

Hello.

We're nearing the end of the mitigation planning process, with only one more step before the Draft Plan will be ready for distribution!

What is that last step? Identifying, evaluating and prioritizing mitigation actions - at the upcoming Mitigation Strategy Working Session on June 18th. Just a reminder that it would be helpful if you came to this meeting with a list of mitigation actions that your municipality would like to pursue. This could be a long list, or a short one. The length really is not the issue. What's most important is that it contains what you feel is a manageable number of projects for your particular municipality to tackle, given your community's unique level of available resources/funding/staffing. Some actions may be things that you know your municipality can do with local funds. Other actions might be large projects that you will be seeking grant funding for. Either/both is fine. But please be sure to have at least two projects on the list - this is a FEMA requirement. (Remember: earning the eligibility to apply for mitigation project funds this is the big reason why you all decided to prepare this plan in the first place! So make the most of it!) If you're having trouble coming up with some projects, you may consider talking to your local DPW or emergency management folks - they're often a great resource because they are typically the first to hit the street after a big hazard event, and thus many of them can give you a list of common problem areas and possible solutions right off the top of their head.

At the Working Session, we will be walking everyone through a series of worksheets regarding action item evaluation/prioritization and implementation strategy development. Another FEMA requirement. We try to make this as easy as possible. It looks like a lot, but really isn't too bad. We have attached the worksheets for your review in advance, if you choose. The pages are attached in the order in which we will be completing them at the meeting.

Before completing the worksheets, you should already have considered the information presented in the Risk Assessment Interim Deliverable (RAID) which was distributed by Chris Jensen just before Memorial Day. If you haven't had a chance to read through it yet, we would highly recommend that you may wish to do so before the Working Session (especially Chapter 6, containing information on types of hazard mitigation actions). There also will be a RAID Question and Answer Session on June 4th which we hope you will be able to attend.

While we will be collecting completed forms at the close of the meeting, if you need some extra time please just email/fax your documents to us by the following Thursday, July 2nd.

Give us a call ANY TIME if you have questions! We're happy to help however we can.

Thanks, and hope to see you at the next meetings.
Anna and Richard

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MITIGATION OPTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE



Rockland County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Project

Mitigation Options Survey

Municipality.....

Please rank the following generic descriptions of mitigation measures in the order that you consider them to be most preferred by your community, with 1 = most preferred, through 6 = least preferred.

1. Preventive measures

- Regulations
- Building codes
- Zoning

2. Asset protection

- Structure elevation/retrofit
- Hurricane clips
- Fireproof treatments

3. Emergency services

- Redundant communications systems
- Hazard warning systems
- Response resources

4. Structural projects

- Floodwalls/levees
- Channel improvements
- Drainage
- Dams

5. Natural resource protection

- Set aside flood prone land for parks/open space
- Wetland/wildland restoration

6. Public information

- Newsletters
- Information at civic association meetings
- Public notices
- Local media



PRIORITIZATION WORKSHEET



PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIONS

(Name of Jurisdiction) _____

Before completing this form, your jurisdiction should already have considered the full range of possible mitigation actions set forth in the Risk Assessment Interim Deliverable, and selected a subset of the actions that your jurisdiction would like to implement. This worksheet is intended to help you consider a range of factors to prioritize the actions that you have selected.

First, in order to prioritize the mitigation actions your jurisdiction has selected, identify the *benefits* and *costs* of each action using a FEMA planning concept called **STAPLEE**.

S Social	Is the action unfair to one section of the community over others? If yes, it is a social cost associated with the action. If the implementation of the action helps achieve a social goal of the community, it is a social <i>benefit</i> associated with the action.
T Technical	Is the action a good technical solution to the problem? If yes, it is a <i>benefit</i> associated with the action. The better the solution, the higher the <i>benefits</i> .
A Administrative	Is the action difficult to implement because of the administrative problems associated? If yes, it is an administrative <i>cost</i> .
P Political	Is the action politically favored? If yes, it is a <i>benefit</i> . If the action is likely to be politically unacceptable, it is a <i>cost</i> associated with the action.
L Legal	Are there perceived legal problems in implementing the action? If yes, it is a <i>cost</i> associated with the action.
E Economic	Does implementing the action make economic sense? If yes, it is a <i>benefit</i> . If the project costs are too prohibitive, it is a <i>cost</i> .
E Environmental	Does the action have adverse environmental effects? If yes, it is a <i>cost</i> associated with the action.

