

Washington County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2007

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tom Phelan at 9:00 a.m. in the Basement Level Classroom at the Washington County Municipal Building B, Fort Edward, New York.

Attendance (10):

Kyle Vandewater	Washington County DPW, Mitigation
Dr. Tom Phelan	Strategic Teaching Associates, Inc., President
Joseph Childs	Village of Salem, Trustee
Bruce Jordan	NYSEMO
Hugh Dewey	Town of Greenwich Highway Superintendent
Sgt. David Kolb	NYS Police
Jim Woodcock	Town of Hartford Highway Superintendent
Chris Rieben	Town of White Creek Highway Superintendent
Sean Carney	Town of Jackson Highway Superintendent
Eric Shaw	Town of Cambridge Highway Superintendent

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the February 27, 2007, meeting were distributed and unanimously approved. .

Treasurer's Report:

Dr. Phelan stated that this space on each agenda would be used to distribute and discuss the Quarterly Report to SEMO as required under the terms of the grant. The most recent report due January 15, 2007 was available for review. A new Quarterly Report to be filed March 16, 2007, is attached.

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

Kyle Vandewater reported that no progress had been made on posting Task Force meeting minutes on the County's website. He and Dr. Phelan will contact the IT department following the meeting. Dr. Phelan provided a CD-Rom with the draft plan containing all meeting minutes to date for posting on the website.

There remain 8 towns or villages that have still not provided input to the Task Force. They are as noted below:

Dresden	
Fort Ann	Village of Hudson Falls
Village of Fort Ann	Putnam
Village of Granville	Whitehall
Village of Greenwich	

Dr. Phelan sent a letter to each jurisdiction informing them of the March 16, 2007, first draft deadline and requesting them to either send information or complete an Authorized Representation form or proxy (see attached).

Dr. Phelan presented one copy of a 209-page draft plan for review. Copies were previously given to Kyle Vandewater and Ed Lips. Kyle made additional copies as needed, and specifically one for Joe Childs of Salem.

New Business:

Sgt. David Kolb was present from the NYS Police. He agreed to search his records for State Police response to any natural disasters in Washington County. (Following the meeting, Dr. Phelan received word from Sgt. Kolb, that records showed natural hazard response to only two incidents, the floods in December 2000, and the Hadlock Dam failure in 2005.

New information was received from Joan Douglas, Village Clerk, Village of Whitehall on flood damage. Also, new information was received with more to come from Jim Woodcock, Highway Superintendent, Town of Hartford.

Dr. Phelan noted that our next step is Mitigation Strategies. The Task Force presented the following ideas for possible strategies:

1. An aggregate purchase of materials to increase the flow capacity of drainage systems under roadways where washouts have occurred in the past. A suggestion was made to coordinate culvert replacement and drainage ditch improvements with plans for re-paving road over the next 5 years.
2. A hydrological study of the flooding condition in the Village of Salem. The study could be expanded to include all flooding sites in the County. Local engineering capabilities are available from the County if funding could support additional staffing.
3. Support from colleges or universities with expertise in mitigation planning; a recommendation was made to contact RPI, Clarkson, and the NYS College of Environmental Science and Forestry for possible studies.

4. Specific strategies for the Village of Salem were discussed including possible retention ponds and changes to the former railroad bridge. The Task Force agreed that a hydrological study would be required.
5. Slope stability; the County has several sites where slopes are subject to mud slides that damage and close roads. Improvements to these slopes involving excavation or planting could be helpful.
6. There are several sites in the County where dams are considered to be at risk. Some are privately owned; some are beaver dams on private property. Improvements to the dams could prevent flooding causing roads to wash out.
7. The equipment required to excavate drainage ditches and roadways to increase culvert pipe size is not available for local municipal use unless it is contracted. Local highway departments have the expertise to do the work, but not the equipment. A suggestion was made to purchase with mitigation funding an excavator for Towns with the greatest need.

Program/Discussion:

The first draft of the Mitigation Plan is due March 16, 2007. The current draft will be updated to include today's meeting minutes and will be submitted by Dr. Phelan on March 16.

Those Towns and Village sent letters with Authorized Representation Forms will be contacted for their responses. If necessary, Dr. Phelan and Kyle Vandewater will visit them in April to gain their input.

All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force:

All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force Members

Robert W. Humiston	Town of Argyle
Hugh Dewey	Town of Greenwich
Floyd Pratt	Town of Hebron
Ken Talkington	Hebron
Doug Brownell	Easton Volunteer Fire Company
William H. Cook	Washington County Public Safety
Chris Rieben	Town of White Creek
Sean Carney	Town of Jackson
Ray Rathbun	Telescope Casual Furniture
Joseph Childs	Village of Salem
Maureen Van Buren	Ft. Ann Central School
John Boyce	Fort Hudson Nursing Center

Willy Grimmke
Kyle Vandewater
Dr. Thomas D. Phelan

Washington County DPW
Washington County DPW
Strategic Teaching Associates, Inc.

Next Meeting:

Following the regular meeting, Kyle Vandewater contacted the IT department to request again that the Mitigation Task Force meeting minutes and the draft Mitigation Plan be posted on the County website. The response asked for an update to the DPW home page before the Mitigation Task Force material could be added.

Also following the regular meeting, Dr. Phelan and Kyle Vandewater met with Ian Miller, Resident Engineer, NYS DOT and Joseph Thompson, Assistant Resident Engineer in their office, 3716 Burgoyne Avenue, Hudson Falls. Ian Miller provided information and photos of the Village of Whitehall flooding that occurs annually. We were also referred to Roberta Fox at NYS DOT for additional information.

The next meeting will be scheduled following receipt of information from the eight (8) Towns and Village that have not yet responded.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas D. Phelan, Ed.D.