

**Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation
Plan Task Force
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2008**

TASK FORCE MEMBERS	Oct.	Nov.	Jan.	Feb.	
SSCRPC – Mike Galco, Chair	X	X	X	X	
Auburn – Mike White	X	X	X	X	
Auburn – Chris Bridges			X		
Buffalo – Charles Thaxton	X	X	X	X	
Cantrall – Brian Oliver	X				
Cantrall – Jerry Olson				X	
Chatham – Patrick McCarthy			X	X	
Curran – Chris McDaniel	X	X	X	X	
Curran – Brian Markley				X	
Dawson – Jamie Sponsler	X	X	X		
Dawson – Nancy Prytherch	X	X	X		
Divernon – John Caudle		X		X	
Grandview – Colleen Dallaus	X				
Illioopolis – Rayeana Stacey	X				
Illioopolis – Josh Hilbert			X	X	
Jerome – Greg Hashman	X	X	X	X	
New Berlin – Terry Nydegger	X	X	X	X	
Pawnee – Cecil Mathews			X		
Pawnee – Kenton Manning				X	
Pawnee – Greg DeBrun				X	
Pleasant Plains – Kevin Kesselring	X	X		X	
Pleasant Plains – Robert Meringer					
Riverton – Rich Pottier	X	X	X	X	
Riverton – Linda Viola			X		
Rochester – Derrick Pehlman	X	X	X	X	
Sherman – Jay Timm		X	X		
Sherman – Mike Moos			X	X	
Southern View – Hilda Mangiaracina	X	X		X	
Southern View – Louise Seaver			X	X	
Southern View – Nora Petrosky					
Springfield – Al Pinter	X	X	X	X	
Thayer – Brian Wood			X	X	
Williamsville – Paul Osman	X	X	X		
Sangamon County – Linda Fulgenzi	X		X		
Sangamon County – Charlie Stratton					
Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport – Tim Franke		X		X	
Ameren – Craig Gilson		X			
American Red Cross – Amy Eden	X				
American Red Cross – Colleen Stone		X	X		
CMS – Diane Hoots	X	X	X	X	
CWLP Water Division – Ted Meckes			X		
IL Emergency Mgmt. Agency – Ron Davis	X		X	X	
Mid IL Medical District Commission – Michael Boer		X			
Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative – Louis DeLaby		X	X	X	
Sang. Co. Dept. of Agriculture – Steve Chard	X			X	
Sang. Co. Dept. of Public Health – James Henricks	X		X	X	

Sang. Co. Dept. of Zoning and Bldg. Safety – Mike Ashenfelter	X	X		X	
Sang. Co. Farm Bureau – Craig Hall	X				
Sang. Co. GIS Dept. – Tracy Garrison		X	X		
Sang. Co. Highway Dept. – Brian Davis	X	X	X		
Sang. Co. Office of Emergency Mgmt. – David Butt		X	X	X	
Secretary of State – Michael Grimm			X		
SMTD – Linda Tisdale			X		
Spfld. Building & Zoning Dept. – Suzann Weissberg	X	X	X	X	
Spfld. Homebuilders Association – Steve Sturm	X	X	X	X	
Springfield Park District – Chuck Smith	X		X	X	
Spfld. School Dist. #186 – Dave Smith	X				
Spfld. Metro Sanitary District – Bob Leinweber	X		X	X	
UIS – Don Mitchell	X	X	X		
Jeff Ehrlich – Citizen Member	X		X	X	
Greg Michaud – Citizen Member	X	X	X	X	
Carolyn Patterson – Citizen Member	X				
STAFF:					
Linda Wheeland	X	X	X	X	
Abby Johnson	X	X	X	X	
Susan Poludniak			X	X	
Norm Sims			X		
Dale Schultz			X	X	
Joe Zeibert			X	X	
OTHERS:					
Steve Gudgel – Village of Pawnee			X		
Jerald Jacobs				X	
David Leggans – Village of New Berlin				X	
Frank Maras – Village of Rochester			X		
Jared Owen – IEMA			X	X	
Val Ross – Small Business Administration			X		
Joel Sander – Village of New Berlin			X		
Tom Shafer				X	
Steve Sullivan		X	X	X	
Sheila Sullivan		X	X	X	
Rose Burger	X				
Rey Evry					

Call to order:

Chairman Mike Galco called the fourth meeting of the Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Task Force to order.

