



The following St. Mary’s County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) members attended the September 28, 2022, Mitigation Workshop:

Name	Organization/Department
Gerald Gardiner	Emergency Services
Amy Bledsoe	Emergency Services
Tony Wheatley	Town of Leonardtown
Ben Cohen	Land Use Growth Management
Roy Copsey	Parks & Recreation
Tressa Setlak	St. Mary’s County Health Department
Quinn Alsheimer	St. Mary’s County Health Department
Alexis Zoss	St. Mary’s County Department of Social Services
Brandy Glenn	Land Use Growth Management
Courtney Jenkins	Land Use Growth Management
Ed Hogan	MetCom
Jim Gotsch	Department of Public Works- Transportation
Kara Buckmaster	Calvert County Emergency Management
Bill Hunt	Land Use Growth Management
Amber Thompson	Land Use Growth Management
Gary Whipple	Department of Public Works- Transportation
Laschelle McKay	Town of Leonardtown
Tracy Lumpkins	St. Mary’s County Department of Social Services
Richard Tarr	Department of Public Works- Transportation
Nora Lagola	Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Sarah Bender	Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Phillip Birch	MDOT-State Highway Administration
Eric Benson	Information Technology
Vince Whittles	Servpro St Mary’s and Calvert
Caitlin Whiteleather	Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Donald Mills	Department of Public Works- Transportation

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## Hazard Mitigation Overview

- 2017 St. Mary's County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is in the plan update process.
- FEMA Requirements
  - FEMA requires hazard mitigation plans to be updated every five (5) years.
  - Stakeholder/public engagement is vital throughout all stages of the plan development process to be approved by MDEM & FEMA.
- Mitigation goals **are general guidelines that explain what the community wants to achieve with the plan.**
- A mitigation action is **a specific action, project, activity, or process taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their impacts.** Implementing mitigation actions helps achieve the plan's goals.
- Cost effective
  - Natural hazard mitigation provides the nation \$6 in benefit for every \$1 invested.

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to permanently reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from the effects of hazards.

## Plan Status Update

- Website content on the Hazard Mitigation Plan has received 470 unique visitors.
- <https://www.stmaryshazardplan.org/>
- Updated monthly with new content.
- Public Welcome to Attend - Mitigation Workshop. Workshop posted under "Ways to Engage" on project website.
- HIRA, hazard definitions, and risk maps posted under "Hazards" on project website.
- Review Plan Elements & Comment Form.
- Draft Plan will be posted with public comment form.
- To date, the **public survey** has had 302 unique responses.
  - Preliminary results for **St. Mary's County** (countywide) indicate the public is **most concerned** with Flood, Erosion, and Hurricane.
  - Least concerned: Dam Failure, Drought, and Wildfire.
  - Top 3 Preferred Mitigation Project Types:
    - ✓ Retrofit Infrastructure- elevate roads/drainage maintenance.
    - ✓ Replace inadequate or vulnerable bridges/causeways
    - ✓ Work on improving the damage resistance of utilities (electricity, communications, water/sewer, etc.)

