

Section 2: The Planning Process

2.1 Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning

Local hazard mitigation planning is the process of organizing community resources, identifying and assessing hazard risks, and determining how to best minimize or manage those risks. This process results in a hazard mitigation plan that identifies specific mitigation actions, each designed to achieve short-term planning objectives as well as a long-term community vision. To ensure the functionality of each mitigation action, responsibility is assigned to a specific individual, department, or agency along with a schedule for its implementation. Plan maintenance procedures are established for the routine monitoring of implementation progress, as well as the evaluation and enhancement of the mitigation plan itself. These plan maintenance procedures ensure that the Plan remains a current, dynamic, and effective planning document over time.

Mitigation planning offers many benefits, including:

Saving lives and property;

- Saving money;
- Speeding recovery following disasters;
- Reducing future vulnerability through wise development and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction;
- Expediting the receipt of pre-disaster and post-disaster grant funding; and
- Demonstrating a firm commitment to improving community health and safety.

Typically, mitigation planning is described as having the potential to produce long-term and recurring benefits by breaking the repetitive cycle of disaster loss. A core assumption of hazard mitigation is that pre-disaster investments will significantly reduce the demand for post-disaster assistance by lessening the need for emergency response, repair, recovery, and reconstruction. Furthermore, mitigation practices will enable local residents, businesses, and industries to re-establish themselves in the wake of a disaster, getting the community economy back on track more quickly and with less interruption.

The benefits of mitigation planning go beyond solely reducing hazard vulnerability. Measures such as the acquisition or regulation of land in known hazard areas can help achieve multiple community goals, such as preserving open space, maintaining environmental health, and enhancing recreational opportunities. Thus, it is vitally important that any local mitigation planning process be integrated with other concurrent local planning efforts, and any proposed mitigation strategies must take into account other existing community goals or initiatives that will help complement or hinder their future implementation.

2.2 History of Hazard Mitigation Planning in the Albemarle Region

Each of the eight counties participating in this Plan, along with their incorporated and unincorporated municipal jurisdictions, had a previously approved hazard mitigation plan in place prior to this regional planning effort. The FEMA approval dates for each of these plans, along with a list of their participating municipalities, are listed below.

Camden County Hazard Mitigation Plan (7-9-12)

Town of Carolina Shores Community-Based Hazard Mitigation Plan

*Currituck County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2010
Plan Amendment Back up power - 2013*

Dare County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2010

Town of Duck

Town of Kitty Hawk

Town of Nags Head

Town of Kill Devil Hills

Town of Manteo

2 amendments

Gates County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Date)

Town of Gatesville

Hertford County Multi-Jurisdictional Plan - 2011

Town of Ahoskie

Town of Murfreesboro

Town of Winton

Town of Cofield

Town of Como

Town of Harrellsville

Pasquotank County Multi-Jurisdictional Plan (Date)

City of Elizabeth City

Perquimans County Multi-Jurisdictional Plan - 2010

Town of Hertford

Town of Winfall

Each of the plans listed above was developed using the multi-jurisdictional mitigation planning process recommended by FEMA. For this regional plan, all of the jurisdictions listed above have agreed to merge, update, and expand their existing mitigation planning content as part of one new regional format. No new jurisdictions have joined the planning process since the plans above were adopted and all of the jurisdictions that participated in previous planning efforts have agreed to participate in this regional planning effort. The specific process of moving forward with one regional approach is described in more detail in the following subsections.

2.3 Preparing the Regional Plan

Hazard mitigation plans are required by FEMA to be updated every five years in order for the jurisdictions covered under them to remain eligible for federal mitigation and public assistance funding. A regional hazard mitigation plan is classified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as

any mitigation planning effort involving two or more county jurisdictions. This Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan involves an eight-county region including Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties along with the seventeen (17) municipalities located within these counties: Town of Edenton, Town of Southern Shores, Town of Duck, Town of Kitty Hawk, Town of Nags Head, Town of Kill Devil Hills, Town of Manteo, Town of Gatesville, Town of Ahoskie, Town of Murfreesboro, Town of Winton, Town of Cofield, Town of Como, Town of Harrellsville, City of Elizabeth City, Town of Hertford and the Town of Winfall.

