

Section 6: Capabilities Assessment

6.1 Overview

The purpose of conducting a Capability Assessment is to determine the ability of a local jurisdiction to implement a comprehensive Mitigation Strategy, and to identify potential opportunities for establishing or enhancing specific mitigation policies, programs, or projects. As in any planning process, it is important to try to establish which goals, objectives, and actions are feasible, based on an understanding of the organizational capacity of those agencies or departments tasked with their implementation. A Capability Assessment helps to determine which mitigation actions are practical and likely to be implemented over time given a local government's planning and regulatory framework, level of administrative and technical support, amount of fiscal resources, and current political climate.

A Capability Assessment has two primary components: 1) an inventory of a local jurisdiction's relevant plans, ordinances, and programs already in place; and 2) an analysis of its capacity to carry them out. Careful examination of local capabilities will detect any existing gaps, shortfalls, or weaknesses with ongoing government activities that could hinder proposed mitigation activities and possibly exacerbate community hazard vulnerability. A Capability Assessment also highlights the positive mitigation measures already in place or being implemented at the local government level, which should continue to be supported and enhanced through future mitigation efforts.

The Capability Assessment completed for the Albemarle Region serves as a critical planning step and an integral part of the foundation for designing an effective Mitigation Strategy. Coupled with the Risk Assessment, the Capability Assessment helps identify and target meaningful mitigation actions for incorporation into the Mitigation Strategy portion of the Plan. It not only helps establish the goals and objectives for the Region to pursue under this Plan, but also ensures that those goals and objectives are realistically achievable under given local conditions.

6.2 Conducting the Capabilities Assessment

In order to facilitate the inventory and analysis of local government capabilities within the Albemarle counties, a detailed Local Capability Assessment Survey was distributed to members of the Albemarle Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) at the second planning committee meeting. The survey questionnaire requested information on a variety of "capability indicators" such as existing local plans, policies, programs, or ordinances that contribute to and/or hinder the Region's ability to implement hazard mitigation actions. Other indicators included information related to the Region's fiscal, administrative, and technical capabilities, such as access to local budgetary and personnel resources for mitigation purposes, as well as any existing education and outreach programs that can be used to promote mitigation. Survey respondents were also asked to comment on the current political climate with respect to hazard mitigation, an important consideration for any local planning or decision making process.

At a minimum, the survey results provide an extensive and consolidated inventory of existing local plans, ordinances, programs, and resources in place or under development, in addition to their overall effect on hazard loss reduction. In completing the survey, local officials were also required to conduct a self-assessment of their jurisdiction's specific capabilities. The survey instrument thereby not only helps accurately assess the degree of local capability, but it also serves as a good source of

introspection for counties and local jurisdictions that want to improve their capabilities as identified gaps, weaknesses, or conflicts can be recast as opportunities for specific actions to be proposed as part of the Mitigation Strategy.

6.3 Capabilities Assessment Findings

The findings of the capability assessment are summarized in this Plan to provide insight into relevant capacity of the participating communities in the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to implement hazard mitigation activities. All information is based upon the responses provided by local government officials to the Capability Assessment Survey and during meetings of the Mitigation Advisory Committee. All completed survey questionnaires are available through Gates County upon request.

PLANNING AND REGULATORY CAPABILITY

Planning and regulatory capability is based on the implementation of plans, ordinances and programs that demonstrate a local jurisdiction’s commitment to guiding and managing growth, development and redevelopment in a responsible manner while maintaining the general welfare of the community. It includes emergency response and mitigation planning, comprehensive land use planning and transportation planning in addition to the enforcement of zoning or subdivision ordinances and building codes that regulate how land is developed and structures are built, as well as protecting environmental, historic and cultural resources in the community. Although some conflicts can arise, these planning initiatives generally present significant opportunities to integrate hazard mitigation principles and practices into the local decision making process.

