2025 Flood Resiliency Plan Symposium

Raw Participant Input (Black) and Worksheet Data (Green)

General Comments

o Continuous PR effort (this means enhanced education and outreach as well as creating a social media presence)

o Note and highlight that federal entities require a local sponsor (can be a resident landowner) on all projects.

o Note aquatic connectivity programs that have secondary flooding benefits. (multi-benefit solution)

o Issue noted for iPhone users when clicking a link and going back

o Add links for County EM contacts, EMD site has these. Provides a resource for citizens/residents.

o Add an Appendix for Emergency Services Contact data

o Add a flow chart for resiliency organizational connectivity

o Amend Goal 1to remove the word unnecessary. All loss of life is unnecessary

o Address or include Disaster Behavioral Health All Hazard Planning Guidance.

o Plan coordination from all levels, eliminate planning silos

o Perform Sector meetings to discuss strategy and actions/leadership, etc.

o Consider regional workshops in the 6 Homeland Security Regions to gather additional input.

o A potential action at the federal level is providing training tailored to localized events

o A potential action at the state level is identifying a state lead for "WV training WV". Topics: PA, IA, debris, private roads/bridges, LTR, donation management, gaps in assistance programs, pre/post flood assistance, and public infrastructure recovery all tailored to WV

o A potential action for WVEMD: perform community outreach for sub-applicants for federal mitigation grants.

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1. Is the information contained within the document current and do the links and navigation tools within the document function properly?

o Reference to validating news sources.

o Some counties have no newspaper, local radio station, etc.
   ▪ McDowell County- people go into a panic thinking they will be abandoned.

o WVEMD website has all county emergency contacts

o Some counties have Facebook pages with updated information
   ▪ Public Service Districts
   ▪ Validate news sources (resident potential action)

o Public affairs officer with EMD?
   ▪ Lora Lipscomb

o Local Emergency Operations could link the SRO site on their page.

- o Link to all local emergency management
- o Maintained (document)- annual meetings, investment from resources.
  - Mechanism is in place with state code.
- o Update the Iflows info for stream gages
- o Add Additional contact info like county EM Facebook pages, county school systems, and health depts.

2. Do the three methods of prioritizing how entities can select their actions provide sufficient guidance to simplify the process or do additional prioritization measures need to be identified?

- o The U.S. federal government is shifting from an "all-hazards" approach to emergency preparedness to a "risk-informed" approach. Method B encompasses that.
- o "Flavored" to be able to adjust according to law changes, grant funding changes, etc.
- o Monthly FRP standing committee or workgroup
- o Propose it would never be a 1, 2, 3 method, but allow for the overlap or cycle.
  - Constant cycle
- o Entities can get confused about where assistance stops and where it can pick back up (Method C) (Hannah Thacker)
  - What projects are we going to find?
  - Would not implement a multi-benefit approach in response
- o Flow chart > Does not fit into Method C, not sure where it can be housed in the plan.
  - Root structure with a tree up above with all the organizations.
- o Documents can be put into AI and ask how all are connected.
- o State EOP- Emergency Health
  - Emergency Management has an org chart that outlines some response information.
  - GIS houses a lot of plans.

3. Are the nine sectors identified to categorize entities that have a role in resiliency sufficient or do they need further refinement to make navigating the plan more simplistic?

- o Overview of the nine sectors
- o Regional government? RPDCs, conservation districts.
- o Positive feedback was received.
- o The 9 sectors need to be edited to include all applicable actions the entities offer. Request feedback from all organizations.

4. Are there entities not identified within the plan that contribute, or can contribute, to flood resiliency in West Virginia?

- o Federal
  - Who have we missed and who was missing in the 2004 Flood Protection Plan?
  - USDA- Rural Development and Farm Services Agency

- Health and Human Services
- Economic Development
- Brownfields (EPA)
- Federal Highway Administration
- NOAA
- EPA
- National Park Service
- SBA
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Focus on Congressionally Directed Spending

o State Government
  - DNR, Law Enforcement Response
    - Swiftwater Rescue
    - Dive Team
    - Drone Pilots
  - DNR, Office of Land and Streams
  - Watershed Assessments comment.
  - Fusion Center
  - Fire Marshalls Office
  - Ready.WV.Gov
  - Dept of Tourism
  - Workforce WV

o Regional Government
  - EMD has regions, WVDOH has districts but still should be listed under State. Regions still fall under the umbrella of a state agency.
  - The Fusion Center needs to be added.

o Office of Land and Stream under State (needs added)
  - Own separate entity under DNR.

o County Government
  - Emergency planning committees (would need to be under committees)
  - Economic Development Organizations (Councils) (County or Regional levels)
  - Code Enforcement
  - Solid waste authorities

o City Governments
  - Economic development council at the local level.
  - Municipal or localized emergency management.
  - Charleston, Bridgeport, Huntington, Madison (About seven municipalities have their own Homeland Security)
  - Code Enforcement
  - Municipal water and sewer systems

- o NGOs
  - ▪ Highlight centers (such as the) where they are different than just education.
    - ● WVU GIS Tech Center
    - ● Appalachian Resiliency Center at Marshall
    - ● WV Brownfields Programs
    - ● Salvation Army

- o Industries and Utilities
  - ▪ Slow to expand
  - ▪ A lot of this expansion will come from legislative policy makers.
  - ▪ Strengthening infrastructure.

