

Wasco County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee Plan Maintenance Meeting Minutes	25 July 2017, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Celilo Conference Room B04, Wasco Co Courthouse 511 Washington St. The Dalles, OR 97058
Type of Meeting: Steering Committee	

Steering Committee Member Roll Call

- Attendees:** Will Smith, Cindy Miller, Juston Huffman, Kelly Howsley-Glover, Dave Anderson, Frank Cochran, Tycho Granville, Tricia Sears (DLCD), Dustin Nilsen, Ryan Bessette, Arthur Smith
- Absent:** Kathy White, Kristin Dodd, Steve Kramer, Angie Brewer, Tyler Stone, Robert Palmer

ITEMS

1. Introductions

2. Updates

a. June FEMA Disaster Mitigation Training(Will/Tricia)

Will, Tricia, and Juston discussed the G-318 FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Workshop that they attended (and at which Tricia presented) in The Dalles in June. Will shared some of this lessons learned, including how important it is to ensure that The Dalles has full participation from the beginning and that their addendum is updated and accepted by their City Council. Steve Harris, Planning Director, withdrew from the Steering Committee and Dave Anderson, Public Works Director, replaced him and will be getting up to speed on this year’s earlier SC meetings. Tricia and Juston both found the training useful as well and it was recommended to anyone else from the SC if they wanted to attend in the future. With a price tag of Free, it’s a great training to better understand the process and FEMA’s requirements.

b. Community Profile (Kelly)

Kelly discussed her progress on the Community Profile. She has had an assistant planner, Riley Marcus, helping her gather data and expects it to be finalized in a few weeks. Since the last update was in 2012 and no full census has been performed since, the updated data is from a wide variety of years as each source agency does it’s interim updates on different schedules. Frank Cochran will be updating the natural resource side of the Community Profile and also expects to be able to have a draft complete in a few weeks. (ACTION ITEM: Frank and Kelly will have the updated Community Profile complete two weeks prior to the next steering committee meeting.)

c. Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM 16) grant (Tricia)

Tricia updated us on the progress with the PDM grant. This is a grant that comes from FEMA, and has to be approved at the state level. DLCD had applied last year and had expected to hear earlier but there

had been delays at the Federal level. They received their letter of obligation on July 18 and are waiting for one more step before the SC can begin doing official “Post Award” activities. This grant includes several counties besides Wasco. Hood River is the only county of those that has a plan that expires earlier, in December 2017. Since Wasco’s due date of January 2018 is so close, DLCD will be working closely with Hood River and Wasco first to get each plan finalized successfully. Hood River’s IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) is being finalized and then Wasco County will receive theirs to review. The grant is for \$294,000 for 4 counties, and each county has a cost share requirement of 25%. No money is disbursed – the grant is awarded in the form of labor from DLCD. Once the post award period begins the SC members will need to submit cost share forms each quarter to demonstrate their contributions, whether it is in time or materials. (ACTION ITEM: Distribute cost share forms to SC members when ready)

3. Hazard Analysis activity – OEM methodology (Tricia)

Tricia led this activity which assessed Wasco County’s hazards based on historical occurrences, vulnerability, maximum threat, and probability.

a. Review Significant Historic Hazard Events Tables

Will had prepared charts of major occurrences of the eight hazards found in the 2012 Wasco County NHMP using information from that plan, as well as Oregon state’s 2015 NHMP and a few other sources. This activity began by reviewing these lists and discussing if there were any other items he had missed or that SC members felt should be added from their own personal experiences. It was agreed to change the name Severe Local Storms to Severe Local Weather.

Dave and Arthur, the two public works directors, gave their impressions of how the 2016-2017 winter storms went with regards to plowing and maintenance issues. A FEMA disaster declaration had been applied for but Wasco County could not qualify because it could not be shown that there was enough significant specific damage done that was excessively out of the ordinary. Dave and Arthur commented that it just felt like an extended winter doing more of their typical work than usual rather than any particularly nasty single incident or incidents. The Dalles had over 70 days with snow on the ground; the previous record was 38 days. The storms never had a warm rain event to make them severe, like what happened in 1996, but Wasco County public works did wipe out 110% of their annual overtime budget in one month. The Dalles faced the problem that there was nowhere to put the snow since there never seemed to be a melting reprieve as there typically is. Dustin commented that it sounds like long drawn out events increase general vulnerability to various populations that would have been helpfully served by receiving FEMA disaster recovery funds. The fact that the County did not qualify, but still struggled, should be included in the 2017 update for Severe Winter Weather. Cindy mentioned that the schools were shut down for 19 days and this affected people financially through lost wages. Some buildings collapsed, though luckily without people inside. All of this demonstrates different ways hard winters affect vulnerable populations.