This regional approach allows resources to be shared amongst the participating jurisdictions and eases the administrative duties of all of the participants by combining the eight existing county level plans, and the requirements for the five- year plan update, into one coordinated regional planning process.

In 2013, Gates County received a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program Grant through the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) for the Albemarle Region. Upon receipt of the aforementioned PDM grant, Gates County had the primary responsibility for coordinating the development of the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. To help prepare the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, The Wooten Company was hired as a consultant to provide professional mitigation planning services.

Per the contractual scope of work, the consultant team followed the mitigation planning process recommended by FEMA and recommendations provided by North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) mitigation planning staff. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Checklist, found in Appendix D, provides a detailed summary of FEMA's current minimum standards of acceptability for compliance with DMA 2000 and notes the location where each requirement is met within this Plan. These standards are based upon FEMA's Interim Final Rule as published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002 in Part 201 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The planning team used FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (released March 2013) for reference as they completed the Plan.

Although each participating jurisdiction had already developed a plan in the past, the combination of the eight plans into one regional plan still required the making of some plan update revisions. Since this is the first regional mitigation plan amongst the participating jurisdictions, key elements from the previous approved plans are referenced throughout the document (e.g., existing mitigation actions) and required a discussion of changes made. For example, all of the risk assessment elements needed to be updated to include most recent information and any data that was standardized across the regional planning area. It was also necessary to formulate a single set of goals for the region. The Capability Assessment (Section 6) includes updated information for all of the participating jurisdictions and the Mitigation Action Status Updates included in Appendix F provides implementation status updates for all of the actions identified in the previous plans.

2.4 Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

In order to guide the development of this Plan, the Albemarle counties (Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Pasquotank and Perquimans) created the Albemarle Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC). This committee represented a community based planning team made up of representatives from various county departments and municipalities and other key stakeholders identified to serve as critical partners in the planning process.

Beginning in May 2014, the planning committee members engaged in regular discussions as well as local meetings and planning workshops to discuss and complete tasks associated with preparing the Plan. This working group coordinated on all aspects of plan preparation and provided valuable input to the process. In addition to regular meetings, committee members routinely communicated and were kept informed through an email distribution list.

Table 2.1 lists the members of the HMPC who were responsible for participating in the development of the Plan. Committee members are generally listed by jurisdiction in Table 2.1 for ease of organizing and presenting the information but it should be noted that the committee worked extremely well as one regional unit thinking beyond traditional jurisdictional boundaries to focus on the mitigation planning issues and tasks at hand. In addition to regular meetings, committee members routinely communicated and were kept informed through e-mail. There was a structure in place to facilitate meeting attendance and timely submission of data and information via a file share site as well as a project website. Additional participation and input from county residents and other identified stakeholders was sought through the distribution of an online survey and the facilitation of public meetings (public involvement is further discussed later in this section).

Table 2.1:

| NAME | POSITION | AGENCY, JURISDICTION AND/OR ROLE |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Billy Winn | Director | Gates County Emergency Management |
| Chris Smith | Director | Hertford County Emergency Management |
| Mary Beth News | Director | Currituck County Emergency Management |
| Christy Saunders | Coordinator | Pasquotank/Camden Counties Emergency Management |
| Jarvis Winslow | Director | Perquimans County Emergency Management |
| Sandy Sanderson | Director (Outgoing) | Dare County Emergency Management |
| Donna Creef | Planning Director | Dare County Planning Department |
| Wes Haskett | Town Planner | Southern Shores Planning Department |
| Cordell Palmer | Director | Chowan County Emergency Management |
| Sam Barrow | Planner | Edenton Planning Department |
| Andy Garman | Deputy Town Manager | Nags Head Planning Department |
| Erin Burke | Town Planner | Manteo Planning Department |
| Greg Loy | Planning Director | Kill Devil Hills Planning Department |
| Meredith Guns | Assistant Planning Director | Kill Devil Hills Planning Department |
| Joe Heard | Director of Community Development | Duck Planning Department |
| Donna Heffernan | Administrative Zoning Technician | Kitty Hawk Planning Department |
| Rebecca Christenbury | Program Assistant | Currituck County Emergency Management |
| Horace Reid (Mayor) | Mayor | Town of Hertford* |
| Ken Dilday | Fire Chief | Town of Ahoskie Fire Department |
| Carl Pierce | Public Works Director | Town of Winton Public Works |
| Stanley Griggs | Director | Currituck County Emergency Management |
| Rob Glover | Regional Specialist | Currituck County Fire/EMS |
| Ben Woody | Director | Currituck County Planning Department |
| Ken Rominger (Council Member) | Director | Town of Winfall |
| Michelle Perry | Director | Currituck County Engineering |
| Ashley Stoop | Director | Albemarle Regional Health System |

