

Planning Process

Region 2000 applied for and was successful in obtaining FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) planning funds that were made available from FEMA’s Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program of 2010 for the Hazard Mitigation Update Process. The preparation of this plan update at the regional level was decided as the most cost and time effective solution for consistent and full coverage of the localities in Region 2000. The Appendix for this section includes the memorandums and letters from VDEM regarding funding and guidance for the region.

In 2010, Region 2000 began coordination with the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, cities of Bedford and Lynchburg and the towns of Altavista, Brookneal, Amherst and Pamplin City to develop and implement the hazard mitigation update planning process. The appendix -2 contains the Letters of Intent that were signed by the participating localities.

Summary of Changes

The project management team reviewed this section of the plan as a part of the plan update and agreed upon the following changes. The public input methods were beefed up a bit in order to garner input from larger institutions within the region as well as neighboring planning districts. The methods in which the plan was incorporated into other major plans such as the comprehensive plan and the land use plan remained the same. The majority of changes in this section were geared toward raising public and institutional awareness for the plan.

Project Management Team

This planning process began by developing the Hazard Mitigation Plan “project management team” which was composed of representatives from the 11 jurisdictions (Table 4.1). Deputy Director for Region 2000 Core and Planning Services, Robert White, presided over of the planning efforts for the region. An important component to the beginning stages of this plan was to determine support from external sources, engaging public support and involvement, and evaluating the resources needed to develop and carry out the plan. Participating affiliates for this process included Region 2000 partnerships, local government officials, public representatives, businesses, citizens, and organizations.

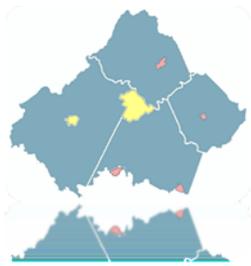
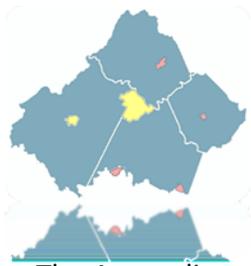


Table 4.1 Project Management Team Members

Name	Jurisdiction
Gary Roakes	Amherst County
Kelvin Brown	Amherst, Town of
Freddie Godsey	Appomattox County
Johnnie Roark	Appomattox County
Roxanne Paulette	Appomattox, Town of
Bob Mitchell	Pamplin City, Town of
Bart Warner	Bedford City
Seth Mowles	Bedford County
Marci Stone	Bedford County
Jack Jones	Bedford County
Tracy Fairchild	Campbell County
Randall Johnson	Campbell County
Dan Witt	Altavista, Town of
Mike Crews	Brookneal, Town of
Bill Aldridge	Lynchburg City
Todd Styles	Volunteer Firefighter
Philipp Gabathuler	Region 2000
Bob White	Region 2000

Timetable of meetings

Three formal meetings were held throughout the planning process and about 25 meetings were held with individual localities in the update process. The formal meetings were held at the Region 2000 offices located in Lynchburg, the central location of Region 2000. The individual meetings were usually held by teleconference. All of the formal meetings were open to the public and advertised through the Region 2000 agency website as well as through the newspaper. Newspaper ads can be viewed in the appendix.



The Appendices for this section provide the agendas, dates and jurisdictions represented at the various project management team meetings. Every locality involved provided feedback and helped to mold the plan update into what they needed.

Project management team meetings

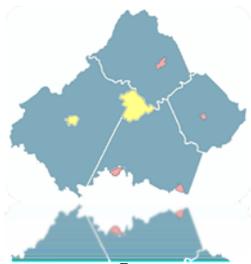
The three formal project management team meetings provided a forum for exchanging ideas and receiving feedback from the different localities. The first meeting held in May 2010 was held to re-educate the project management team on the goals and objectives of the original hazard mitigation plan and to scope the process out. The second meeting was held to discuss the HIRA portion of the update, with project management team member providing feedback on what information was still viable and what information needed to be updated. The third project management team meeting was held in order to update the Mitigation Goals and Strategies section.

Public Input

Public input was received in a variety of methods. The public was encouraged to attend the formal project management team meetings through the Region 2000 agency website and newspaper advertisements. The newspaper advertisement for public comment was placed in the News and Advance—a newspaper with expansive reach that goes beyond the boundary of Region 2000. The newspaper reaches businesses, academia, nonprofits, and other important community voices in the region. According to News and Advance Staff, the newspaper is circulated to all the jurisdictions in Region 2000 and beyond upon request. Region 2000 jurisdictions include the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell as well as the Cities of Lynchburg and Bedford and the towns of Appomattox, Amherst, Pamplin City, and Brookneal. The newspaper is circulated heavily to the area universities—including Liberty University, Sweet Briar College, Randolph College, and Lynchburg College. The newspaper is also available worldwide via their website: www2.newsadvance.com.