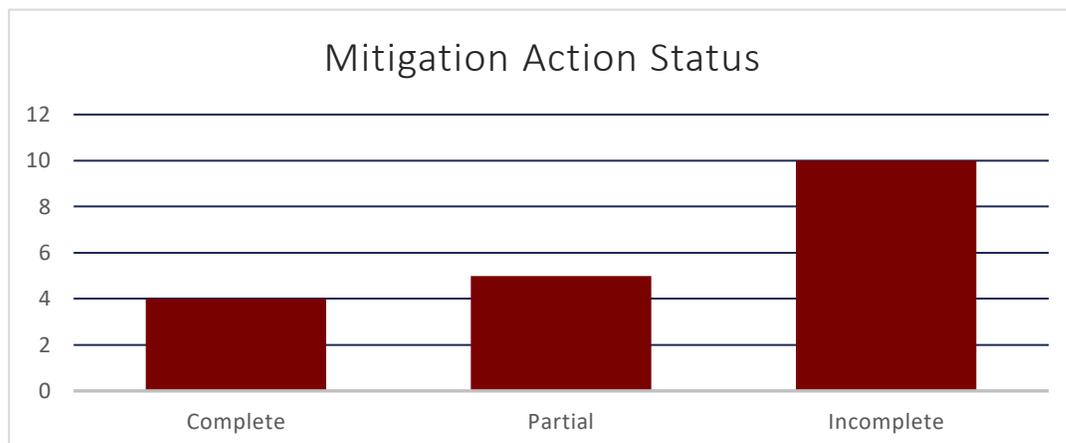


- The **public survey** current responses for the **Town of Leonardtown**.
  - Preliminary results indicate the public is **most concerned** with Flood, Hurricane, and Erosion.
  - Least concerned: Drought, Wildfire, and Thunderstorm.
  - Top 3 Preferred Mitigation Project Types:
    - ✓ Replace inadequate or vulnerable bridges/causeways.
    - ✓ Retrofit Infrastructure- elevate roads/drainage maintenance.
    - ✓ Work on improving the damage resistance of utilities (electricity, communications, water/sewer, etc.)
- New Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) completed.
- Mitigation Status Report completed.
- Data, text, vulnerability assessments, and mapping have been updated with the best available data.
- Capability Analysis with updated including FEMA Region 3 “Keeping Up With The NFIP” Questionnaire completed.
- Small group topical meetings have been held for public health, social vulnerability, and floodplain management.
- Continual project website content uploads including draft plan elements and public review comment form.

The screenshot displays two side-by-side web forms. The left form, titled 'Review Plan Elements', asks users to provide comments on draft plan elements and lists three sections: 'Hazard Identification Section', 'Plan Integration & Capabilities Section', and 'Mitigation Status Report'. The right form, titled 'Contact Us', includes fields for 'First Name', 'Last Name', and 'Email \*', a dropdown for 'Organization/Affiliation', a dropdown for 'Plan Ele...', and a 'Page Number' field. A 'Write a message' text area and a 'Submit' button are also present.

### Mitigation Status Report (2017-2021)

The Mitigation Status Report was completed as part of the plan update process. Mitigation actions identified in the 2017 St. Mary’s County Multi-Jurisdictional Plan were reviewed and status updates were provided by Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) members. The completed report has been uploaded and available for review on the project website. The following table was displayed during the workshop and discussed.



## Mitigation Workshop

Participants worked in small groups for the duration of the workshop. The four groups included:

- (1) Local Planning and Regulations,
- (2) Structure and Infrastructure Projects,
- (3) Natural Systems Protection, and
- (4) Education and Awareness Programs.

### Steps undertaken by each group for Session 1:

1. Assign a **scribe** for your group.
2. Review Mitigation Goals identified in the 2017 St. Mary's County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
  - Strikethrough any goals that should be removed. Modify existing goals and/or add new goals. This may be done throughout the mitigation workshop.
  - One handout per group (scribe's) will be collected at the end of the workshop.

### Collective Results of Session 1

Mitigation goals were reviewed by the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) members. Members were given the opportunity to review and discuss existing goals at the September 28, 2022, Mitigation Workshop. No goals were removed; however, several goals were modified during the review process. New goals added during this plan update process were focused on the integration of natural systems, promotion of whole community participations, and the reduction of community lifeline vulnerability.

