

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security



Meeting Notes

Title: Connecticut State Natural Hazard Location: 1111 Country Club Road,

Mitigation Plan Update Kick-Off Middletown, CT 06457, Room 349

(preferred) or Microsoft Teams

Purpose: Introduce the update process, review roles and responsibilities, and begin

collecting information & input on hazards, mitigation strategies, and improvements

Attendance

Alfredo Herrera

Ashley Benitez

Ashley Gordon

Brenda Bergeron

Bruce Wittchen

Charles "Chuck" Lee

• Danielle (Dani) Moyer

• Emily Pysh

• Eric Runowicz

• Francesca Provenzano

George Bradner

Hanna Rush

Henry Paszczuk

Ian Alexander

Jade Pavne

• James "Jim" O'Donnell

Jamie Caplan

leff Semancik

Ioanna Wozniak Brown

John "Jack" Betkoski

• John Truscinski

Jonathan Kinney

Karen Michaels

Kenneth (Ken) Dumais

Louise Zakrzweski

Meghan M Seremet,PG

Nisha Patel

Sarah Watson

• Scott Choquette

Sean Loughlin

• Stephanie Zessos

Zachary (Zach) Giron

Meeting Summary

Scott Choquette (Project Manager, Dewberry), Jade Payne (Deputy Project Manager, Dewberry), and Jamie Caplan (Dewberry Team - Jamie Caplan Consulting) met with the Connecticut Hazard Mitigation Planning Team (HMPT) on March 28, 2023, to provide an overview of the mitigation plan update process, begin discussions on the risk assessment, and collect feedback on how the plan can be improved compared to the 2019 version.

A PowerPoint presentation was used to review the project purpose, schedule, requirements, and planned improvements. Discussions were held throughout the presentation to gather feedback from the HMPT on how the plan update should proceed and result in an effective plan. Discussion and presentation topics are grouped below with input and questions from the HMPT. The meeting chat log is included at the end.



Meeting Notes

Plan Update Overview

- No comments/notes (see presentation slide for information covered)

Hazard ID & Risk Assessment Overview

- CIRCA is helping to customize the EPA EJ tool
- Critical facilities:
 - o The State Public Health Laboratory would be considered a Critical State Facility. They have a generator
 - o Definition of critical facilities & assets should be consistent with state statute, the executive orders (EO 21-3 had some specifics), and agency-identified critical facilities/assets (EO 21-3 kind of said this)
- 2019 Natural Hazard Ranking
 - o Would the plan also include inundation zones for privately owned dams?
 - Potentially if that information was available
 - o Add extreme heat and cold
 - Referenced Texas storm as a case study
 - o Add solar storms (see Lloyd's report, which quantified by transformer type in CT to variations in currents)
 - o Question from Francesca: how do we weight the impacts of hazards (ex., poverty rates)?
 - Past plans have not addressed social vulnerability, but this new plan will
 - The CIRCA climate change vulnerability index considers socioeconomic factors in the assessment of vulnerability.
 - The County level economic status is probably too coarse to enhance equity. The CIRCA maps are more refined.

Evaluating 2019 HMP

- Feedback: it's far too long, we need a condensed version with a way to navigate through the full document if needed
 - o A smaller base plan (maybe a few hundred pages) would be great, with more in the annexes.
- A more condensed version that's more graphically oriented would be useful. Maybe use more appendixes on the longer sections.
- A GIS package to be able to integrate the info into other state plans, risk assessments, local/regional plans would be helpful
 - A project dashboard will be created and be a usable tool for CT to display progress on projects
 - o We can likely add a special component to this



- State projects: is it a good idea to add in localized, shovel-ready projects in these plans? Should this be looked at on the state side?
 - o Yes, prioritizing these projects are important for if there is a state emergency or grants become available, there is a clear pathway forward
 - o Also important to note where else these projects are identified beyond the HMP
- Does this planning tie into the Governor's Climate Change workgroup (GC3)? That seems like an area for integration and input.
- Helpful to include what kind of permitting process (at the federal level) is required for projects, this could also help to prioritize projects
 - o We rank via STAPLEE but we may want to go beyond this
- Joanna Wozniak-Brown is working on prioritization & process for resiliency projects with her team
- Including plans like long rang transportation plans
- CT saw a lot of urban flash flooding with Hurricane Ida
- Culverts are designed for 25yr return frequencies but the storms are becoming more frequent
- Is there some way to identify how CT dealt with past events and how we can learn from what was done/not done?
 - o There will be a "backwards look" into what happened and "looking forward" to outline what the future may look like
 - o Plans should be looked at and shifted after a disaster event to reprioritize
 - o Joanna Wozniak-Brown: The historical look-back (I think required by FEMA) should be condensed or improved with reflection process on what has changed since then either we are similarly vulnerable, more vulnerable, or maybe not vulnerable in the same way. How would the 1938 hurricane impact us today is more useful than the exact numbers from 1938 conditions.
 - The HAZUS description of 1938 on today could be more well rounded beyond numbers such as describing new capacities, newer impacts especially vulnerable populations, or actions still needed to address some of it.
- Any lessons learned from Tropical Storm Isaias, e.g. electrical grid would be helpful to integrate
- MA's 2018 Plan had each dept determine priorities because they felt they would not be completed otherwise. Perhaps CT might want to think about whether this model may work

Ouestions

- Have flood maps changed in the last 5 years?
 - o They don't change all at once, Scott estimates most of them have had updates in the last 10 years but we will confirm and include in the plan.