There was also a section on the website where comments on the update process could be posted and answered. Sections of the plan were made available online to the public as they were being updated.

Letters were also sent out to neighboring PDCs to inform them of our planning process as well as to gather input. The letter—included in the appendix for this section—was sent to the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission, the Central Virginia Shenandoah Planning District Commission, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, the Commonwealth Regional Council, and the Southside Planning District Commission.



Development of the Plan

The next section required performing assessments of natural and manmade hazard vulnerabilities within the Region 2000 boundaries. Data for critical hazards within the region was collected and analyzed to identify the relative ranking of each hazard and delineate areas of highest concern.

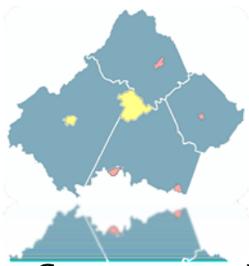
Evaluation of each hazard involved assessing the risks and vulnerabilities of public and private buildings, facilities, utilities, communications, transportation systems, and other critical infrastructure, and determining estimated losses that would occur if the given hazard were to impact the region.

The comprehensive plans, budgets, and emergency operations plans were researched in the development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Information from these existing plans that were reviewed as part of the update process were included where appropriate.

Upon completion of hazard assessments, hazard mitigation plans and strategies were developed for the region with an emphasis on developing disaster prevention and preparedness programs and actions to reduce the impact of natural and manmade disasters. This involved determining hazard mitigation priorities and developing mitigation strategies to avoid or minimize substantial human and economic costs of each disaster. In the development of the mitigation plan many resources were used to develop the actions for the various regions. The project management team members were able to provide Region 2000 staff with information obtained from Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs), Zoning, Jurisdictional manuals and capital improvement plans. The information provided by the communities was used in the development of the HIRA and mitigation actions.

Comprehensive Plans

A community's comprehensive plan provides the future vision for the community regarding growth and development. Hazard mitigation planning is not specifically addressed as a goal or objective in any of the comprehensive plans in the study area. Only one comprehensive plan includes a hazard mitigation strategy. However, many of the plans include land use or environmental protection goals that could support future mitigation efforts. These goals generally address flood-prone areas. There also may be opportunities to include hazard mitigation in revisions to the comprehensive plans and to link to existing goals. For example, limiting development in the floodplain (which can be considered mitigation) also may help meet open space goals laid out in a plan.



Stormwater Management Plans

Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency is requiring localities to update their stormwater regulations to meet new and heightened standards. This process will require significant funding to clean up existing and future sources of water runoff. The plan will be updated with new regulations when they become available.

Emergency Operations Plans

A comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) typically predetermines actions to be taken by government agencies and private organizations in response to an emergency or disaster event. The plan describes the jurisdiction's capabilities to respond to emergencies and establishes the responsibilities and procedures for responding effectively to the actual occurrence of a disaster. Hazard mitigation is incorporated into the various operational phases of these plans.

Hazard mitigation is included as a functional annex to the Emergency Operations Plans developed by many jurisdictions. Generally, the annex describes the responsibilities of various departments and agencies, private businesses, and the public. The annex outlines a concept of operations that explains what activities will be undertaken before and after a disaster. Specific tasks are assigned to the Board of Supervisors/City Council (or other local governing body), Department of Emergency Services, Department of Health, Building Officials/County Engineer/Planning and Zoning, Law Enforcement, Fire Department and Emergency Crew, Superintendent of Schools, and Public Information Officer.

Multi-Jurisdictional Plan Adoption

In order to receive plan approval, each jurisdiction must formally adopt the hazard mitigation plan. Plan adoption is in the form of a resolution and has been adopted at each community's board meetings (local governing body).

Plan Linkage

The *Planning Process* should not be seen as an independent step in the development of the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, but as a continual process that is integral in the entire plan.

The planning process documents the steps taken in establishing the FEMA grant and project management team through to the adoption.

The following section on the *Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)* uses the information gathered at the project management team meetings, jurisdictional meetings and public input. The information and data that was provided was then supplemented to create the HIRA for Region 2000. The updated HIRA outlines the hazards and vulnerabilities that impact the region.