Linn County
Multi-Jurisdictional
Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Meeting Notes

Wednesday March 13, 2024 | 1:00 PM– 2:30 PM
Meeting Room, Linn County Extension Office
33630 McFarland Rd, Tangent, OR

Attendees: Katherine Daniel, Alyssa Boles, Kate Bentz, Julia Fox, Ric Lentz, Emerson Marsh, Ginger Allen, Kelly Hart, Kevin Hamilton, Jason Rush, Joe Samaniego, Erica Fleishman, Ron Whitlatch, Stacie Cook, Micki Valentine, Briana Parra, Michele Eldridge, Matt Straite, Alex McHaddad

Review and Adopt 2/7/24 meeting notes: There were no corrections or additions suggested to these notes. Ric Lentz affirmed the notes without additions or corrections.

Updates on CWPP and IGAs: Emerson Marsh gave updates. The CWPP was approved by the fire board and awaiting approval from the board of commissioners, then it will go to the state and FEMA for final approval. IGAs are to be signed and approved by end of April. Katherine announced she had received some completed IGAs but not from every participating community.

Tour of Box: A virtual tour of Box was given, which provides a file sharing web base for all participating parties in Linn County's NHMP updating process. Katherine called for participating cities to contribute images of actual natural hazard or disaster events that have happened in their communities into Box.

Risk Assessment: Katherine Daniel went over the multiple ways communities can assess risk:

1. **OEM FEMA Methodology (Probability Rubric):** Katherine explained this exercise, which is calculated with four factors: History, Vulnerability, Probability, and Threat. The exercise began with an overview of extreme weather and natural disaster events in Linn County since 2017. The group was asked to submit a survey response to the most to least frequent extreme weather/natural hazard events in Linn County in the last 100 years, and then predictions for the future probability of these events. Katherine said she would take the submitted responses and turn them into a graphic representation for the group. The survey results will go into creating the probability rubric for Linn County.

2. **OCCRI Future Climate Projections:** Erica Fleishman from the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute presented this approach. Frequency and severity of many natural hazards is increasing. There are multiple predicted scenarios for what climate change is going to do, and precise projections get especially harder at local or regional levels. OCCRI is currently researching climate change projections and how they connect with population trends. They are looking at high-risk groups, such as old, young, pregnant people, those with preexisting conditions, and those living in poverty. Some climate and weather trends are harder to predict than others. Temperatures are predicted to continue to rise globally to the end of the century, even if emissions are cut. Almost all climate models are predicting more days with extreme heat globally. Cold extremes will

be less frequent, but more extreme. Intensity of extreme precipitation will increase, but overall there will be a decrease in annual rainfall. Mountain precipitation changes will exacerbate flooding, and more flooding earlier in the year. Higher frequencies of low summer soil moisture, i.e. drought. Projected trends in Linn County are expected to transition from snowfall to rainfall in the mountains in the cold season, and higher summer temperatures, particularly in June, July, and August. Higher droughts will lead to increased wildfire frequencies. Increase in the average number of days per year in which fire danger is very high. Increased wildfires will lead to reduced air quality. Total number of days in which it is smoky outside will not increase significantly in the coming decades, but the severity of the air quality on smoky days will increase. Droughts may cause the continued loss of wetlands. Climate change is predicted to lead to the expansion of some non-native species.

Alex McHaddad from the City of Sodaville asked if there were any predictions for what droughts will do to aquifers in the Willamette Valley. Erica answered that there was not OCCRI research into groundwater predictions, but pointed to current trends in California agricultural practices.

Kate Bentz from Linn County Planning and Building asked about specific invasive species predictions. Scotch broom is highly flammable and contributes to wildfires, and is predicted to be impacted by Climate Change. Erica answered that the plant is predicted to do well as snow and frost levels decrease.

Next Steps: DOGAMI Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment - Matt Williams, Geohazard Analyst will present this risk assessment conducted using modeled exposure and loss estimates.