This assessment is designed to provide a general overview of the key planning and regulatory tools or programs in place or under development for the participants in the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan along with their potential effect on loss reduction. This information will help identify opportunities to address existing gaps, weaknesses or conflicts with other initiatives in addition to integrating the implementation of this Plan with existing planning mechanisms, where appropriate.

Table 6.1 provides a summary of the relevant local plans, ordinances and programs already in place or under development for the participating local governments. A checkmark indicates that the given item is currently in place and being implemented by the local jurisdiction or that it is currently being developed for future implementation.

TABLE 6.1

Jurisdiction	Hazard Mitigation Plan	Comprehensive Land Use Plan	Floodplain Management Plan	Open Space Management Plan	Stormwater Management Plan	Natural Resource Protection Plan	Flood Response Plan	Emergency Operations Plan	Continuity of Operations Plan	Evacuation Plan	Disaster Recovery Plan	Capital Improvements Plan	Economic Development Plan	Historic Preservation Plan	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Zoning Ordinance	Subdivision Ordinance	Unified Development Ordinance	Post-Disaster Redevelopment Ordinance	Building Code	Fire Code	National Flood Insurance Program	NFIP CRS Program
Camden County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chowan County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Edenton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Currituck County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dare County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Duck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kill Devil Hills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kitty Hawk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Manteo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nags Head	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southern Shores	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gates County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gatesville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hertford County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ahoskie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Como	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harrellsville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Murfreesboro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pasquotank County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perquimans County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hertford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winfall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Hazard mitigation is widely recognized as one of the four primary phases of emergency management. The three other phases include preparedness, response and recovery.

Opportunities to reduce potential losses through mitigation practices are most often implemented before disaster strikes, such as elevation of flood-prone structures or through the continuous enforcement of regulatory policies that prevent hazardous construction. However, mitigation opportunities will also present themselves during immediate preparedness or response activities, and during the long-term recovery and redevelopment process following a hazard event.

Planning for each phase is a critical part of a comprehensive emergency management program and a key to the successful implementation of hazard mitigation actions. As a result, the Capability Assessment Survey asked several questions across a range of emergency management plans in order to assess the jurisdiction's willingness to plan and their level of technical planning proficiency.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

A hazard mitigation plan represents a community's blueprint for how it intends to reduce the impact of natural, and in some cases human-caused, hazards on people and the built environment. The essential elements of a hazard mitigation plan include a risk assessment, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy.

- All of the jurisdictions participating in this regional planning effort have previously been covered by their county's multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.

Disaster Recovery Plan

A disaster recovery plan serves to guide the physical, social, environmental, and economic recovery and reconstruction process following a disaster event. In many instances, hazard mitigation principles and practices are incorporated into local disaster recovery plans with the intent of capitalizing on opportunities to break the cycle of repetitive disaster losses. Disaster recovery plans can also lead to the preparation of disaster redevelopment policies and ordinances to be enacted following a hazard event.

- Seventeen of the 25 participating jurisdictions have a disaster recovery plan either in place or under development.

Emergency Operations Plan

An emergency operations plan outlines responsibilities and the means by which resources are deployed during and following an emergency or disaster.

- Twenty-two of the 25 participating jurisdictions have an emergency operations plan either in place or under development.

Continuity of Operations Plan

A continuity of operations plan establishes a chain of command, line of succession, and plans for backup or alternate emergency facilities in case of an extreme emergency or disaster event.

- Eleven of the 25 participating jurisdictions have a continuity of operations plan either in place or under development.

GENERAL PLANNING

The implementation of hazard mitigation activities often involves agencies and individuals beyond the emergency management profession. Stakeholders may include local planners, public works officials, economic development specialists, and others. In many instances, concurrent local planning efforts will help to achieve or complement hazard mitigation goals, even though they are not designed as such. Therefore, the Local Capability Assessment Survey also asked questions regarding general planning capabilities and the degree to which hazard mitigation is integrated into other ongoing planning efforts in the Albemarle Region.