The discussion moved from weather to earthquakes. None of the earthquakes listed actually happened in Wasco County, but all may have had an effect on it. The question was whether to include incidents outside of the County, such as the predicted Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) event. With the CSZ, Wasco County is not expected to be heavily damaged by the actual earthquake, but it will be seriously affected in the aftermath as supply lines to Portland may be severed, and internally displaced people

may make their way out east. The SC decided to still consider earthquakes that are not actually in the County, and to prepare to mitigate the effects that they would have here.

Tricia suggested adding a feature to each chapter to discuss vulnerabilities. She recommended we model it after the recent Medford NHMP which had the following subsections: Introduction and Hazard Overview; Types of Hazard; Location and Extent; History; Probability; and Vulnerability. For example, the vulnerability of using a school as a shelter in an earthquake, that may collapse or not be a suitable shelter at all times of the year. This could lead to future mitigation items. Cindy mentioned that the Red Cross once tried to use a school as a shelter but school was in session and it wasn't appropriate timing. Justin would like to see funds for a dedicated shelter building in the County.

b. Complete Hazard Analysis Worksheet

After discussing the history of natural hazards in Wasco County the SC began analyzing each one based on OEM methodology that Tricia led them through. It focuses on four tenets – history, vulnerability, maximum threat, and probability, with each tenet having different weights assigned to it. The Committee went through each hazard one by one. (Note: Scores noted here are raw scores, without weight factors calculated in yet. They represent History-Vulnerability-Max Threat-Probability).

Drought – Wasco County just emerged from a several year long drought after this winter's constant snow storms. Kelly mentioned that this hazard is of particular concern to Wasco County residents as so much of the County land is involved in farming or forestry and that water issues, even in good years, are often of concern. Some places, like Seven Mile Hill, have low water tables that make even residential uses risky as more people move in to the area. The scores were 6-10-10-7 showing that even though they don't happen very often, when they do happen they are a major problem.

Earthquake – As mentioned earlier, large earthquakes do not occur in Wasco County. However, this discussion revealed that a few members of the SC have witnessed or heard of minor earthquakes happening. Dave spoke of needing to go check the dams after any report of one occurring. Cindy and Arthur talked about experiencing minor ones that knocked a rock off a stone wall. The discussion was whether these semi-common events with negligible effects should even be considered. In the end, since the aftermath of a CSZ event would have such a massive impact to this County that those are the ones that should be mitigated for. The scores were 3-5-10-1.

Flood – The major hazard in Wasco County that people still talk about most often is the 1996 flood. Dave mentioned that in some places this was a 500-1000 year event along Mill Creek. Even so, the backup water systems that the city has in place survived and functioned. The Dalles in general did not see a loss of clean water access from this event and city residents were much less affected than their rural counterparts. In the County, 4 bridges were lost. There was also looting at some affected homes so that the National Guard had to come in and check IDs to allow residents access to their homes. Arthur mentioned that 25% of the roads were impacted. Cindy said there places along Cherry Heights that had no access due to landslides. The scores were 2-5-8-5.

Fire – Fires were a hard hazard to define. Fires occur every year all over Wasco County. However, there have only been a few conflagrations in the past decade, all of which resulted in evacuations. With ODF, the USFS, local fire departments, and farm/ranch fire response fires in

the County are typically dealt with quickly. Most of them occur in the forest which may impact a lot of land but few people. One exception would be a large fire in The Dalles Mill Creek watershed which may affect the city's water supply. The scores for this category were 10-5-4-10 since they occur frequently but don't often affect a lot of people, and won't affect a large portion of the whole county at once.

