

Chapter 8

Plan Maintenance

The Plan Maintenance section of this document details the process that will ensure that the Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The process includes a schedule for monitoring the Plan on an annual basis and producing the required plan revision every five years. This section describes how the localities will integrate the plan into their overall planning efforts.

Plan Adoption

The governing body of each locality will be responsible for adopting the Mitigation Plan. Each governing body has the statutory authority to promote actions to prevent the loss of life and property from natural hazards. The first step will be to have the local governments endorse the plan through a letter or resolution. Once the plan has been endorsed, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission will be responsible for submitting the document to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). The VDEM will then submit the plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and approval. The review will be based on the federal criteria outlined in FEMA Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201. Following FEMA review and approval, each participating jurisdiction will be required to formally adopt the plan.

Coordinating Body

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Committee will be responsible for coordinating undertaking the formal annual and five-year review process. Each locality will designate the appropriate representatives to the committee.

In order to make this committee as broad and useful as possible, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission will encourage other organizations and agencies to become involved in hazard mitigation. Possible additional representatives include: elected officials, insurance representative, Home Builders Association, Virginia Department of Transportation, railroad industry, gas and electrical utilities, and a local Red Cross representative.

The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will meet no less than *quarterly*. ~~These meetings will~~ provide an opportunity to discuss the progress of projects and identify updates that may need to be made. The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission will serve as coordinator for the Committee.

Implementation through Existing Programs

Local governments have the statutory authority to implement many planning and mitigation goals through the Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and Building and Zoning Codes. The Mitigation Plan provides a series of recommendations, which could be incorporated into the goals, and objectives of existing planning programs.

Upon adoption of the mitigation plan, localities will be able to utilize the Mitigation Plan as a baseline of information on the natural hazards that impact the region. These projects and action items identified in the Plan will help local governments develop planning documents that assist in protecting life and property from natural disasters. Local jurisdictions can use the annual Plan review as an avenue to update relevant sections of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and incorporate mitigation activities. The Mitigation Advisory Committee will work with the local governments to identify areas that the hazard mitigation plan action items are consistent with the CIP and integrate them where appropriate.

The local building officials are responsible for administering the building codes. The Hazard Advisory Committee will work with other agencies at the state level to review, develop and ensure building codes that are adequate to mitigate or prevent damage by natural hazards.

Local governments should incorporate the relevant data, goals, actions and projects into their comprehensive plans. This can be accomplished through development of a hazard mitigation chapter for the plan or a series of sections in the plan that address specific hazards. A separate hazard mitigation chapter in the plan would provide a readily accessible source of hazard information for citizens and officials. Addressing hazards in each relevant section of the plan, such as flood prone roadways in the transportation chapter, would also be an effective method for documenting risk, potential loss and projects relating to hazard mitigation.

Evaluating and Updating the Plan

The Mitigation Plan will be evaluated on an annual basis to review progress that has been made on implementing the projects and to identify changes that could affect mitigation priorities. The convener, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, will be responsible for contacting the Mitigation Advisory Committee members and organizing the annual meeting. Committee members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies in the Plan.

The committee will review the projects to determine if they are addressing current and expected conditions. The review will also consider state and Federal legislation that could affect the implementation of the plan. The committee will also review the risk assessment portion of the Plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified, given any new available data. The coordinating organizations responsible for the various action items will report on the status of their projects, the success of various implementation processes, difficulties encountered, success of coordination efforts, and which strategies should be revised.

The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will also notify all holders of the regional plan when changes have been made. Every five years the updated plan will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review.

Public Involvement

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission and the local governments of the region are dedicated to involving the public directly in review and updates of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The public will also have the opportunity to provide feedback about the Plan. Copies of the Plan will be catalogued and kept at all of the appropriate agencies.

In addition, copies of the plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission website. This site will also contain an email address and phone number to which people can direct their comments and concerns. Public meetings will also be held in conjunction with each annual evaluation or when deemed necessary by the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee. The meetings will provide the public a forum for which they can express its concerns, opinions, or ideas about

the Plan. Local Public Information Officers will be responsible for publicizing the annual public meetings and maintaining public involvement through the public access channel, web page, and newspapers.