Comprehensive Plan

A comprehensive land use plan, or general plan, establishes the overall vision for what a community wants to be and serves as a guide for future governmental decision making. Typically a comprehensive plan contains sections on demographic conditions, land use, transportation elements, and community facilities. Given the broad nature of the plan and its regulatory standing in many communities, the integration of hazard mitigation measures into the comprehensive plan can enhance the likelihood of achieving risk reduction goals, objectives, and actions.

- Twenty of the 25 participating jurisdictions have a comprehensive land use plan either in place or under development

Capital Improvements Plan

A capital improvements plan guides the scheduling of spending on public improvements. A capital improvements plan can serve as an important mechanism for guiding future development away from identified hazard areas. Limiting public spending in hazardous areas is one of the most effective long-term mitigation actions available to local governments.

- Fourteen of the 25 participating jurisdictions have a capital improvements plan either in place or under development

Historic Preservation Plan

A historic preservation plan is intended to preserve historic structures or districts within a community. An often overlooked aspect of the historic preservation plan is the assessment of buildings and sites located in areas subject to natural hazards, and the identification of ways to reduce future damages. This may involve retrofitting or relocation techniques that account for the need to protect buildings that do not meet current building standards, or are within a historic district that cannot easily be relocated out of harm's way.

- Eight of the 25 participating jurisdictions have a historic preservation plan either in place or under development

Zoning Ordinance

Zoning represents the primary means by which land use is controlled by local governments. As part of a community's police power, zoning is used to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of those in a given jurisdiction that maintains zoning authority. A zoning ordinance is the mechanism through which zoning is typically implemented. Since zoning regulations enable municipal governments to limit the type and density of development, a zoning ordinance can serve as a powerful tool when applied in identified hazard areas.

- Twenty-four of the 25 participating jurisdictions have a zoning ordinance either in place or under development

Subdivision Ordinance

A subdivision ordinance is intended to regulate the development of residential, commercial, industrial, or other uses, including associated public infrastructure, as land is subdivided into buildable lots for sale or future development. Subdivision design that accounts for natural hazards can dramatically reduce the exposure of future development.

- Twenty-three of the 25 jurisdictions have a subdivision ordinance either in place or under development

Building Codes, Permitting, and Inspections

Building codes regulate construction standards. In many communities, permits and inspections are required for new construction. Decisions regarding the adoption of building codes (that account for hazard risk), the type of permitting process required both before and after a disaster, and the enforcement of inspection protocols all affect the level of hazard risk faced by a community.

- All of the jurisdictions participating in this regional planning effort have building codes in place

The adoption and enforcement of building codes by local jurisdictions is routinely assessed through the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) program, developed by the Insurance

Services Office, Inc. (ISO). In North Carolina, the North Carolina Department of Insurance assesses the building codes in effect in a particular community and how the community enforces its building codes, with special emphasis on mitigation of losses from natural hazards. The results of BCEGS assessments are routinely provided to ISO's member private insurance companies, which in turn may offer ratings credits for new buildings constructed in communities with strong BCEGS classifications. The concept is that communities with well-enforced, up-to-date codes should experience fewer disaster-related losses, and as a result should have lower insurance rates.

In conducting the assessment, ISO collects information related to personnel qualification and continuing education, as well as number of inspections performed per day. This type of information combined with local building codes is used to determine a grade for that jurisdiction. The grades range from 1 to 10, with a BCEGS grade of 1 representing exemplary commitment to building code enforcement, and a grade of 10 indicating less than minimum recognized protection.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Flooding represents the greatest natural hazard facing the Nation. At the same time, the tools available to reduce the impacts associated with flooding are among the most developed when compared to other hazard-specific mitigation techniques. In addition to approaches that cut across hazards, such as education, outreach and the training of local officials, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) contains specific regulatory measures that enable government officials to determine where and how growth occurs relative to flood hazards. Participation in the NFIP is voluntary for local governments, but the program is promoted by FEMA as a first basic step for implementing and sustaining an effective hazard mitigation program. It is therefore used as a key indicator for measuring local capability as part of this assessment.

