony Subbio, Project Manager, Tetra Tech
	Christina Groves, Planner, Tetra Tech



Discussion Points

This section summarizes each discussion point addressed during the State Planning Team Kickoff Meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Reed welcomed attendees to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Subbio provided an orientation to the materials in participant folders (for those attending in person) and attached to the meeting invitation (for those attending remotely).

Overview of Hazard Mitigation

Mr. Subbio provided an orientation to hazard mitigation. He described the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) as they relate to development of the State HMP.

Objectives

Mr. Subbio reviewed the following objectives of the HMP update project:

- Lower risk and vulnerability across the State.
- Involve more stakeholders in the planning process than were involved in the 2018 State HMP planning process.
- Deliver a fully approved, implementable State HMP by September 15, 2023.
- Maintain the State's and local governments' eligibility for FEMA mitigation funding.

Mr. Subbio stressed that the State HMP is a State of West Virginia plan led by the WV EMD, not a WV EMD-focused plan.

Planning Process

Mr. Subbio led the group through a description of the planning process. The list below summarizes points of discussion.

Applicable Regulations and Standards

Mr. Subbio stated that the WV HMP will be updated to meet the requirements of the State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (released April 2022 and effective April 2023), Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standards, and the High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) grant program.

State Planning Team

Mr. Subbio described the range of stakeholder organizations that will be invited to participate on the State Planning Team.

Mr. Subbio described the different sectors that the State is striving to involve through participation in the planning process, shown in the following list:

- Emergency Management
- Economic Development
- Land Use and Development
- Housing
- Health and Social Services
- Infrastructure



- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Climate Change

Social and Cultural Equity

Attendees indicated which sector their organizations are affiliated with on the Input and Feedback Ouestionnaire.

Severe Storm

Hazards of Concern

Mr. Subbio reviewed the list of hazards of concern, shown in the following list:

Dam Failure

Drought
 Subsidence

EarthquakePandemic

Extreme Temperatures • Radiological Incidents

Flood • Radon Exposure

Hazardous Materials
 Utility Failure

Landslide • Wildfire

Levee Failure
 Winter Weather

Attendees indicated which hazard(s) they or their organizations have special experience and/or expertise with on the Input and Feedback Questionnaire.

Climate Change

Mr. Subbio stated that the impacts of climate change will be integrated into the hazard profiles, describing how the hazards will change based on climate change.

The capacity of both the state and local communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change will be incorporated into the HMP.

Social and Cultural Equity

Mr. Subbio summarized Tetra Tech's approach for addressing social and cultural equity in the planning process and in the plan.

Outreach

Mr. Subbio described the outreach methods that will be used during the planning process, including stakeholder surveys, public meetings, an online mapping survey tool for users to identify problems and problem areas in the state, and a StoryMap website.

Ms. Batch stated that some people may not be comfortable with electronic means of participation and that it may be necessary to have at least one in-person meeting in the southern end of the State.

Schedule

Mr. Subbio reviewed the project schedule with the Steering Committee. He stated that the draft plan will be submitted to FEMA in mid-May 2023 to allow for FEMA review, adoption, and formal approval by September 15, 2023.

The Capability Assessment SPT Meeting will be held in November 2022; the Risk Assessment Review SPT Meeting will be held in December 2022.

PAGE 3 OF 7



Attendees were concerned that vacations and hunting seasons will make it difficult to have well-attended meetings between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Meetings in December should be held in the afternoon to allow individuals to spend the morning hunting. They recommended that meetings be advertised well in advance, and the project team follow the project schedule provided.

Discussion and Input

Ms. Groves led the attendees through the questions on the Input and Feedback Questionnaire. A summary of the discussion is provided below.

Additional SPT Members

The following groups/agencies should be included in the SPT:

- Local floodplain managers
- WV Division of Highways
- WV DEP Dam Safety
- WV National Guard Civil Support Team (CST)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- WV Division of Forestry
- WV Division of Natural Resources
- WV Department of Health and Human Resources
- Academia
- West Virginia Hospital Association
- State Fire Commission
- WV Joint Legislative Committee on Flooding
- WV Structure Committee
- Lions Club and other service providers

Mr. Subbio stated that many of those groups and agencies were already identified and invited to participate.