Landslide – Highway 30 had a landslide this year, likely caused by weakening rocks from freezing and thawing over the long winter, but there has not been a significant land slide in Wasco County for many years. The County ordinance deals with geohazard zones and requires a professional engineer to conduct a site suitability analysis when building in these zones so this risk is already well mitigated. Dave mentioned the Kelly Avenue slide area in The Dalles which is a high risk area. This was identified decades ago and has active pumping operations to ensure it remains in place. If these measures were to fail this could lead to a major event and was the model for a Max Threat. As landslides are generally rare in Wasco County this received low scores of 3-5-4-1.

Severe Local Weather – This hazard has the most occurrences by far. The SC discussed windstorms, the effect of heat on the elderly, and how the whole county is affected by a blizzard. The scores for this were correspondingly high at 9-9-10-10.

Tornado – The SC decided that since the previous plan had no identified tornadoes in Wasco County, and the 2015 Oregon state plan only noted one in 1970 that was observed but resulted in no damage to remove Tornado as a stand-alone hazard section and include it with Severe Local Weather.

Volcano – Several members of the SC remember the 1980 Mt St. Helens eruption. Even an eruption so far away still left ash in Wasco County. Dave mentioned that Mill Creek Buttes is technically still an "active volcano". The major concern is Mt Hood which could send lahars and pyroclastic flow down the White River having a severe impact on Tygh Valley and those lands along the river. It would also likely start wildfires which would increase the overall impact. The scores here were 1-10-10-1 because the one major threat, Hood, is also the max threat and with the potential for downwind ashfall at the same levels as communities around Mt St Helens felt the effects would be felt county wide, though much more severely in the White River valley.

c. Outcome: Risk levels designated, Hazards ranked

After working through each hazard, this is the SC's initial hazard analysis summary:

Hazard	History	WF	Score	Vuln.	WF	Score	Max Threat	WF	Score	Prob.	WF	Score	Total Score	Rank
Drought	6	2	12	10	5	50	10	10	100	7	7	49	211	2
Earthquake	3	2	6	5	5	25	10	10	100	1	7	7	138	6
Flood	2	2	4	5	5	25	8	10	80	5	7	35	144	5
Wildland Fire	10	2	20	5	5	25	4	10	40	10	7	70	155	4
Landslide	3	2	6	1	5	5	4	10	40	1	7	7	58	7
Severe Local Wx	9	2	18	9	5	45	10	10	100	10	7	70	233	1
Volcano	1	2	2	10	5	50	10	10	100	2	7	14	166	3

The SC felt that this resulted in Volcano being far too high in the ranking and asked about editing some of the scores. Tricia suggested they leave it as is to show the raw data that came out of the exercise. The final rankings and scores can be tweaked at the next meeting after time to digest the process, discussion, and outcomes.

4. Next Steps

a. Timelines

Will discussed the timeline and passed out a rough schedule of the next several months.

b. Action Item suggestions table

The next meeting will involve a discussion of vulnerabilities and Will asked the SC to begin thinking of new AI for the updated plan. After a recent presentation at the Wasco County Management team meeting, Will received some suggestions from WC employees for mitigation Action Items. He created a list and requested that if the SC has any suggestions to let him know and he can add to it, or make it available on Google Drive with the other documents.

c. Public outreach

One public meeting specific to Mitigation is required for the plan. This will be in the Fall and planning will begin next month. However the outreach process will also involve presenting the plan update and looking for feedback from various citizen and government groups over the coming months. Will asked for suggestions and the SC discussed the website. Tricia suggested taking screenshots of the webpage, and any webpages that link to it. (ACTION ITEM: Take screenshots of various webpages regularly as they are updated to reflect the online presence of this NHMP update).

Will adjourned the meeting at 3:09 PM.

ACTION ITEMS (TO COMPLETE BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING)

Will/Tricia: Distribute Cost Share Forms to the SC when they are ready.

Frank/Kelly: Complete the updated Community Profile two weeks prior to the next steering committee meeting. Due Date: August 17, 2017

Will: Take screenshots of the webpage, and any other webpages that link to it.

Juston/Kelly: Link the NHMP page on the EM page