Next Steps

- Send Old Action 2-week deadline with the resources email
- Other mitigation action updates from previous HMP should also be submitted in 2-weeks
- New actions do not yet have a deadline
- We should send deadlines to anyone we tag
- Jade to send out the spreadsheet in the next few days
- The next HMPT meeting will be to review the risk assessment results, finalize goals/objectives, and decide on mitigation activities.

Meeting Chat Log

[3/28 1:31 PM] Rush, Hanna R.

Worksheet: HMPT Kick-Off Participant Worksheet (airtable.com)

Airtable | Everyone's app platform

Airtable is a low-code platform for building collaborative apps. Customize your workflow, collaborate, and achieve ambitious outcomes. Get started for free.

[3/28 1:37 PM] Herrera, Alfredo Alfredo Herrera - OPM

[3/28 1:37 PM] Provenzano, Francesca

Francesca Provenzano, Public Health Section Chief, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, CT DPH.

I would recommend inviting Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief, Env Health and Drinking Water Branch. CT DPH

[3/28 1:39 PM] Michaels, Karen

Karen Michaels, EA III, Planning Section, Land and Water Resources Division, CT DEEP

[3/28 1:49 PM] Provenzano, Francesca

The State Public Health Laboratory would be considered a Critical State Facility. They have a generator.

[3/28 1:50 PM] Lee, Charles

Would the plan also include inundation zones for privately owned dams?

[3/28 1:51 PM] Wozniak-Brown, Joanna

Yes - on extreme heat/cold

like 3



[3/28 1:52 PM] Patel, Nisha

Thanks for this kick off and my apologies - I need to drop off for another call

like 1

[3/28 1:54 PM] Provenzano, Francesca

Do the hazard rankings consider or have weighting for poverty rates or anything like that?

[3/28 1:57 PM] Wozniak-Brown, Joanna

definition of critical facilities & assets should be consistent with state statute, the executive orders (EO 21-3 had some specifics), and agency identified critical facilities/assets (EO 21-3 kind of said this)

like 1

[3/28 1:58 PM] Provenzano, Francesca

Do you have a list of individuals from each of the state agencies who supplied that information?

[3/28 1:58 PM] Truscinski, John

The CIRCA climate change vulnerability index considers socioeconomic factors in the assessment of vulnerability.

like 2

[3/28 2:02 PM] O'Donnell, James

The County level economic status is is probably too coarse to enhance equity. The CIRCA maps are more refined.

[3/28 2:02 PM] Wittchen, Bruce

No one uses a 1500-pg plan

[3/28 2:03 PM] Loughlin, Sean

A smaller base plan (maybe a few hundred pages) would be great, with more in the annexes.

[3/28 2:03 PM] Truscinski, John

A more condensed version that's more graphically oriented would be useful. Maybe use more appendixes on the longer sections.

[3/28 2:04 PM] Wozniak-Brown, Joanna

a GIS package to be able to integrate the info into other state plans, risk assessments, local/regional plans would be helpful

[3/28 2:04 PM] Provenzano, Francesca

Does this planning tie into the Governor's Climate Change workgroup (GC3)? That seems like an area for integration and input.



[3/28 2:05 PM] Truscinski, John

Wozniak-Brown, Joanna (External)

a GIS package to be able to integrate the info into other state plans, risk assessments, local/regional plans would be helpful

a spatial database of actions and projects from the plan would be really useful.

[3/28 2:11 PM] Wozniak-Brown, Joanna

another thing - identifying the similarities across local HMPs that would require state input/info - several COG HMPs mention working with SHPO on vulnerable historical sites/practices

[3/28 2:14 PM] Loughlin, Sean

Any lessons learned from Tropical Storm Isaias, e.g. electrical grid would be helpful to integrate

like 1

[3/28 2:16 PM] Wozniak-Brown, Joanna

The historical look-back (I think required by FEMA) should be condensed or improved with reflection process on what has changed since then either we are similarly vulnerbale, more vulnerable, or maybe not vulnerable in the same way. How would the 1938 hurricane impact us today is more useful than the exact numbers from 1938 conditions.

[3/28 2:25 PM] Wozniak-Brown, Joanna

The HAZUS description of 1938 on today could be more well rounded beyond numbers such as describing new capacities, newer impacts especially vulnerable populations, or actions still needed to address some of it.

[3/28 2:41 PM] Payne, Jade Suggest a Mitigation Activity (airtable.com)

[3/28 2:42 PM] Wozniak-Brown, Joanna are you sharing the agency spreadsheet document?

[3/28 2:44 PM] Wozniak-Brown, Joanna

i.e. will you send out the spreadsheet for agencies to update past actions?

