



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

Austin County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Kickoff Meeting 3/22/2023 NOTES

A G E N D A

12:45 PM **Registration & Sign-in**

1:00 PM **Welcome & Introductions**

1:10 PM **Overview of Hazard Mitigation Plans & Procedures**

H-GAC staff will provide an overview of hazard mitigation plans, benefits, meeting objectives, activities, H-GAC's planning process, roles & responsibilities, and project timelines.

Hazard Mitigation Committee Management

1:30 PM **Next Steps**

1:45 PM **Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment Exercise**

3:00 PM **Adjourn**



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ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Organization
Roy Mercer	Austin County OEM	EMC
Chip Reed	Austin County	County Commissioner
Shannon Hanath	Austin County	Precincts Administrative Assistant
Erin Livingston	H-GAC	Principle Planner
Amanda Ashcroft	H-GAC	Planner
Wendy Almanzan	H-GAC	Program Coordinator
Kimbra Hill	City of Sealy	City Manager
Josh Brothers	City of Sealy	Planner
Jason Smalley	City of Bellville	Police Chief / EMC
Clay Engelbrecht	City of Wallis	Fire Chief
Maya Mable Meyers	City of Industry	Mayor

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

Roy Mercer welcomed participants and explained the reasons behind hazard mitigation planning as well as some of the benefits of mitigation. The hazard mitigation planning committee members introduced their name, title, the organization they represented, and how a hazard has affected them.

Overview of Hazard Mitigation Plans & Procedures

Amanda Ashcroft reviewed the meeting agenda. Amanda went over meeting goals and objectives- to explain hazard mitigation, review the benefits of developing a hazard mitigation plan, provide an overview of the planning process, and to inform the committee about their role in the planning process. The plan is funded by a GLO grant through H-GAC. Amanda explained that despite there being no match requirement for this instance of funding, there will be various methods of documentation you see throughout the planning process that exist solely to calculate match for any future needs.

Amanda explained what hazard mitigation planning is, the benefits of mitigating for hazards, and the history behind the Stafford Act and Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. This act requires communities to have a mitigation plan to be eligible for mitigation grants, plans must be updated every 5-years. FEMA has a plan review guide that outlines the requirements for what must be in the plan or addressed by the plan, these were updated in 2022 and take full effect for all plans approved after April 2023. Updated policies and any changes to the plan template were summarized to the committee.

Roles and responsibilities of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee were outlined. A commitment letter of jurisdictional participation was discussed as a committee to be signed and returned by a point of contact for each participating jurisdiction. Roles and responsibilities agreed to in the letter of commitment included items outlined in the presentation, as well as grounds for dismissal due to non-participation. These included:



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- To attend meetings, including public hearings or meetings/workshops that occur during the plan update process
- To assist with coordination or participation in the public input process- this could mean collecting and relaying valuable local information, data, or soliciting input from citizens or professionals
- To make decisions on the planning process and content- this includes reviewing plan updates and providing timely feedback (this include submitting any worksheets or handouts we provide you)
- To review and adopt the plan for it to be approved by FEMA

Outreach methods were discussed for how the planning team and committee will get the word out to stakeholders for future meetings and public input.

Amanda reviewed the tentative project timeline and discussed HAZUS being run in-house, to be completed before the next meeting. The committee scheduled the next meeting for Wednesday, April 19th from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. The committee agreed keeping the same date/time and meeting hybrid (utilizing Microsoft Teams and in-person) would allow for greater attendance and input.

Next Steps

Amanda outlined next steps for the local planning team and members of the hazard mitigation planning committee. Committee members should provide any additional stakeholder contacts to H-GAC and Roy Mercer so they can be included in future updates regarding the plan. Committee members should also sign and return commitment letters as soon as possible. The next meeting was scheduled for April 19, 2023, from 1-3 PM at the Sealy Fire Department. H-GAC staff will begin running the HAZUS model for outputs to help inform the continuation of the risk assessment activity that the next meeting will continue and expand on.

Hazard identification and Risk Assessment

Amanda passed out a risk assessment handout and the committee reviewed hazards from the 2018 Austin County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation and Texas State Hazard Mitigation plans. She outlined updates the hazard mitigation planning committee may want to make to certain hazard titles or regroupings, new additions, and gave examples of what 2023 plans were doing similarly for the committee to consider.

Listed Hazards for the 2018 plans included: Flooding, Hurricanes & Tropical Storms, Wildfire, Drought, Lightning, Heat, Hail, Winter Weather, Tornado, Dam/Levee Failure, Coastal Erosion, and Expansive Soils.

The hazard mitigation committee began working on the hazard identification and risk assessment handout for the remainder of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.