| NAME | POSITION | AGENCY, JURISDICTION AND/OR ROLE |
|------------------|--|---|
| Holly White | Principal Planner | Nags Head Planning Department |
| Ronnie Sawyer | County Maintenance Yard – Camden, Currituck and Pasquotank | North Carolina Department of Transportation |
| Brenda McQueen | Superintendent of Buildings | Currituck County Public Works |
| Eric Weatherly | County Engineer | Currituck County Engineering |
| Brian Parnell | Title | North Carolina Emergency Management |
| Spencer Castello | Title | Currituck Planning Department |
| Kelly Wyatt | Deputy Director of Planning & Development / Zoning Administrator | Nags Head Planning Department |
| Dabni Shelton | Permit Officer | Southern Shores Planning Department |
| Drew Pearson | Director | Dare County Emergency Management |
| Donna Godfrey | Planning and Zoning Director | Perquimans County Planning Department |
| Holly Colombo | Chief Building Inspector, CAMA Officer LPO | Chowan County Inspections Department |
| Kent Pierce | Floodplain Administrator | Chowan County Inspections Department |
| Kevin Howard | County Manager | Chowan County Managers Office |
| Shelly Cox | Director | Pasquotank County Planning Department |
| Billy Winn | Director – Gates County Emergency Management | Town of Gatesville* |
| Chris Smith | Director – Hertford County Emergency Management | Town of Cofield* |
| Chris Smith | Director – Hertford County Emergency Management | Town of Como* |
| Chris Smith | Director – Hertford County Emergency Management | City of Harrellsville* |
| Chris Smith | Director – Hertford County Emergency Management | Town of Murfreesboro* |
| Christy Saunders | Director – Pasquotank County Emergency Management | City of Elizabeth City* |

**Please see Appendix B – Local Government Participation Documentation noting their proxy given to County jurisdiction*

2.5 Meeting and Workshops

The preparation of this Plan required a series of meetings and workshops for facilitating discussion, gaining consensus, and initiating data collection efforts with local government staff, community officials, and other identified stakeholders. More importantly, the meetings and workshops prompted continuous input and feedback from relevant participants throughout the drafting stages of the Plan.

The following is a summary of the key meetings and workshops held by the HMPC during the development of the Plan. Additionally both Currituck and Dare Counties held meetings of their respective Local Mitigation Committees during the planning process. Those meetings are documented in this section as well.

Currituck County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting (April 9, 2014)

The Currituck County LEPC meeting was led by Mary Beth Newns. This meeting consisted of a presentation on the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and introduced this committee to the Regional Planning Concept. The LEPC also separated into two groups and held brainstorming sessions on ideas for public outreach. Meeting minutes from this meeting is included in Appendix H.

HMPC Meeting #1 (May 9th, 2014)

The Project Kickoff meeting was started by Mr. Billy Winn, Gates County Emergency Management Director, and was led by Scott Chase, AICP (The Wooten Company Project Manager), and Stephen Smith, CFM (The Wooten Company Lead Planner). This meeting consisted of a detailed overview of the project, a review and discussion of the eight previous county level mitigation plans, an explanation of the process to be followed for updating and integrating the content from the four previous county plans, an open discussion session, and an explanation of next steps.

The meeting began with a brief welcome and opportunity for each of the 24 attendees to introduce themselves to the group. Particular emphasis was placed on identifying what jurisdiction or organization each participant was there to represent, As part of this recognition process, a spreadsheet was passed around for representatives to designate one “Designated Local Jurisdiction Lead” to serve as a primary point of contact for each participating jurisdiction for the duration of the project.