Approval of minutes:

Galco entertained a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. David Butt made a motion to approve the January minutes. Steve Sturm seconded this motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Goals and objectives consensus:

Galco reminded everyone that they should have received a copy of the goals and objectives that were generated from the January meeting in the mail. Those people who did not have a copy were given one. Galco asked for any comments on the draft goals and objectives. David Butt asked Linda Wheeland if she could explain what the procedure was when drafting these goals and objectives. Wheeland explained that the goals were taken from the exercise at the last meeting. Many of the goals from each group had a common theme, so these common goals that the different groups came up with should be reflected in the handout. Under each goal are the different objectives that were

generated by the ideas task force members wrote down by answering the question “During a natural hazard a prepared community is a place where (fill in the blank)”. Galco noted that at some point tonight, groups would form to focus on a certain goal in order to generate action plans. There were no further comments so Galco entertained a motion to accept the goals and objectives. There was a motion made by Jeff Ehrlich to approve the goals and objectives. Suzie Weissberg seconded this motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs – Ron Davis, State Hazard Mitigation Officer:

Galco introduced Ron Davis to speak about the various Mitigation Grant Programs. Davis passed out a handout regarding eligible projects for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the different categories these mitigation actions could be grouped into. Davis gave a background on mitigation and how it evolved, specifically beginning with the 1993 flood. This is when the program moved forward. Davis explained that there will always be flooding, storms, tornadoes, etc. however, it is what can be done to prevent them from becoming disasters that is the most important concept. How the hazard mitigation grant program works is when a disaster is declared, 15% of total funds spent on repair and recovery by the Federal Government is made available for mitigation grants in the state. One thing, Davis noted, to remember when incorporating action items into this plan is to steer away from trying to get the most money out of the Federal Government as possible. Asking what can be done to improve communities, schools and businesses is what needs to be taken into consideration.

Davis expressed that action items include long -term permanent solutions and not structural solutions (i.e. levies). Elevation of structures in the floodplain, wet/dry flood proofing, prevention of basement flooding, signs at local ballparks about lightning, and safe rooms in buildings are all activities that have been funded in the past. Code plus construction, which enforces stronger building codes, is an activity that makes buildings stronger to sustain high winds. Davis gave another example of shatter -proof windows at the transit center in Peoria, IL. Retrofits are another example of what can be funded through the grant program. Educating people on public access television is another great example of a mitigation activity. Not allowing critical facilities in the floodplain could also be a mitigation activity. Living snow fences, storm shelters in mobile home parks, educational programs through Red Cross are more mitigation activity ideas. These activities are aimed to minimize the impact natural disasters have on people and their communities. Davis welcomed any questions and if anyone would like to speak with him further his phone number is (217) 524-1003. There were no questions. Galco and Wheeland thanked Davis for sharing his information.

Wheeland explained that tonight the task force would generate ideas, like those Davis mentioned, for mitigation projects. Another possibility of a mitigation activity that Wheeland pointed out was working together as communities. Some of the smaller communities might not have the personnel to enforce, for example, building codes. Inter-governmental agreements between smaller communities and Sangamon County was noted as another great mitigation activity. One thing that stood out in the survey is a vast majority of people were willing to volunteer. It is important to think about ways to use volunteers in your community. For example, Sangamon County is developing a volunteer network to keep an eye on culverts to prevent clogging. Also, if someone had an action idea but is not entirely sure if it would work or not, that activity could still be in the plan as “Explore the idea of (fill in the blank)”.