In order for a county or municipality to join the NFIP, they must adopt a local flood damage prevention ordinance that requires jurisdictions to follow established minimum building standards in the floodplain. These standards require that all new buildings and substantial improvements to existing buildings will be protected from damage by the 100-year flood, and that new floodplain development will not aggregate existing flood problems or increase damage to other properties.

Another key service provided by the NFIP is the mapping of identified flood hazard areas. Once prepared, the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are used to assess flood hazard risk, regulate construction practices and set flood insurance rates. FIRMs are an important source of information to educate residents, government officials and the private sector about the likelihood of flooding in their community. **Table 6.2** summarizes NFIP participation for the Counties and Towns with the Albemarle Region.

Table 6.2
NFIP Participation in the Albemarle Region

JURISDICTION	NFIP ENTRY DATE	CURRENTEFFECTIVEMAP	NUMBEROFPOLICIES	TOTAL PREMIUMS	AMOUNTOFCOVERAGE
Camden County	12/4/1985	7/20/2009	885	\$606,838	\$204,144,200
Chowan County	7/3/1985	8/3/2009	249	\$161,765	\$70,378,300
Edenton	9/15/1977	8/3/2009	213	\$164,066	\$55,321,700
Currity County	11/1/1984	9/20/2006	5344	\$4,739,526	\$1,496,187,800
Dare County	10/6/1978	9/20/2006	9700	\$6,421,868	\$2,374,187,200
Duck	11/6/2003	9/20/2006	566	\$543,630	\$178,901,800
Kill Devil Hills	5/4/1973	9/20/2006	4398	\$2,703,122	\$1,000,336,300
Kitty Hawk	10/6/1978	9/20/2006	1514	\$1,364,163	\$395,079,500
Manteo	1/5/1973	9/20/2006	708	\$480,423	\$168,348,100
Nags Head	11/10/1972	9/20/2006	3679	\$322,367	\$998,609,200
Southern Shores	5/13/1972	9/20/2006	1277	\$1,121,213	\$380,841,200
Gates County	7/16/1991	8/3/2009	68	\$54,096	\$14,140,800
Gatesville	5/13/1977	8/3/2009	2	\$3,788	\$1,050,000
Hertford County	11/1/1999	8/3/2009	61	\$34,675	\$12,291,600
Ahoskie	5/1/1987	8/3/2009	21	\$12,925	\$5,215,100
Colfield	8/3/2009	8/3/2009	-	-	-
Como	12/12/2007	8/3/2009	-	-	-
Harrellsville	NA	-	-	-	-
Murfreesboro	6/1/1987	8/3/2009	3	\$1,172	\$770,000
Winton	7/1/1987	8/3/2009	4	\$1,668	\$1,225,000
Pasquotank County	12/4/1985	7/20/2009	1295	\$752,638	\$296,817,300
Elizabeth City	4/3/1978	7/20/2009	1478	\$958,916	\$271,622,900
Perquimans County	7/3/1985	7/20/2009	706	\$354,188	\$171,746,900
Hertford	7/3/1985	7/20/2009	53	\$47,055	\$14,428,700
Winfall	11/5/1992	7/20/2009	12	\$8,911	\$2,935,400

Source(s): Federal Emergency Management Agency/North Carolina Division of Emergency Management

All jurisdictions listed above, with the exception of Harrellsville, participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and will continue to comply with all required provisions of the program and work to adequately comply in the future utilizing a number of strategies. Floodplain management in all eight counties and 17 municipalities is managed through zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building code restrictions, as well as their respective flood damage prevention ordinances. The jurisdictions will coordinate with NCEM and FEMA to develop maps and regulations related to Special Flood Hazard Areas within their jurisdictional boundaries. They will also continue to improve their floodplain management program in ways that reduces the risk of flooding to people and property.