After determining if something is a ‘benefit’ or a ‘cost’, use the following sliding scale to document your findings:

-	0	+
Cost (Unfavorable)	Neutral or Not Applicable	Benefit (Favorable)

Third, using the same scale, consider three factors: (1) Can the project be implemented easily?, (2) Does the project achieve multiple objectives?, and (3) Can the project be implemented quickly? If the answer is “yes” it is a *benefit* and if the answer is “no” it is a *cost*. If the answer is not particularly favorable or unfavorable, place a ‘0’ in the cell.

Finally, using ALL factors discussed above, compare OVERALL benefits to OVERALL costs for each action (high, medium, or low). Use this comparison to assign a priority (also high, medium, or low) for each action item; i.e., a project with low benefits and high costs would be ranked as a low priority. Relative scores are assigned to each criterion for a qualitative assessment – you do not have to tally up “+’s” and “-’s”. You may find that in your community, one or several criterion outweigh the others. (For example, even if a project gets “+” scores all the way across the board except the “L” column, you don’t have to give this a high priority. Specific legal issues might outweigh all the other benefits, and result in your assessment that the action should receive a low priority, despite its many benefits.)

Action	“-” = cost (unfavorable)			“0”=neutral or not applicable				“+” = benefit (favorable)			(high, medium, or low)		
	S	T	A	P	L	E	E	Can be implemented easily	Achieves multiple objectives	Can be implemented quickly	Overall Benefits	Overall Costs	Priority
SAMPLE MITIGATION ACTION #1 (<i>great project with benefits in every category, except specific legal issues that really outweigh all other project benefits</i>)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	Med	High	Low
SAMPLE MITIGATION ACTION #2 (<i>great project, with some minor political and legal issues, neither of which outweighs the rest of the project’s benefits</i>)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	High	Low	High
SAMPLE MITIGATION ACTION #3 (<i>technically feasible and reasonable cost project which can be implemented quickly, easily, and achieves multiple objectives but has limited administrative, social, and environmental issues</i>)	-	+	-	0	0	+	-	+	+	+	Medium	Medium	Medium



PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIONS

(Name of Jurisdiction) _____

Action	“-” = cost (unfavorable)				“0”=neutral or not applicable			“+” = benefit (favorable)			(high, medium, or low)		
	S	T	A	P	L	E	E	Can be implemented easily	Achieves multiple objectives	Can be implemented quickly	Overall Benefits	Overall Costs	Priority



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY WORKSHEET

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY WORKSHEET



(Name of Jurisdiction) _____

Before completing this form, your jurisdiction should already have considered the full range of possible mitigation actions set forth in the Risk Assessment Interim Deliverable, selected a subset of the actions that your jurisdiction would like to implement, AND filled out the "Prioritization Worksheet". Now, on this page, translate from the "Prioritization Worksheets" each action and its priority rank, then fill in the remainder of the row

PRIORITY*	Mitigation Action	Please list the hazards that the action will address.	Please say whether the action will affect existing assets, future assets, or both?	What municipal department will take the lead on moving forward with the project?	What is the existing authority or local planning mechanism through which the action can be implemented?	What is the target date for project completion?	What is the estimated cost of the project? <i>(order of magnitude dollars, or qualitative high/med/low)</i>	What funding source do you anticipate? <i>(i.e., local staff time, local budget, grant funding, etc.)</i>

* "Priority" to be carried over from the STAPLEE worksheet



NFIP WORKSHEET



Rockland County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Project

NFIP COMPLIANCE ACTIONS WORKSHEET

(Name of Jurisdiction) _____

First:

1. Please fill in the following table. *(Note: All municipalities participate in the NFIP except Airmont and Kaser; NFIP participating communities DO have a floodplain management ordinance AND a Floodplain Administrator on the books.)*

Name of Your Jurisdiction	Adoption Date of your Current Floodplain Management Ordinance	Position Title of Your Jurisdiction's Designated Floodplain Administrator	Number of Municipal Staff with Roles in Enforcement of Floodplain Management Ordinance
Please give a brief description of activities currently undertaken by your municipality to enforce your floodplain management ordinance:			

Next:

