



Houston-Galveston  
Area Council

# Walker County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Kickoff Meeting NOTES

April 17, 2023

## A G E N D A

9:30 AM

Sign-in

10:00 AM

Welcome

10:05 AM

**March Meeting Recap**

H-GAC staff will provide an overview of meeting notes and hazards ranked by risk, as determined by the committee at the previous meeting.

**Risk Categories**

H-GAC staff and attendees will be given a brief overview of risk categories for 2023 compared to those from the 2018 plan.

**Questions from last meeting**

**Where are we now?**

H-GAC staff will discuss project timeline and next steps

10:20 AM

**Capability Assessment**

10:45 AM

**Capability Assessment Exercise**

12:00 PM

**Adjourn**



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## ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Organization
Ashcroft, Amanda	H-GAC	Planner, Community & Environmental
Booker, Lonnie	Sam Houston State University	Associate Director of Emergency Mgmt
Bumpus, Dione	Walker County EMS	Administrative Assistant
Byal, Kevin	Huntsville Building Official	Building Official
Christian, Colt	Walker County Judge	County Judge
Connell, Joe	Walker County OEM	CERT Coordinator
Daniel, Dena	Huntsville Memorial Hospital	Emergency Management Coordinator
Daugette, Bill	Walker County Commissioner Pct. 3	Commissioner
Davis, Butch	Walker County OEM	Emergency Management Coordinator
Decker, Brandon	Walker County Commissioner Pct. 4	Commissioner
Fannin, Viviana	Chief Deputy	Tax Assessor/Collector Office
Hollingsworth, Lorne	Walker County SUD	Outside Operations
Humphrey, William	Walker County OEM	Planner
Jeng-Bulloch, Kathlie	Huntsville Engineer	City Engineer
Kembro, Kim	Huntsville Public Works	Public Works Assistant Director
Masiel, Sam	City of Huntsville	Deputy City Manager
Mathis, Greg	Huntsville Fire Dept	Fire Chief
McRae, Diana	Walker County Tax Assessor	Tax Assessor
Morrison, James	Walker County SUD	General Manager
Pegoda, Sherri	Walker County OEM	Deputy EMC
Plummer, Virginia	City of Riverside	Council Member
Roberts, Wade	City of Huntsville PD	Lieutenant Police Dept.
Sanders, Jason	Huntsville Risk Manager	Risk Manager
Slott, Joshua	New Waverly Fire Department	District Chief
Wilkinson, Deborah	Walker County Public Safety Comms	Director
Winningham, Adam	Huntsville OEM	Emergency Management Coordinator
Woolley, Leslie	Walker County District Clerk	District Clerk

## MEETING NOTES

### Welcome and Introductions

Butch Davis welcomed participants and thanked them for attending this second meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Committee for the Walker County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Amanda Ashcroft reviewed the meeting agenda

### March Meeting Recap

Amanda went over meeting topics and discussion items from the kickoff and risk identification/assessment meeting held in March. She reviewed results from the risk identification exercise and showed changes from the 2018 Walker County Hazard Mitigation Plan to how hazards were ranked for 2023. Overall, there were not many drastic changes. The Hazard Mitigation Committee identified 18 hazards of concern for the County. Amanda reviewed questions from last meeting and provided some clarity regarding including cyber security projects into the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Amanda presented a new project timeline. Since the risk assessment was completed at the kickoff meeting, and the capability assessment is being conducted today, we are ahead of schedule and the Hazard Mitigation Committee will not meet in May. This will allow for H-GAC staff to draft pieces of the plan and prepare materials for public outreach events occurring in June.

### Capability Assessment

Amanda reviewed what a capability assessment is in relation to hazard mitigation planning, the categories of capabilities that fall within the capability assessment, and why this process is important to hazard mitigation planning. Categories discussed were:

1. Prevention- Administrative or regulatory actions that influence the way land is developed and buildings are built. Examples include planning & zoning, building codes, open space preservation, and floodplain regulations.
2. Property Protection- Modification or removal of existing buildings to protect them from a hazard. Examples include purchase, relocation, raised elevation, and structural retrofits.
3. Natural Resource Protection- Preservation or restoration of the functions of natural systems while minimizing hazard losses. Examples include floodplain protection, forest management, and slope stabilization.
4. Structural Projects- Modification of the natural conditions for or progression of a hazard. Examples include dams, levees, seawalls, detention/retention basins, channel modification, retaining walls, and storm sewers.
5. Emergency Services- Protection of people and property during and immediately after a hazard event. Examples include warning systems, evacuation planning, emergency response training, and protection of emergency facilities.
6. Public Education and Awareness- Informing of citizens about hazards and the techniques they can use to protect themselves and their property. Examples include outreach, school education, library materials, and demonstration events.

### Public & Stakeholder Online Survey

Amanda discussed the development of an online survey component for the plan update. H-GAC staff are working on building and making the survey live for public input soon. When the survey is live a link will be sent out to the Hazard Mitigation Committee to share.



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## Next Steps

Amanda outlined next steps for the local planning team and members of the hazard mitigation planning committee. Committee members should provide their completed capability assessment forms to the local planning team- Walker County OEM Butch Davis, Sherri Pegoda, and H-GAC staff.

There will be no meeting in May 2023. There will be a public outreach event in June to garner public input on the plan and its components.

After the presentation, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee formed breakout groups for completing the Capability Assessment.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.**