Concerning Climate Change Impacts

Attendees identified the following impacts of climate change as concerning to them:

- Flash flooding on small streams is getting worse.
- Land movement, landslides, and mudslides are a concern and led to the development of the Total Exposure Area Landslide (TEAL) tool.
- Stream channels are migrating.
- Frequency of events is increasing.
- The state is experiencing more rain and more snow.
- Extreme heat events are more frequent.
- It is unclear whether dams can withstand the increase in precipitation.
- Rules and regulations are designed for rapid-onset events, and the State needs laws and regulations to address long-term vulnerabilities.



- Attendees are concerned about the impacts of hazards to crops and wildlife.
- Erosion is causing soil loss.
- Droughts are causing cascading wildfire risk.
- The State relies on the timber industry, which is vulnerable to drought and other hazards.

Barriers and Characteristics that may Create Additional Vulnerabilities

Attendees discussed the following barriers and community characteristics that exist within the State that may create additional vulnerabilities to hazards:

- The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) shows that most of the State's communities are small, impoverished communities.
- Property owners might not want to take mitigating action to protect property.
- There is no statewide building code in effect.
- It is not cost-effective to telecommunications companies to establish broadband infrastructure in many parts of the State.
- The State sets geographic regions for service providers. This creates a set of monopolies, and some individuals cannot get service if the provider does not install the infrastructure.
- People might not have an accurate understanding of their risk if they do not have connectivity.
- People might not know how to use the available tools to protect themselves and their property.
- West Virginia has the highest rate of elderly population per capita in the country.
- Cellular service in the southern end of the State is lacking to non-existent.
- Enforcement of floodplain management regulations was lacking for 20 years in some parts of the State.
- One attendee stated a belief that individuals are turning away from public radio as the media has become more liberal.

Success Stories

Attendees identified the following mitigation success stories within the State:

- McDowell County's activities (no details provided).
- Anderson Furniture was acquired in Logan County.
- NRCS dams built in the 1950s-1970s were effective in reducing flooding.
- Stream restoration projects that reconnect the waterway and floodplain in the southern part of the State, including a \$44 million project in Logan County.
- Many water treatment plants had generators installed.
- Dam reclamation.
- Bridge projects carried out by voluntary organizations.
- The \$300 million Blue Stone Dam project.
- A corridor study of I-70 led to a redesign of the corridor, which led to fewer accidents involving tractor-trailers.
- Emergency/Disaster Response 101 webinars are conducted on a quarterly basis.
- The State has a model floodplain management ordinance that incorporates higher standards.



Challenges or Barriers to Reducing Vulnerability

Attendees identified the following challenges or barriers to reducing vulnerability:

- People do not understand the risk they face.
- Steep slopes and thin soil throughout the State.
- People historically settled in hazard-prone areas.
- Stormwater runoff is increasing flooding.
- Conflicting rules between WV DOH and WV DEP as they relate to debris in waterways impacting bridges.
- Railroad companies will not clear debris from their bridges.
- Language and demographic diversity between regions.
- Lack of funding, especially to cover the non-federal share of mitigation grants.
- Keeping trained, experienced floodplain management staff at the local level.
- Officials filling too many roles (i.e., "wearing too many hats").
- Large set of responsibilities being carried out by the regional planning and development councils (defined in Chapter 8-25-8 of the West Virginia Code).
- Warning and notification is conducted on a county-by-county basis.
- Cellular service is low or non-existent in some areas.
- There are gaps in the stream gauge network.
- Individuals do not know what they can or cannot do to protect their property.
- Communities do not have the technical or financial expertise to implement programs.

Support Needed from the State

Attendees identified the following needs from the State to reduce vulnerability:

- Public outreach.
- Training and education.
- Legislation and regulation enforcement and updates.
- The Public Service Commission needs to have enforcement mechanisms.
- Access to data at the local level.

Mitigation Capabilities

Attendees discussed the following mitigation capabilities that were developed in the last five years:

- The State Resiliency Office was established.
- Encouraging participation in the CRS Program.
- GIS datasets are being continuously developed and improved.
- The Flood Tool has evolved.
- Health networks have been enhanced.
- Local health departments conduct a risk assessment every five years.



