



MEETING NOTES

Meeting	Township of Brick Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) Planning Committee Flood Hazard Assessment Meeting		
Date	June 24, 2021	Time	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Location	Teleconference		
Attendees	Tara Paxton, MPA, PP, AICP		
	Elissa Commins, PE, PP, CME		
	Keith Rella		
	Steve Kakovsky		
	Ron Gaskill		
	Paul Mummolo		
	Chief James Riccio		
	Vanessa Tropiano		
	L. Stanton Hales, Jr.		
	Rob Karl		
	Brian Jones		
	Brian Michigan		
	Brian Scott		
	Christina Weaver		
	Vincent Palmieri, Planning Assistant		
Chris Huch, Planner, Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech)			

Discussion Points

This section summarizes each discussion point addressed during the Planning Committee Meeting.

Project Updates

Mr. Huch and Ms. Paxton welcomed attendees to the meeting. Mr. Huch updated attendees with the following information:

- Work continues to update sections of the floodplain management plan to include updated information on past events and better sources.
- Tetra Tech is waiting for NFIP data to begin the brunt of the repetitive loss area analysis update.

Outreach Efforts

Outreach efforts discussed at the meeting are summarized below:



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- Online surveys are being set up for citizens, stakeholder groups, businesses, emergency staff, and residents living in repetitive loss areas.
- Mr. Huch asked the committee for their recommendations for distribution methods for the surveys to maximize public input. Potential methods will include posting on Township social media, posting on the Township website, QR code postings at public events, and potential mailings through the neighborhood watch and tax notices. The Township will review the draft surveys prior to these surveys being shared with the committee for their assistance in distribution. A list of stakeholder groups has been put together and repetitive loss property mailings will include these surveys as well.
- Potential stakeholder groups for survey distribution include:
 - Ocean County Office of Emergency Management
 - Ocean County Planning
 - Ocean County Public Works
 - Ocean County Health Department
 - Brick Township MUA
 - New Jersey Department of State Office of Planning Advocacy
 - Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
 - New Jersey Coastal Coalition
 - Cape-Atlantic Sustainable Jersey Hub
 - Stockton Coastal Research Center
 - NJ DEP
 - USACE
 - US Fish and Wildlife Forsythe
 - Wetlands Institute
 - Brick Township Chamber of Commerce
 - Insurance agents
 - Realtors
 - Churches
 - Homeowners associations
- Mr. Huch reminded the Committee that all Planning Committee meetings are open to the public and the Township will host special public meetings to introduce the planning process , report on progress, and present the draft plan.



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Planning Committee Charter Draft Review

Mr. Huch presented the Committee with a draft Planning Committee Charter. The Charter is designed to designate non-voting members, define a quorum, and establish procedures for the public to be heard during Committee meetings. The Committee voted with all in favor to approve use of the Charter.

Assess the Flood Hazard

Mr. Huch asked for the Committee to help with the identification of floodprone locations, sources of flooding, extent of flooding, and past damages from flooding to enhance the Risk Assessment. Mr. Huch explained that since the Township is building off of the last plan, the Planning Committee should look to identify specific locations that are flood prone in less common flooding events or have new conditions which have caused them to become floodprone over the course of the last five years since the last FMP.

Mr. Huch reviewed the common flooding types that impact the Township. These include:

- Coastal flooding from coastal storms and high tides and long-term threats from sea level rise;
- Riverine flooding caused by rising of the Township's rivers, stream, and creeks;
- Flash flooding caused by heavy rainfall; and
- Urban flooding caused by deficiencies in the stormwater system.

In addition, Mr. Huch presented the committee with the possibility of including two other potential flooding threats that have been recorded in the region:

- Meteotsunamis are small tsunami events that are caused by rare alignment of specific weather conditions. While usually small and isolated to the oceanfront near inlets, meteotsunamis have been recorded in New Jersey and an event at Barnegat Inlet led to injuries.
- Ice jam floods occur when rivers freeze up and an ice dam is created. Flooding can be caused when water backs up behind the dam or when the ice dam is released and water rushes downstream. An ice jam is recorded in the USACE Ice Jam Database on the Metedeconk River though the Committee believes this is likely not a true ice jam event and no one had any recollection of the event.

The Committee discussed the merits of including flooding types that are only associated with "freak" conditions and are not common or likely to cause impacts within the Township. However, after discussion, the Committee decided that given the changing flooding conditions and weather patterns in the region and the recent history of flooding events occurring outside of the special flood



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hazard area unexpectedly, it is worth including minor discussion of these flooding types within the updated plan.

The Committee then moved to identify floodprone locations and discuss the types of flooding, the flooding extent, and the frequency of flooding. The Committee noted the following:

- A large focus of the discussion was placed on the August 14th, 2018 flooding event in Greenbriar. Heavy rainfall with estimates ranging from 6 to 8 inches in a short time span resulted in overflow of Greenbriar Creek, Sawmill Tract, and other water bodies in the area. The Greenbriar senior community experienced severe flooding, requiring evacuations and damaging more than 50 homes. The floodwaters overtopped the dam in the area and caused damage to the dam. The homes impacted are located outside of the special flood hazard area. While the heavy rainfall was the major contributor to flooding, other conditions may have increased the severity of flooding such as undersized stormwater components and recent development near the Garden State Parkway. The Committee noted that the flooding seemed to be focused near historic waterways that had been converted to pipes. It was decided that an effort should be made to identify locations where historic creeks have been converted to pipes to allow for greater development.
- Princeton and Elizabeth intersection floods during heavy rain
- Jordan Road near Route 88 is floodprone.
- Broad Avenue in Normandy Beach experiences coastal flooding. The roadway is at or below 1 foot in elevation.

Surveying will allow for additional identification of floodprone areas.

Committee members noted that there has been a change in precipitation patterns in the Township, resulting in heavy rainfall events that last longer than normal. Mr. Huch noted that this change has been witnessed throughout the northeast as well. Ms. Commins noted that most of the stormwater components in the Township are designed to the 10-year storm event. The Committee noted that the design of stormwater systems may have been appropriate at the time but changing conditions may result in a lack of appropriate carrying capacity for storm water volume.

Ms. Commins provided update on work completed by ACT Engineers, Inc. to develop flood mitigation concepts for 13 low lying areas in the Township in 2020. The Township has applied for funding from the BRIC grant program, partnered with Toms River, to raise the elevation of low-lying roadways to 2.6 feet. The Mantaloking tide gauge was used to determine that most flooding conditions could be solved by raising the roadway elevation to 2 feet. An additional 0.6 foot was added to account for rising sea levels by 2050.



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Next Steps

Mr. Huch noted that the first Public Information Meeting would take place following the next Planning Committee meeting on July 8th.

Action Items

- Tetra Tech will share the draft surveys with the Township for review.
- Once approved by the Township, survey links will be shared with the Committee for distribution to stakeholders and citizens.
- Tetra Tech will meet with Township staff to discuss repetitive loss mailings.
- Tetra Tech will work with the Township to identify historic waterways that have been replaced by culverts and pipes that may be problem areas for flooding.

Questions

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.