

Washington County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2006

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tom Phelan at 9:05 a.m. in Training Room 1 at the Washington County Municipal Building B, Fort Edward, New York.

Attendance (12):

Kyle Vandewater	Washington County DPW, Mitigation
Willy Grimmke	Washington County DPW
Dr. Tom Phelan	Strategic Teaching Associates, Inc., President
Chris Rieben	Town of White Creek, Highway Supt.
Sean Carney	Town of Jackson, Highway Supt.
Joseph Childs	Village of Salem, Trustee
Bob Humiston	Argyle Highway
Gordon Aubrey	Town of Argyle
John Boyce	Fort Edward Nursing Center
Robert A. Bacari	NYSEMO
William H. Cook	Washington County Public Safety
Brian Brockway	Town of Fort Edward

Introductions:

Each attendee introduced himself and stated his jurisdiction or position.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the May 8, 2006, meeting were distributed and unanimously approved. .

Treasurer's Report:

Dr. Phelan stated that this space on each agenda would be used to distribute and discuss the Quarterly Report to SEMO as required under the terms of the grant. The next report is due June 30, 2006.

Committee Reports:

Two new sub-committee chairs volunteered to begin work. Chris Rieben and Willy Grimmke will form a committee to research highway and infrastructure damage and to conduct outreach with municipal highway superintendents.

Brian Brockway and Floyd Pratt will conduct outreach to fire chiefs throughout the county.

In addition, Dr. Phelan will contact the following list of media outlets for the County will prepare a press release to be approved by the County Attorney:

The Eagle
Main Street
Granville Sentinel
Post Star (Glens Falls)
Greenwich Journal
Whitehall Times

Old Business:

Joe Childs has a report (in progress) regarding flooding in the Village of Salem. He agreed to meet with Dr. Phelan following this meeting to review the entire document. A copy of the completed sections will be mailed to Dr. Phelan later in the week.

Recommendations for Community Involvement: The Task Force members present discussed use of the County's website for posting information about the Mitigation Plan and the Task Force. Kyle Vandewater reported that discussion with the webmaster had begun and procedures for uploading Mitigation Planning information would be forthcoming soon.

Chris Rieben distributed information about the Mitigation Planning Task Force and the grant at the June meeting of the Highway Superintendents. There was no immediate response at the meeting.

New Business:

Considerable discussion was held on the specifics required in reporting prior damage caused by natural disasters. Joe Childs presented an overview of the flooding in the Village of Salem, particularly the history dating back to 1810 with data and photos from 1913, 1927 and 2000. He also had done research on the watershed using topographical and political maps. Real property maps were overlaid showing the number and locations of properties affected by flooding. There was also discussion of upstream problems on White Creek that may be contributing factors. A healthy discussion followed regarding County attempts to mitigate flooding in Salem. The importance of public input surfaced as an issue in any form of mitigation program.

The public water system in Salem was constructed between 2000 and 2003, prompted by an e-coli event.

A description of the bridge work completed by the County was offered by Willy Grimmke. The Archibald Street Bridge was replaced and raised. Culverts and channels were added along Route 153. There was discussion of the situation regarding the Route 22 bridge replacement.

There was discussion about specific locations of highway and infrastructure damage. In Argyle, village flooding may have been a result of inadequate storm drains. There was flooding in apartments and homes on Main Street (Route 40) and East Street where it is believed that sewage and septic run into storm drains. Concern relates to the Indian River Valley and the Mettowee River.

In the Indian River Valley, concern was raised about County Route 26 near State Route 149 in Granville and on County Route 12 in Whitehall.

Other discussion of historical natural disaster damage indicated concern about snowslides containing debris in Fort Edward and in Jackson on Colfax Mountain causing approximately \$500,000 in damage. In 2000, flood damage did NOT result in FEMA assistance for the County Route 47 wash out (nearly 200 feet). In May 2004, in White Creek, River Road washed out including the culvert.

It was agreed by all that records must be reviewed of all of these incidents to complete the history required by the mitigation planning process. The committee suggested sources of damage assessment data (files) and all agreed to drill down for the level of detail required on Worksheets 2, 3, and 4.

This was a productive discussion with everyone recognizing the degree of detail we are going to need to complete the plan.

Program/Discussion:

There was no program, but information was distributed on preparing your community for floods.

All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force Formation:

Dr. Phelan offered Monday July 10, 2006, as the date for the next meeting and suggested the Task Force meet in multiple locations to get closer to communities. Those present recommended meeting in Ft. Edward, Hudson Falls and Argyle. The Salem Village Board meets in August, and that might be a good meeting to attend.

All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force Members

Robert W. Humiston	Town of Argyle
Hugh Dewey	Town of Greenwich
Floyd Pratt	Town of Hebron
Ken Talkington	Hebron
Doug Brownell	Easton Volunteer Fire Company
William H. Cook	Washington County Public Safety
Chris Rieben	Town of White Creek
Sean Carney	Town of Jackson
Ray Rathbun	Telescope Casual Furniture
Joseph Childs	Village of Salem
Maureen Van Buren	Ft. Ann Central School
John Boyce	Fort Hudson Nursing Center
Willy Grimmke	Washington County DPW
Kyle Vandewater	Washington County DPW
Dr. Thomas D. Phelan	Strategic Teaching Associates, Inc.

Next Meeting:

Monday July 10, 2006, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Washington County Municipal Center and in other locations as time and arrangements permit.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas D. Phelan, Ed.D.

<http://www.co.washington.ny.us>