Next Steps and Questions

Mr. Subbio reviewed the following next steps in the HMP update process with attendees:

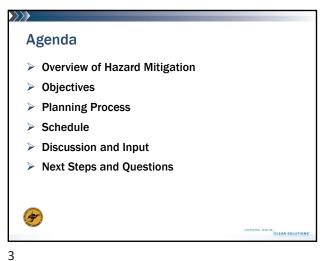
- Tetra Tech will develop the stakeholder surveys.
- Tetra Tech will complete the risk assessment.
- Tetra Tech will work with the State, regions, and counties to assess capabilities to implement hazard mitigation activities.

With no further questions, Mr. Reed and Mr. Subbio thanked attendees for their time and participation. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.





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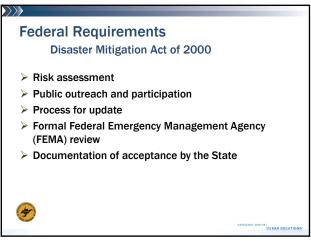


TETRA TECH **Overview of Hazard Mitigation**



Mitigation Works! ➤ The nation saves **\$6** for every **\$1** spent through mitigation grants, funded through select federal agencies. National Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) Per Peril Overall Hazard Benefit-Cost Ratio \$6:1 \$4:1 **Riverine Flood** Hurricane Surge

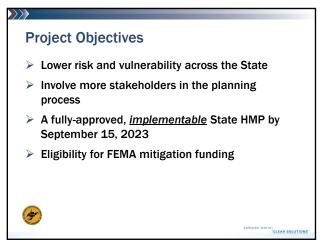
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Objectives

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Planning Process

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Planning Process > State Planning Team State Agencies Sectors Federal Agencies • Emergency Management Regional Organizations Economic Development Local Government · Land Use and Development Other Organizations Housing · Health and Social Services Infrastructure • Natural and Cultural Resources · Climate Change · Social and Cultural Equity

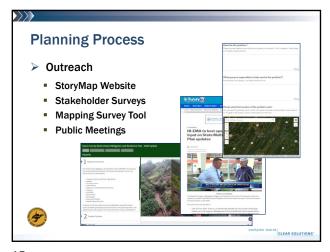
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Planning Process

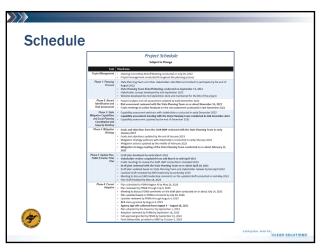
Climate Change
Risk Analysis
Capabilities - Adaptive Capacity
Actions
Social and Cultural Equity
Engaged, empowered stakeholder groups
Assessment of risks and capabilities
Prioritizing mitigation actions

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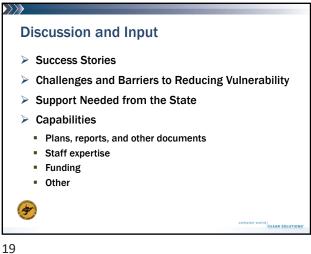


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TETRA TECH **Next Steps and Questions**

Next Steps > Stakeholder surveys Risk assessment > Identify capabilities

Questions? Thank you for your time! Please leave your completed questionnaires for collection!

21



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AGENDA

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA 2023 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE State Planning Team Kickoff Meeting

September 13, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1.	Welcome and Introductions	9:00 - 9:15
2.	Overview of Hazard Mitigation	9:15 – 9:30
3.	Objectives	9:30 – 9:35
4.	Planning Process a. Applicable Regulations and Standards b. State Planning Team c. Hazards of Concern d. Climate Change e. Social and Cultural Equity f. Outreach	9:35 – 10:05
5.	Schedule	10:05 – 10:1
6.	Break	10:15 – 10:30
7.	Discussion and Input	10:30 – 11:45
8.	Next Steps and Questions	11:45 – 12:00





Name/Title:
Organization:
Which of the following sectors and areas of expertise do you represent? Mark all that apply.
Emergency Management Economic Development Housing, Food, Water, Shelter Health and Social Services Infrastructure Natural and Cultural Resources Land Use and Development Climate Change Social and Cultural Equity
What officials and/or organizations are not in the room today, but should be involved in this planning effort?
For which hazard(s) do you feel that you or your organization have special interest and/or expertise? Check all that apply.
Dam Failure Drought Levee Failure Earthquake Extreme Temperatures Flood Hazardous Materials Landslide Levee Failure Radiological Incidents Radon Exposure Utility Failure Wildfire Winter Weather
What potential impacts from climate change are most concerning to you?