2. If your current floodplain management ordinance was adopted before 1996 and has not been subsequently revised, then fill in Row 1 on Pages 2 and 3. *(Please leave Row 1 blank if your ordinance is current as of 1996 or later.)*
3. If your jurisdiction currently does not have a specific person filling the position title of Floodplain Administrator, or if the person filling this position is unaware of their role as Floodplain Administrator, then fill in Row 2 on Pages 2 and 3. *(Otherwise please leave Row 2 blank.)*
4. If you consider the present level of staffing insufficient to adequately enforce your floodplain management ordinance, then fill in Row 3 on Pages 2 and 3. *(Please leave Row 3 blank if you feel current staffing levels are adequate.)*
5. Please fill in Row 4 on Pages 2 and 3 to evaluate how you plan to update your floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps that may at some point become available in the future for Rockland County. *(Note that FEMA has included Rockland County as part of its Map Modernization study; Preliminary maps are targeted for release in late 2009. Everyone should still fill in Row 4.)*
6. If floodplain management staff members in your municipality are not Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs), then please fill in Row 5 on Pages 2 and 3. *(Please leave Row 5 blank if your floodplain managers are already CFMs.)*
7. If your municipality is not already a participant in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), please fill in Row 6 on Pages 2 and 3. *(No jurisdictions in Rockland County currently participate in the CRS; everyone else should fill in Row 6.)*
8. If you consider there to be additional activities that could be undertaken to enforce your municipality's floodplain management ordinance beyond what your municipality is already doing, please list these actions in the blank Rows 7 and 8 on Pages 2 and 3. *(Otherwise, you can leave Rows 7 and 8 blank.)* * Feel free to attach additional pages if you need more space.



Rockland County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Project
NFIP COMPLIANCE ACTIONS WORKSHEET

(Name of Jurisdiction) _____

PRIORITIZATION

NFIP Compliance Action	“-” = cost (unfavorable)			“0”=neutral or not applicable				“+” = benefit (favorable)			(high, medium, or low)		
	S	T	A	P	L	E	E	Can be implemented easily	Achieves multiple objectives	Can be implemented quickly	Overall Benefits	Overall Costs	Priority
1. Update/revise floodplain management ordinances to comply with latest FEMA regulations													
2. Designate/install a specific person to be your municipality’s Floodplain Administrator													
3. Add/train sufficient members of staff to adequately enforce NFIP regulations/floodplain management ordinances													
4. Update/revise floodplain management ordinances to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs													
5. Require staff involved in Floodplain management and ordinance enforcement to become Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs)													
6. Join the Community Rating System (CRS)													
7.													
8.													



Rockland County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Project
NFIP COMPLIANCE ACTIONS WORKSHEET

(Name of Jurisdiction) _____

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Priority	NFIP Compliance Action	Applies to Community Assets (Existing / New / Both)	Primary Department Responsible	Existing Local Planning Mechanism through which the action will be implemented	Target Date	Cost Estimate	Funding Source
	1. Update/revise floodplain management ordinances to comply with latest FEMA regulations						
	2. Designate/install a specific person to be your municipality's Floodplain Administrator						
	3. Add/train sufficient members of staff to adequately enforce NFIP regulations/floodplain management ordinances						
	4. Update/revise floodplain management ordinances to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs						
	5. Require staff involved in Floodplain management and ordinance enforcement to become Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs)						
	6. Join the Community Rating System (CRS)						
	7.						
	8.						



ROLE OF A LOCAL JURISDICTION IN MITIGATION



**ROCKLAND COUNTY
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL
HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING PROJECT**

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A LOCAL JURISDICTION IN MITIGATION??

In developing your list of mitigation projects, you may think of some projects that will be undertaken at sites or facilities owned by your municipality. For example, maybe you would like to upgrade a stormwater drainage system, raise a locally-owned roadway, or relocate the local police station out of the floodplain. But what happens if you see a need for a mitigation project at a site or facility for which your municipality has no authority? For example, what if a County road runs through your municipality, and you think a certain portion of the road should be raised to prevent the road from being overtopped during a flood event? What if there is a nursing home in your community's floodplain, and you think there would be a great benefit to building a floodwall around this facility? Or how about residential structures that you think should be elevated? Here are some points which we hope will clarify the role of a local jurisdiction under these two circumstances.

If your municipality DOES NOT own the site/facility in need of mitigation....	If your municipality DOES own the site/facility in need of mitigation....
1. Meet with the facility owner to advise them of the problem.	1. Identify feasible alternatives to mitigate the problem (this may require a consultant/engineer to conduct a detailed evaluation of the site and specific construction details of the facility).
2. Support the facility owner to identify feasible alternatives to mitigate the problem (this may require a consultant/engineer to conduct a detailed evaluation of the site and specific construction details of the facility).	2. Fund the most cost-effective mitigation alternative (albeit through local operating budgets, or if needed through funding streams at the state or federal levels, such as FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), or Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)).
3. If requested by the facility owner, apply on the owner's behalf for federal mitigation project funding for the most cost-effective mitigation alternative (albeit through local operating budgets, or if needed through funding streams at the state or federal levels, such as FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), or Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)).	3. Initiate the project when funding is secured.