The project overview consisted of an explanation of the purpose of the planning process and the concept of creating a regional hazard mitigation plan to build upon and essentially replace the eight previous county level mitigation plans. It also covered the geographic scope of the project, the proposed schedule for the project, and a detailed breakdown of the key project tasks. The roles and responsibilities for The Wooten Company, Gates County as the lead local agency, and for all participating jurisdictions were also covered. These roles and responsibilities were presented as follows:

- The Wooten Company
 - Oversee, manage, and document the completion of all key project tasks
 - Assist with Monthly progress reports
 - Hosting and managing project website
 - Responding to general questions or inquiries from the public or stakeholders

- Gates County
 - Serving as lead coordinating agency
 - Designation of local project manager
 - Assistance with the collection of documents, data, and other information
 - Logistics for project meetings
 - Responding to general questions or inquiries from the public or stakeholders
 - Coordinating with participating jurisdictions

- All participating jurisdictions
 - Designate local jurisdiction lead
 - Attend Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meetings
 - Coordination between counties, municipalities, and local stakeholders
 - Data collection and information sharing
 - Mitigation strategy development (*Mitigation Action Plans*)
 - Assist with public outreach
 - Review and comment on draft plan materials

Emphasis was also placed on the need for effective communication throughout the duration of the project. This included an overview of the planning team's organization and the idea that municipal jurisdictions would coordinate first through their Designated Local Jurisdiction Lead who would in turn coordinate with the Designated Local Jurisdiction Lead for that county, who would in turn coordinate with the overall local project lead, Billy Winn with Gates County. Active participation and responsiveness were also stressed in light of the aggressive schedule to complete the plan in the desired timeframe.

A detailed discussion also centered on GIS data collection needs and the process to be followed for collecting and submitting the needed data (which was to follow the chain of communication described in the paragraph above). Emphasis was placed on the need for the GIS data to be submitted in a readily usable format and to be the best data readily available.

The committee was also given an overview of a Public Outreach Strategy that would be developed between HMPC Meeting #1 and HMPC Meeting #2. The goals of the Public Outreach Strategy were stated as:

- Generate public interest;
- Solicit citizen input; and
- Engage additional partners in the planning process.

Specific opportunities for public participation were identified as being two in-person open public meetings, the creation of a public project information website, a web-based public participation survey, and use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, RSS, and other various options

Next steps were defined as assignment of Designated Local Jurisdiction Leads; data collection and submission; finalize Public Outreach Strategy and prepare for HMPC Meeting #2.

A copy of the agenda and sign-in sheet for all meetings are included in Appendix B.

HMPC Meeting #2 (July 7th, 2014)

The 2nd HMPC meeting was started by Mr. Billy Winn, Gates County Emergency Management Director, and was led by Scott Chase, AICP (The Wooten Company Project Manager), and Stephen Smith, CFM (The Wooten Company Lead Planner). This meeting consisted of an overview of the final draft Public Outreach Strategy, a hazard identification discussion, an overview of the Local Capability Assessment Survey, an update on data collection progress, an open discussion session, and an explanation of next steps. It should be noted that this meeting occurred just four days following the landfall of Hurricane Arthur just to the south of the planning area in Carteret County.

The meeting began with a brief welcome and opportunity for each of the 26 attendees to introduce themselves to the group.

The draft Public Outreach Strategy (found in Appendix C) was distributed to the committee and a review of the document was provided via PowerPoint. The strategy follows the outline presented at the first meeting in terms of goals, outreach opportunities, etc.

Additional details were provided regarding the two proposed in-person open public meetings:

- Public meetings would be scheduled at two key points during the project timeline: following the completed identification of hazards and following the completion of the draft plan;

- The primary purpose of the meetings would be to inform the public on the process and current status of the regional planning process and to gain input to the process during the drafting stage and prior to plan completion and approval; and
- The Wooten Company would prepare presentations and handout materials to help facilitate two-way communication with public meeting attendees.