What barriers and community characteristics exist within the State that may create additional vulnerabilities to hazards? Examples: transportation, broadband access, economic disadvantages, physical health (chronic diseases), limited physical mobility, age (older adults and children), and rural vs. urban communities.
What stakeholders need to be involved who may not have the ability to provide their input electronically? How are they usually involved in planning efforts?
Do you have any concerns about the schedule? If so, what are your concerns?



What are the mitigation "success stories" in West Virginia, or in your organization in particular?
What challenges or barriers to reducing vulnerability in West Virginia do you see?
What support does your organization/jurisdiction need from the State to reduce your vulnerability?
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What support does your organization/jurisdiction need from the State to reduce your vulnerability?
What support does your organization/jurisdiction need from the State to reduce your vulnerability? What mitigation capabilities has your organization/jurisdiction developed in the last five years?



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Project Schedule

(Subject to Change)

Task	Timeframe
Project Management	 Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting conducted on July 26, 2022 Project management conducted throughout the planning process
Phase 1: Planning Process	 State Planning Team and other stakeholders identified and invited to participate by the end of August 2022 State Planning Team Kickoff Meeting conducted on September 13, 2022 Stakeholder surveys developed by mid-September 2022 Website developed by mid-September 2022 and maintained for the life of the project
Phase 2: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	 Hazard analysis and risk assessment updated by early November 2022 Risk assessment reviewed with the State Planning Team on or about November 16, 2022 Public meetings to collect feedback on the risk assessment conducted in late November 2022
Phase 3: State Mitigation Capabilities and Local Planning Coordination and Capacity Building	 Capability assessment webinars with stakeholders conducted in early December 2022 Capability assessment meeting with the State Planning Team conducted in mid-December 2022 Capability assessment updated by the end of December 2022
Phase 4: Mitigation Strategy	 Goals and objectives from the 2018 HMP reviewed with the State Planning Team in early January 2023 Goals and objectives updated by the end of January 2023 Mitigation strategy webinars with stakeholders conducted in early February 2023 Mitigation actions updated by the middle of February 2023 Mitigation strategy meeting of the State Planning Team conducted on or about February 22, 2023
Phase 5: Update Plan, Public Forums, Final Plan	 Draft plan developed by early March 2023 Stakeholder review completed from mid-March to mid-April 2023 Public meetings to review the draft HMP conducted in mid-April 2023 Draft plan reviewed with the State Planning Team on or about April 20, 2023 Draft plan updated based on State Planning Team and stakeholder reviews by late April 2023 Updated draft reviewed by EMD leadership by early May 2023 Meeting to discuss EMD leadership comments on the updated draft conducted in mid-May 2023 Plan draft finalized by May 18, 2023
Phase 6: Formal Adoption	 Plan submitted to FEMA Region III by May 19, 2023 Plan reviewed by FEMA through July 6, 2023 Meeting to discuss FEMA comments on the draft plan conducted on or about July 14, 2023 Plan updated based on FEMA comments by July 26, 2023 Updates reviewed by FEMA through August 4, 2023 APA status granted by August 4, 2023 Agency signoffs collected from August 4 – August 18, 2023 Plan adopted by the Governor by September 1, 2023 Adoption reviewed by FEMA by September 14, 2023 Full approval granted by FEMA by September 15, 2023 Final deliverables provided to EMD by October 5, 2023



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA 2023 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE State Planning Team Kickoff Meeting

SIGN-IN

September 13, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

NAME/TITLE	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Kelli Batch - Chief	WU EMD	Helli. r. batch Owngor	304-590-6145
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Brian Panix HMA	WU EMO	Brian, M. Penix DW. God-4147864	1,600 1,600
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Ray Ferry	Logan County	Merry Lecuv. US 304-687-9680	304-687-968
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AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	FFMA	WYEND	WKMD				
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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA 2023 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE State Planning Team Kickoff Meeting

SIGN-IN

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NAME/TITLE	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
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		7	(304) SHG- 9312
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Oura Uillamizar	WUEND	nuia.e.villamizu Dungav.	. 750
The grippy	C110	Towethy ,, open dely Q WU, Sov.	U 304.589 Sov. 7905
Tony 5.6613 /PM	Tetr Tech	fory subbio e testated. Con	4595-188-CIL