An additional indicator of floodplain management capability is the active participation of local jurisdictions in the Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is an incentive-based program that encourages counties and municipalities to undertake defined flood mitigation activities that go beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP, adding extra local measures to provide protection from flooding. All of the 18 creditable CRS mitigation activities are assigned a range of point values. As points are accumulated and reach identified thresholds, communities can apply for an improved CRS class. Class ratings, which run from 10 to 1, are tied to flood insurance premium reductions as shown in **Table 6.3**. As class ratings improve (decrease), the percent reduction in flood insurance premiums for NFIP policyholders in that community increases.

Table 6.3
CRS Premium Discounts, By Class

Class	Special Flood Hazard Area	Non-Special Flood Hazard Area
1	45%	10%
2	40%	10%
3	35%	10%
4	30%	10%
5	25%	10%
6	20%	10%
7	15%	5%
8	10%	5%
9	5%	5%
10	0	0

Source(s): Federal Emergency Management Agency

Participation in the CRS is voluntary. Any community that is in full compliance with the rules and regulations of the NFIP may apply for a CRS classification better than class 10. The CRS application process has been simplified over the past several years based on community comments to make the program as user friendly as possible, and extensive technical assistance is also available for communities who request such assistance.

- Currituck County (Class 8), Dare County (Class 8), Duck (Class 7), Kill Devil Hills (Class 6), Kitty Hawk (Class 6), Manteo (Class 8), Nags Head (Class 6) and Southern Shores (Class 7) are the only jurisdictions that currently participate in the CRS Program.

Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

A Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance establishes minimum building standards in the floodplain. These standards require that all new buildings and substantial improvements to existing buildings will be protected from damage by the 100-year flood, and that new floodplain development will not aggregate existing flood problems or increase damage to other properties.

- Twenty-four of the 25 participating jurisdictions adopted a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Floodplain Management Plan

A Floodplain Management Plan (or a Flood Mitigation Plan) provides a framework for action regarding the corrective and preventative measures in place to reduce flood-related impacts.

- Fifteen of the 25 participating jurisdictions have a Floodplain Management plan either in place or under development

Open Space Management Plan

An Open Space Management Plan is designed to preserve, protect and restore largely undeveloped lands in their natural state, and to expand or connect areas in the public domain such as parks, greenways and other outdoor recreation areas. In many instances open space management practices are consistent with the goals of reducing hazard losses, such as the preservation of wetlands or other flood-prone areas in their natural state in perpetuity.

- Ten of the 25 participating jurisdictions have an open space management plan either in place or under development

Stormwater Management Plan

A Stormwater Management Plan is designed to address flooding associated with stormwater runoff. The stormwater management plan is typically focused on design and construction measures that are intended to reduce the impact of more frequently occurring minor urban flooding.

- Twelve of the 25 participating jurisdictions have a Stormwater Management plan either in place or under development

ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

The ability of a local government to develop and implement mitigation projects, policies and programs is directly tied to its ability to direct staff time and resources for that purpose. Administrative capability can be evaluated by determining how mitigation-related activities are assigned to local departments and how adequate the personnel resources are for carrying the activities out. The degree of intergovernmental coordination among departments will also affect administrative capability for the implementation and success of proposed mitigation activities. Technical capability can generally be evaluated by assessing the level of knowledge and technical expertise of local government employees, such as personnel skilled in using geographic information systems (GIS) to analyze and assess community hazard vulnerability.

The Capability Assessment Survey was used to capture information on administrative and technical capability through the identification of available staff and personnel resources. **Table 6.4** provides a summary of the results for the plan participants. A checkmark indicates that the given local staff member(s) is maintained through each jurisdiction's local government resources. Additional information on administrative and technical capability for the counties and towns in the Albemarle Region is provided in the completed surveys which may be obtained through each respective jurisdiction.