Dare County 510 Planning Committee Meeting (September 4, 2014)

The Dare County 510 Planning Committee meeting was led by Sandy Sanderson. This meeting consisted of a discussion regarding the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and introduced this committee to the Regional Planning Concept. There was also an in-depth discussion on the Community Rating System and the planning credits available for the Regional Plan. Donna Creef, the Dare County CRS Coordinator, walked the group through the 510 CRS planning requirements and stressed the importance of making sure each step is addressed to maximize CRS credits. The committee agreed to hold its next meeting on October 30, 2014. A meeting summary from this meeting is included in Appendix I.

HMPC Meeting #3 (October 22nd, 2014)

The 3rd HMPC meeting was led by Scott Chase, AICP (The Wooten Company Project Manager), and Stephen Smith, CFM (The Wooten Company Lead Planner). This meeting included a presentation on the results of the Public Participation Survey, a discussion of the five Regional goals developed by the HMPC, a discussion on new Mitigation Actions/Strategies focusing on the six categories (Prevention, Property Protection, Natural Resource Protection, Structural Projects, Emergency Services and Public Education), an open discussion session, and an explanation of next steps.

The meeting began with a brief welcome and opportunity for each of the 15 attendees to introduce themselves to the group.

The Public Participation Survey Results (found in Appendix C) were presented to committee. The results of this survey are detailed in subsection 2.6.1.

A discussion was held on the importance of meaningful Regional Goals and the following five goals were created for the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- Evaluate and revise local plans, policies, procedures, regulations and ordinances to further enhance the regions ability to mitigate natural hazards.
- Maintain and/or improve existing transportation infrastructure to aid in evacuations.
- Implement a public outreach campaign to increase awareness about the manmade and natural hazards that can impact the region.
- Pursue mitigation of repetitive flood loss properties.
- Identify/Implement mitigation projects that are cost effective and will help reduce the effects of manmade and natural hazards.

The Regional goals set the focus for the Mitigation Actions/Strategies that were developed by each participating jurisdictions and are detailed in Section 7.

Dare County 510 Planning Committee Meeting (October 30th, 2014)

The Dare County 510 Planning Committee meeting was led by Drew Pearson. This meeting consisted of a discussion regarding the Albemarle Regional HMPC meeting from October 22nd, 2014. The results from the Public Participation Survey were also presented to the group. The group also discussed the list of identified hazards for the county and the impact potential of each hazard. The committee agreed to hold its next meeting on November 19th, 2014. A meeting summary from this meeting is included in Appendix I.

Dare County 510 Planning Committee Meeting (November 19th, 2014)

The Dare County 510 Planning Committee meeting was led by Sandy Sanderson. Donna Creef, Dare County Planning Director, provided the group a status updated on the work Dare County has completed as part of the Regional Plan update. She emphasized that the goals/action plan report used annually for CRS purposes should be reviewed and updated. She asked that all towns provide updated repetitive loss data so she can produce an updated map for the plan. Status updates were also provided by each participation jurisdiction in attendance. The committee agreed to hold its next meeting on December 18th, 2014 (this meeting was later cancelled).

HMPC Meeting #4 (January 15, 2015)

The 4th HMPC meeting was led Stephen Smith, CFM (The Wooten Company Lead Planner). This meeting consisted of a high-level walkthrough of the working draft Hazard Mitigation Plan including all of its sections and instructions for the committee's review and comment period. The portion of the presentation covering a walkthrough of the working draft plan document consisted of an overview of the plan's organization a brief status update on each section, an explanation of the review and comment process, suggested areas of focus for the committee members, availability of the review files on the project information website, and instructions for submitting review comments by Friday, December 20 if possible. The discussion of next steps consisted of another reminder regarding the review/comment period and deadline, an explanation that the next version of the plan document would be considered a final draft based on the committee's review comments, an overview of the upcoming State and FEMA plan review process, and local adoption procedures and expectations.

2.6 Involving the Public

An important component of any mitigation planning process is public participation. Individual citizen and community-based input provides the entire planning team with a greater understanding of local concerns and increases the likelihood of successfully implementing mitigation actions by developing community "buy-in" from those directly affected by the decisions of public officials. As citizens become more involved in decisions that affect their safety, they are more likely to gain a greater appreciation of the hazards present in their community and take the steps necessary to reduce their impact. Public awareness is a key component of any community's overall mitigation strategy aimed at making a home, neighborhood, school, business, or entire planning area safer from the potential effects of hazards.

