

## **Washington County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting Minutes**

June 28, 2007

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tom Phelan at 1:00 p.m. in Second Floor Classroom at the Washington County Municipal Building B, Fort Edward, New York.

### **Attendance (7):**

Kyle Vandewater	Washington County DPW, Mitigation
Dr. Tom Phelan	Strategic Teaching Associates, Inc., President
Joseph Childs	Village of Salem, Trustee
Willie Grimmke	Washington County DPW
Sgt. David Kolb	NYS Police
Bill Cook	Washington County Emergency Management
Clare Dunn	GIS, Washington County Planning Dept.

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes of the May 15, 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 March 15, 2007, included the first draft of the Mitigation Plan. Feedback from Ed Lips, received June 23, 2007, was reviewed and distributed to Clare Dunn, County Planning Department, and Joseph Childs of Salem.

### **Committee Reports:**

There were no committee reports.

### **Old Business:**

Information has been received from the Village of Granville and the Town of Hartford. Proxies were received from the Town of Whitehall, Village of Whitehall, and Town of Fort Ann. All proxies included a resolution from the Board.

There remain 5 towns or villages that have still not provided input to the Task Force. They are Dresden, Village of Fort Ann, Village of Hudson Falls, Village of Greenwich, and the Town of Putnam. Dr. Phelan will compose a follow-up letter for Kyle Vandewater to again contact these municipalities. Proxy information will be included.

Dr. Phelan had 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 (proxy).

**New Business:**

At the May 15, 2007 meeting, Dr. Phelan recommended the Task Force proceed with setting calendar dates with all committees and the Board of Supervisors for approval and adoption of the Mitigation Plan since the grant deadline is in November 2007. Willie Grimmke agreed to propose presentations to those listed below on the dates listed. It is now recommended by SEMO that these dates be changed, and that final approval follow FEMA review and approval which may take months. The exception will be the presentation to the Public Works Committee of the Board which should now be scheduled in August or September to allow time for updating the plan as per recommendations from Ed Lips.

Public Works Committee of the Board	July 31, 2007
Finance Committee	August 9, 2007
Board of Supervisors	August 17, 2007

NOTE: In a follow-up phone conversation with Ed Lips at SEMO, May 15, 2007, it was indicated that FEMA preliminary review of the plan could take as long as 12 months (currently the case in Clinton County). Ed advised NOT submitting the plan to the County for approval prior to the FEMA review. Dr. Phelan questioned this because the grant expires in November. What is the County to do with such a long delay from FEMA? This question remains unanswered.

**Program/Discussion:**

The Task Force began immediately to work on the recommendations from SEMO.

Dam Failure:

1. Hadlock Pond Dam Failure

Bill Cook has the complete County file. Dr. Phelan will schedule a time to review that file and bring recommendations to the Task Force. The pond is being refilled this summer, and the new dam should be at full capacity by summer's end. There are some residents who could not afford to rebuild following the dam failure whose property might be considered in a strategy to buy out vulnerable sites.

2. Cossayuna Lake Dam

This is privately owned by the Cossayuna Fire Department. Downstream is largely a nature preserve, but there are 1 or two houses in the path of a failure.

3. Battenkill Dams (there are 8)

1. Clarks Mills at the Hudson River
  2. Pulp Mill Road
  3. County Route 53 in the Village of Greenwich
  4. Middle Falls Hydro at State Route 29
  5. Mill Dam
  6. Mill Hollow
  7. Prospect Street
  8. Center Falls, near Hardscrabble Lane.
4. Lake Nebo, Town of Fort Ann, tributary to Hadlock Pond (privately owned)  
There are houses on Lake Nebo Road that could be affected.

#### Earthquake:

The County has seen little impact for earthquakes, but the most recent did damage some cellars, chimneys, and some structural damage occurred. Documentation will be sought.

#### Tornado:

Though there was recall of 5 tornadoes in recent memory, tornadic damage in the County has been limited. The Task Force discussed strategies related to dam failures, flash flooding, earthquakes, and tornadoes such as early warning systems and improved links to the National Weather Service. Currently the County has a Civil Defense Warning System activated by the Emergency Management Office. Recipients of the early warning messages are primarily schools.

#### GIS

The County has a new employee, Clare Dunn, a GIS specialist in the Planning Department. On the recommendation of Bill Cook, Clare was asked to join the meeting. She reviewed the current maps in the plan and was informed that the State Mitigation Plan had no 100 Year Flood Plain Map for Washington County. She thought she might be able to help.

Following the Task force meeting, Dr. Phelan, Willie Grimmke, and Kyle Vandewater met with the Planning Office manager to request Clare's assistance with the plan. We agreed to provide a digital copy of our current draft and a copy of the Crosswalk that reviews the first draft submitted to SEMO in March. Both were delivered immediately. Upon review of these documents, the Planning Department will let us know if Clare can assist us.

#### Narrative to Support Certain Items in the Current Draft

Dr. Phelan explained the comments from Ed Lips in the Crosswalk Review that indicated a need for more complete description of the maps indicating problem areas where natural hazards had caused expensive damage. Dr. Phelan made copies of all sections of the plan that present by jurisdiction, the reports of damage. All maps and tables are now labeled. The suggestion was to contact each town highway superintendent by phone to ask for

more complete information. The Task Force agreed that phone interviews might be the most efficient way to get this information. Dr. Phelan will review Ed Lips' comments on the Crosswalk to determine just where narratives are needed. Kyle Vandewater will let the superintendents know of our intention to call them, and provide them with copies from the plan of their pages so they will have them to refer to when we call. Strategic Teaching Associates, Inc. will arrange the calls and the interviewers.

**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	Washington County DPW
Kyle Vandewater	Washington County DPW
Dr. Thomas D. Phelan	Strategic Teaching Associates, Inc.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting was not scheduled pending updates to the plan.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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

<http://www.co.washington.ny.us>