- o Businesses and Associations
  - ▪ ~~Code official organization (can be at the city level as well) (code enforcement)~~
  - ▪ E-911, mapping offices can provide data from calls on flooding.
  - ▪ All Hazards Consortium
  - ▪ Watershed Associations
  - ▪ 911 Council
  - ▪ LEPCs

- o Residents and Landowners

5. What potential actions exist for the entities identified in the plan as "reserved"?

- o HUD
  - ▪ CDBG, either DR or MIT, plays a large role in long term recovery.
  - ▪ Housing Development fund and HUD worked together for low to no interest loans for housing for poverty level residents.
  - ▪ Temporary Housing
  - ▪ HUD and Flood Development fund worked together for low to no interest housing.
  - ▪ Help to identify where HUD houses are located to show vulnerable populations and determine what structures may be in high hazard areas.

- o Need to add SBA to federal
  - ▪ There is a link to SBA within the document.

- o USGS
  - ▪ Flood warning systems with stream gauges.
  - ▪ Sampling
  - ▪ Cooperative matching funds program- rural disadvantaged communities (congressionally directed funding)
  - ▪ Congress and Executive branch
  - ▪ Reduce gauge and monitoring costs

o   High water marks? Corps did some and USGS will be publishing some data (25 flood)

o   Gauge management and alternative gauge types

o   National Guard
    ▪   Abandoned homes?
    ▪   DEP dilapidated structures
    ▪   Mission centric
    ▪   There is a need to look at the mission as it regards resiliency

o   WVSRO
    ▪   Drive the whole planning process
    ▪   Coordination
    ▪   Receive input from partners and stakeholders

o   WVDHS
    ▪   Cabinet Secretary level, reach out laterally to get other cabinet secretaries involved/interested where they can. Upper levels of the administration.
    ▪   Emergency Management
    ▪   Fusion Center
    ▪   Fire Marshall (code for the State)
    ▪   Drop down under Homeland Security

o   Public Service Commission of WV
    ▪   Water systems back up (cannot even flush without water)
    ▪   "Resiliency recommendations"
    ▪   Storm events can cause exposed pipes along streams.
    ▪   Require compliance with floodplain ordinances (could be a part of inspection)
    ▪   Set Stricter Standards
    ▪   Suggest/require alternate power for water systems

o   WV Department of Human Services
    ▪   Health facilities and Department of Health are under the same umbrella.
    ▪   Disaster SNAP benefits > expedite request
        ●   Federally funded, but must be requested.
    ▪   Safety net, housed/fed flood survivors
    ▪   Short- and long-term recovery
    ▪   SAMSA
    ▪   Mental and emotional needs post disaster
    ▪   Supply chain (needs to be highlighted)
        ●   Oxygen, etc.
        ●   Having supplies or a backup of supplies if a disaster happens.
        ●   There must be things in place because oxygen is prescribed.
        ●   There are people that are on home dialysis
    ▪   Disaster Behavioral Health All Hazards Planning Guidance

- State Historic Preservation
  - Improve post disaster permitting
  - Expedite processes
  - Provide guidance (FEMA has experts that come out post disaster)

- RPDCs
  - Contract support
  - Transition from response to recovery
  - Recovery of properties
  - Contingency Contracting
  - Assist During Recovery

- WV Conservation Districts
  - Co-sponsors with NRCS and WVCA
  - Provide Education
  - Septic Systems
  - Stream Clean-up
  - Matching Funds

- County Emergency Managers
  - More stream gauges
  - Monitor creeks and streams for debris removal and clearing trees

- County Floodplain Managers
  - Improve communication between emergency management and floodplain management.
  - There are a lot of different plans that overlap.
    - Plans should blend but some have conflicting information.
  - Encourage inputs of plans.
  - Perform community outreach
  - Retain flood data

- Municipal Floodplain Managers
  - Keep communication levels up.
  - Obtain flood data
  - Community outreach on mitigation.
  - Educating the community.

- NGOs
  - Dave Lumsden will get more information for us (WV VOAD)

- Religious Organizations
  - Education outreach
  - Decrease in duplicate efforts

- o Residents and Landowners
  - ▪ Clear title
  - ▪ Educate yourself
  - ▪ Knowing physical address, understand what you need if you need help.
  - ▪ Floodproofing
  - ▪ Keep property kept up properly
  - ▪ Properly size, build and maintain private bridges
  - ▪ Do not build in the Flood Plain