Mitigation projects:

Wheeland noted that next on the agenda was for the task force to take 10 minutes to write down mitigation activities on sticky notes and decide which goal and objective each fit under. Activities could be general, such as “provide safe rooms in new village facilities” or specific such as “provide a safe room in a new school”. After the ideas were placed on the wall under the appropriate goal and objective, the task force would break out into groups to address each goal and to decide if the mitigation activities were in the appropriate spot. Wheeland welcomed any questions and there were

none. The task force then began the 10- minute brainstorm session and then broke into four groups to discuss the activities related to each goal for approximately 30 minutes.

The task force joined back together as a group. Wheeland thanked everyone for the work put into this group project. There was one group that explained what was done with the objective that had no activities assigned to it and why this specific objective was important to keep. Butt explained that group one/goal one specifically discussed item 1.d. “Coordinate response plans with all levels of government, appropriate private agencies, and volunteers”. Butt explained that this was already being done and was a work in progress. The group decided that actions specific to this objective were (1) response plans to ensure all small communities are involved and (2) maintain current working groups.

Wheeland explained that staff would type out all the ideas generated tonight and would mail the list to the task force immediately. Next, community representatives would be responsible to go to their village boards/city councils and get a list of mitigation projects that the community wanted to include in the plan. This list needs to be back to Wheeland as soon as possible, but definitely before the April meeting. In front of each task force member, there was an information sheet that should be filled out regarding these projects. The format wouldn’t have to be followed directly from this sheet, but the information that is requested must be included. This information sheet is also available on the Hazard Mitigation Plan website in Word format. Also, if anyone would like staff to come and speak with community leaders to explain more, let Wheeland know.

A task force member asked if the plan required just one project per community. Wheeland explained that FEMA requires each participating community to have at least one project in the plan, however, it is encouraged that more than one project be listed. Ron Davis pointed out that total commitment to these projects is not necessary. There would be no consequence for not carrying out a project that is listed in the plan, however, grant money would not be available to those projects not listed.

Wheeland expressed that if any other taxing body (i.e. Springfield Park District, Springfield School District #186, Sanitary District, Airport, etc) wanted to include projects in the plan that would be eligible for grant money, their board would also have to adopt the plan.

Wheeland welcomed any questions. Butt asked if generalizing these actions would be a good idea rather than getting very specific. Wheeland noted that in some cases this is true. For example, the Springfield Park District has one specific and immediate project in mind and that is to install a safe room in Southwind Park. However, specifying Southwind Park closes off the possibility of installing safe rooms in other parks at a later date. The action item should be more generalized to include all Springfield Park District parks.

Project prioritization method:

Wheeland explained that a project prioritization method is required by FEMA. A method has to be set up to prioritize the projects. The Task Force has to decide how to go about setting up this method. Wheeland expressed that this is a big project to do as a task force and might be more manageable as a small committee. Ron Davis volunteered to take part in the smaller committee to help with the prioritization method. David Butt, Steve Sturm, Al Pinter, Patrick McCarthy and Jared Owen also volunteered to assist. Wheeland thanked the task force members who volunteered and asked this group to meet immediately following this meeting to discuss a meeting date and time that worked for everyone.

Next Steps:

The next meeting is April 9, 2008 and will be the last meeting before the draft plan is prepared. At that meeting all loose ends will be finalized and the group would also need to decide on a maintenance plan. The plan would need maintained and is not a plan that will be adopted by the

communities and forgotten. Wheeland explained that this plan is an ongoing process and would require a review every year and an update every five years. Wheeland also noted that the April meeting will be held at the Jerome Municipal Center, the same place the February meeting was held. Community representatives should have received a community profile, which was included in the packets. If any changes were necessary please let staff know. Over the next few months, it is possible that staff would be contacting community representatives to gather some information in preparation for finalizing the plan.

Public comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

Galco entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Greg Hashman and seconded by Brian Markley. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abby Johnson