



**Linn County
Multi-Jurisdictional
Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
Project Initiation Meeting
NOTES**



February 7, 2024

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**In person at the OSU Extension Office
33630 McFarland Rd, Tangent
and online**

Attendees:

- Kate Bentz, Associate Planner, Linn County
- Julia Fox, Assistant Planner, Linn County
- Alyssa Boles, Planning Manager, Linn County
- Ric Lenz, Emergency Manager, Linn County
- Emerson Marsh, Emergency Management, Linn County (virtual)
- Kevin Hamilton, Road Department Operations Manager, Linn County (virtual)
- Daineal Malone, Road Department Engineer, Linn County Road Department (virtual)
- Jeff Carlson, Consumers Power Inc
- Jerry Lockenburg, Mayor – City of Halsey
- Micki Valentine – City of Lyons (virtual)
- Ron Whitlach – City of Lebanon (virtual)
- Kelly Hart – City of Lebanon (virtual)
- Kevin Kreitman – City of Millersburg (virtual)
- Alex McHaddad – City of Sodaville (virtual)
- Traci Archer – City of Gates (virtual)
- Matt Straite – City of Millersburg (virtual)
- Michelle Eldridge – City of Harrisburg
- Ginger Allen – City of Scio
- Elizabeth Coleman – City of Brownsville (virtual)

Welcome and Introduction (Alyssa Boles, Linn County Planning Director)

Review and adopt notes from 11/21/23

- Members present voted to adopt minutes

Updates on the CWPP (Kate Bentz, Linn County Planner)

- CWPP is 99% done, pending final edits and will be sent to the Board of Commissioners, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Fire Defense Board for final approval
- Katherine Daniels- CWPP feeds into the NHMP, Stormwater Plans, Emergency Operation Plans, etc. are all connected within the NHMP w/ the intention to highlight mitigation strategies

NHMP Project cost updates (Katherine Daniel, DLCD Planner)

- What is required of participants? – Participate in 5-7 meetings, spend time soliciting public input on the plan (ask yourself- what ways do you think would be most effective ways to get feedback from members of your community on the plan?), keep your elected officials informed of what is happening during the update process so they are prepared to adopt the plan.
- What is happening today- looking at the schedule & scope of work so that everyone is aware of what they are prepared to do.
- Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Updates
 - Cost Share- cost sharing with local jurisdictions is no longer required for FEMA grant reporting, those costs have been covered by the State of Oregon! IGAs are revised to reflect the changes. IGAs contain yellow highlights on places where the language has been changed, those highlights can be removed when you bring the IGA for adoption by your elected officials.
 - An extension for the Period of Performance has been applied for to FEMA/OEM and will be reflected in the IGA agreement.
 - Millersburg, Brownsville, and Gates will receive revised IGAs to reflect the fact that these are the first NHMPs for their jurisdiction.
 - Task for cities- take the IGA to your elected officials and bring them back to Katherine signed, suggested deadline by April.
- Overview of the scope of work
 - We are in the organizing stage and still reaching out to interested parties. (Notes- open to other parties joining us, reach back out to Erik Anderson from LCPH).
 - The next stage will be reviewing and updating the plan through re-doing the risk assessment, devising mitigation strategies for your community, and documenting how you are involving members of the public in the process through public outreach events.
 - The last stage of the plan is the Review & Approval portion which is done by OEM and FEMA to ensure that the NHMP covers all the requirements.
- Schedule
 - We plan to meet 3 times in a row, February – April. March’s meeting has been pushed back one week to March 13, 2024. March’s meeting will include a presentation from the director of OCCRI who will be sharing on future climate projections from Linn County that will be incorporated into the risk assessment (available on Box). April meeting we will have a presentation from Matt Williams from DOGAMI, who will share the countywide evaluation of potential exposure and loss from potential hazards. There will be specific evaluation of threats to critical facilities.
 - Katherine will be working on drafting portions of the NHMP in the summer and the Risk Assessment will be available for public feedback in September, results from that should be available by October

- One meeting in July will focus on the group overviewing mitigation strategy development, then individual meetings will be scheduled with each jurisdiction to go over mitigation strategies.
- The majority of 2025 will focus on OEM/FEMA review and local adoption.
- There was a question about the accuracy of the dates for Task #7 in the IGA. Katherine will be looking over all the individual IGAs to ensure that the dates in the scope of work are up-to-date.
- Each city has an individual addendum in the plan that will be updated or created as part of the update process, which is separate from the larger NHMP main document.