Public involvement in the development of the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was sought using various methods including open public meetings, and project information website, a public participation survey, and by making copies of draft Plan documents available for public review on county websites and at government offices. Public meetings were held at two distinct periods during the planning process:

(1) during the drafting stage of the Plan; and (2) upon completion of a final draft Plan, but prior to official plan approval and adoption. These public meetings were held at a central location to the planning area to ensure that citizens from each of the eight participating counties had reasonable access to the opportunity to participate in-person in the planning process. The public participation survey (discussed in greater detail in subsection 2.5.1) was made available online via the project information website, each county's website, through web links forwarded via email and newspaper articles, Facebook, Twitter, etc., and in hardcopy form at the first public meeting.

Public Meeting #1

Public Meeting #1 was held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2014 at the Currituck County Extension Service Building. Stephen Smith (The Wooten Company) presented a PowerPoint presentation documenting the planning process to date, including a discussion of the Regional Planning approach and a detailed discussion on the hazards that impact the area. The Public Participation Survey results were also presented during this meeting. This public meeting was attended by one member of the public as well as representatives from Dare and Currituck counties.

Public Meeting #2

Public Meeting #2 was held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 15th, 2015 at the Currituck County Extension Service Building. Stephen Smith (The Wooten Company) presented a PowerPoint presentation on the final draft plan. This presentation recapped the planning process, including a discussion of the Regional Planning approach. A detailed discussion on the identified hazards from the plan and their impacts on the region was also provided. This public meeting was attended by one member of the public as well as representatives from the participating jurisdictions.

2.6.1 Public Participation Survey

The Albemarle Natural Hazard Mitigation Public Participation Survey was made available in May 9, 2014 and remained available through September 30, 2014 per the Public Outreach Strategy. During this time, 484 surveys were completed. The complete results of the survey can be found in a summary report found in Appendix C.

The following list is a summary of the dominant responses obtained from the survey.

- 69% said they have been personally impacted by a disaster.
- When asked how concerned they are about the possibility of their community being impacted by natural hazards, the top five concerns were hurricanes/tropical storms, nor'easters, flooding, severe thunderstorms and tornados.
- 28% of respondents said that the best way for them to receive information related to natural hazards and hazard mitigation is via email notification.
- 91% said they are interested in making their home or neighborhood more hazard resistant.
- 59% said they have taken measure to protect their home or neighborhood from disasters.
- 59% said their home is not located in the floodplain.
- 48% said they do not carry flood insurance.

The results of the survey were presented to members of the HMPC at HMPC Meeting #3 so that public opinion could be factored into final changes and additions to each jurisdiction's Mitigation Action Plan.

2.7 Involving Stakeholders

The Albemarle Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee included a variety of stakeholders beyond the representatives from each participating jurisdiction. These included representatives from the Albemarle Regional Health System, North Carolina Department of Transportation, North Carolina Emergency Management and the State of North Carolina Forest Service. Input from additional stakeholders,

including neighboring communities, was welcomed through the open public meetings and online survey. If any additional stakeholders representing other agencies and organizations participated through the Public Participation Survey, that information is unknown due to the anonymous nature of the survey.

2.8 Documenting the Plan

Progress in hazard mitigation planning for the participating jurisdictions in the Albemarle Region is documented in this plan update. Since hazard mitigation planning efforts officially began in the participating counties with the development of the initial hazard mitigation plans in the early 2000s, many mitigation actions have been completed and implemented in the participating jurisdictions. These actions will help reduce the overall risk to natural hazards for the people and property in the Albemarle Region. The actions that have been completed are documented in the Mitigation Action Updates found in Appendix F.

In addition, community capability continues to improve with the implementation of new plans, policies, and programs that help to promote hazard mitigation at the local level. The current state of local capabilities for the participating jurisdictions is captured in Section 6: Capability Assessment. The participating jurisdictions continue to demonstrate their commitment to hazard mitigation and hazard mitigation planning and have proven this by reconvening the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee to update and combine the previous hazard mitigation plans into this new regional plan and by continuing to involve the public in the hazard mitigation planning process.