St. Mary's County Hazard Mitigation Plan Goal - To protect life, property, and the environment from hazard events through:

- 1) *Increased public awareness of hazards, mitigation, preparedness, and resiliency.*
- 2) *Promote whole community participation including vulnerable populations.*
- 3) *Enhanced coordination with local agencies and organizations for mitigation efforts.*
- 4) *Protection of local assets, infrastructure, and critical facilities from hazard impacts considering both current and future conditions.*
- 5) *Promote actions that protect natural resources, while enhancing hazard mitigation and community resiliency.*
- 6) *Efficient use of local resources.*
- 7) *Integration of nature-based solutions into hazard mitigation and resilience projects, as feasible.*
- 8) *Reduce lifeline vulnerability through mitigation activities. A lifeline enables the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security.*

*Note: Community Lifeline include:*

- *Safety and Security - Law Enforcement/Security, Fire Service, Search and Rescue, Government Service, Community Safety*
- *Food, Water, Shelter - Food, Water, Wastewater, Shelter, Agriculture*
- *Health and Medical - Medical Care, Public Health, Patient Movement, Medical Supply Chain, Fatality Management*
- *Energy - Power Grid, Fuel*

Goals are broad, long-term policy and vision statements that explain what is to be achieved by implementing the mitigation strategy.

- *Communications - Infrastructure, Responder Communications, Alerts Warnings and Messages, Finance, 911 and Dispatch*
- *Transportation - Highway/Roadway/Motor Vehicle, Mass Transit, Railway, Aviation, Maritime*
- *Hazardous Material - Facilities, HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants*

*Note: Goals 2, 7, and 8 were added as “new” goals during the plan update process.*

Mitigation goals form the foundation of actions developed by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC).

### **Steps undertaken by each group for Session 2:**

- 1) Review new mitigation actions (Mitigation Action Tables.) These actions were gathered throughout the plan development process. Please complete table.
- 2) Please review the reference materials folder for new mitigation ideas (blank tables provided.)
- 3) Choose and/or develop at least (1) mitigation action for further consideration for each hazard identified in the HMP (see Hazard Listing Handout.) *Note: This may prove difficult for certain hazards and for some of the groups.*
- 4) Choose one (1) speaker to represent your group.
- 5) How many mitigation actions did your group review?
- 6) Did your group add any new mitigation actions?
- 7) Which mitigation actions resonated the most with your group? Please provide three (3) examples.
- 8) Choose a speaker for the group report out.
- 9) Make a cheat sheet for your speaker and provide him/her with answers to questions #1 & #2, and the three (3) actions that resonated the most with your group.



### **Collective Results of Session 2**

Thirty-three Action Items were developed during this breakout session.

Mitigation actions are categorized under **four types**:

- 1) Local Planning and Regulations- 12 Action Items Reviewed, 11 Chosen for Inclusion
- 2) Structure and Infrastructure Projects- 11 Action Items Reviewed, 11 Chosen for Inclusion
- 3) Natural Systems Protection- 7 Action Items Reviewed, 5 Chosen for Inclusion
- 4) Education and Awareness Programs- 6 Action Items Reviewed, 6 Chosen for Inclusion

### **Steps undertaken by each group for Session 3:**

1. Review Mitigation project sheets from the previous plan that were designated as “incomplete” or “partial” in the status report. Decide whether of those projects should be carried over into the plan update. Please write “**Keep**” at the top of sheet and **make any necessary modifications**.
2. Using the mitigation actions that your group discussed during the group report out session, complete Mitigation Action Implementation Worksheet. Please see the direction sheet that will assist your group.
3. We are looking for these project sheets to be completed to the greatest extent possible based on the group’s knowledge and expertise.

4. Please complete for any addition mitigation actions that your group feels should be considered as priority.

### **Collective Results of Session 3**

Most projects from the previous plan that were designated as “incomplete” or “partial” were selected to be carried over into the plan update by the HMPC members. Twelve project sheets were completed during this session. Completed project sheets will be sent to HMPC members along with the project prioritization online survey.

### **Next Steps**

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- Project Sheets for Review
- Distribution of Plan Sections 3 & 4
- Prioritization Online Survey
- Cohesive Draft Plan Review & Comment

For those of you who were able to participate, Thank You! For those of you who read through all the notes, Great Job You!