Soliciting feedback on how to improve from the 2017 plan (Katherine)

- Katherine and NHMP project team will be working WITH cities to review and update the addenda
- Suggestion to bring ODOT & Army Corps of Engineers to the table to work on mitigation actions with cities- we will look into involving other levels of jurisdiction on a case-by-case basis.

NHMP Risk assessment (Katherine)

- The Risk Assessment will include multiple parallel methods to paint a fuller picture which will include methods like:
 - DOGAMI hazard mapping, for hazards that are mapable like flooding, wildfire, landslides
 - OCCRI will provide climate projects which will impact the hazards in the plan
 - Local experience and knowledge through a tool developed by OEM-FEMA ("OEM-FEMA Methodology)
 - Public opinion- what do people perceive/believe are the greatest risks
- OEM-FEMA methodology- not a scientific measure, based on people's experiences and backgrounds using 4 scoring factors: History, Probability, Vulnerability, and Maximum Threat
- We will use a modified method to compliment the evaluation done in 2017

Steering Committee's Evaluation of Hazards in Linn County

- Frequency of hazards- What has happened in the past 5 years?
 - Winter storms (Harrisburg, countywide) in 2021, 2022, and 2023
 - Frequent "low level flooding" in Scio in approximately 7 out of the last 10 years, heavy rain on frozen ground causes flooding in people's homes- occurred during last ice storm. (Scio- bringing ODOT to table around peripheral issues, clearing out ditches/drainage facilities for mitigation action in Scio)
 - Heat waves / red flag conditions / high heat waves and smoke conditions- not necessarily linked to wildfire. Public power safety shutoffs activate emergency response. High heat events trigger cooling shelters and other risks to people/workers/infrastructure.
 - Sodaville has annual droughts, exacerbated this year by dam drawdowns. Other recent impacts from 2024 ice storm, and wildfire just outside the town in the summer of 2023.

- In general, what kinds of natural hazards happen in Linn County that warrant a strategy to reduce their impact? (Many discussed and listed below)
 - **Wildfire**
 - **Flooding**
 - **Winter storms and ice storms**- these are very different in terms of response; however we should dive more into how those things are mitigated. Consensus is to keep these as separate categories of hazard for now.
 - Earthquakes- separated in EOP and NHMP, consensus to keep separate the potential **Cascadia earthquake** and smaller “**crustal**” earthquakes.
 - **Avalanche**- experienced on HWY 20 going towards Hoodoo in recent years. Similar to **landslide**, unpredictable and blocks roads. What can be done to mitigate these? Consensus is to combine avalanches and landslides together under one hazard.
 - **Extreme heat events** (+drought + smoke/bad air quality)- There’s been an increase in extreme hot days that have been harmful to vulnerable populations which are also coinciding with power safety shutoffs (elderly, outdoor workers, medically fragile people, unhoused people).
 - **Smoke/air quality**- caused from wildfire, industrial activity, drought / stagnation
 - **Dam failure**- includes state owned dams as a FEMA requirement
 - **Windstorm/tornado**- not exceedingly common but has occurred in the region in past years. Strong dry winds contributed to major wildfire spread in 2020.
 - **Volcanic activity**- uncommon but a potential problem to parts of the County, particularly eastern parts.

Next steps:

- Continue Steering Committee Risk Assessment evaluation
- Collect list of critical facilities from jurisdictions for upcoming DOGAMI assessment
- Presentation from Erica Fleishman from OCCRI at next meeting