Table 6.4

Jurisdiction	Planning Staff - Land Development	Engineering/Inspection Staff	Planning Staff - Hazard Mitigation	Emergency Manager	Floodplain Manager	Land Surveyors	Scientists - Hazard Mitigation	Staff Experience to assess vulnerabilities	GIS Staff	Grant Writers
Camden County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chowan County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Edenton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Currituck County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dare County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Duck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kill Devil Hills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kitty Hawk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Manteo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nags Head	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southern Shores	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gates County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Gatesville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Hertford County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ahoskie					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Colfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Como										
Harrellsville										
Murfreesboro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Winton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pasquotank County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Perquimans County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hertford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Winfall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

FISCAL CAPABILITY

The ability of a local government to take action is often closely associated with the amount of money available to implement policies and projects. This may take the form of outside grant funding awards or locally-based revenue and financing. The costs associated with mitigation policy and project implementation vary widely. In some cases, policies are tied primarily to staff time or administrative

costs associated with the creation and monitoring of a given program. In other cases, direct expenses are linked to an actual project such as the acquisition of flood-prone homes, which can require a substantial commitment from local, state and federal funding sources.

The Capability Assessment Survey was used to capture information on each jurisdiction’s fiscal capability through the identification of locally available financial resources. **Table 6.5** provides a summary of the results for the plan participants. A checkmark (✓) indicates that the given fiscal resource is locally available for hazard mitigation purposes (including matching funds for state and federal mitigation grants).

Table 6.5

Jurisdiction	Capital Improvement Programming	Community Development Block Grants	Special Purpose Taxes	Gas/Electric Utility Fees	Water/Sewer Fees	Stormwater Utility Fees	Development Impact Fees	General Obligation, Revue and/or Special Tax Bonds	Interlocal Agreements
Camden County	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chowan County					✓				✓
Edenton	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
Currituck County	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Dare County	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
Duck	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
Kill Devil Hills	✓				✓				✓
Kitty Hawk	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
Manteo	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Nags Head	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern Shores	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
Gates County	✓	✓							
Gatesville	✓	✓							
Hertford County		✓	✓		✓				
Ahoskie	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Colfield		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Como		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Harrellsville		✓			✓				✓
Murfreesboro		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Winton		✓	✓		✓				
Pasquotank County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Elizabeth City	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Perquimans County	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Hertford	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Winfall	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

POLITICAL CAPABILITY

One of the most difficult capabilities to evaluate involves the political will of a jurisdiction to enact meaningful policies and projects designed to reduce the impact of future hazard events. Hazard mitigation may not be a local priority, or may conflict with or be seen as an impediment to other goals of the community, such as growth and economic development. Therefore the local political climate must be considered in designing mitigation strategies, as it could be the most difficult hurdle to overcome in accomplishing their adoption and implementation.

The Local Capability Assessment Survey was used to capture information on political capability of the Albemarle Region. Survey respondents were asked to identify some general examples of local political capability, such as guiding development away from identified hazard areas, restricting public investments or capital improvements within hazard areas, or enforcing local development standards that go beyond minimum state or federal requirements (e.g., building codes, floodplain management, etc.). The comments provided by the participating jurisdictions are listed below:

- Currituck County has many plans, policies, and ordinances that support hazard resiliency and mitigation. Currituck County has an active floodplain management program and is a participant in the NFIP. Currituck County also participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) that encourages and rewards participation in the NFIP through the use of higher regulatory standards. Recently, the County has obtained Hazard Mitigation Grant funding to elevate several repetitive loss houses. The County has also obtained CDBG grant funding. The older homes being replaced by the grant are being reconstructed in a way that meet all current code regulations making them more hazard resilient. The County is also designing their buildings and facilities in a way to make them as hazard resilient as possible. Currituck County is committed to actions, policies, and programs that will reduce hazard vulnerabilities in the community and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Elected officials and senior management are always willing to do whatever is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens. Example: Lake James Environmental Standards (buffers, erosion, and setbacks) all exceed state and federal requirements.
- Dare County participates in the CRS program in addition to our participation in the NFIP which provides insurance premium discounts to all property owners located in the floodplain. A 1-foot freeboard requirement was included in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to further protect citizens from flooding. The County also participates in the CAMA program which regulates development along the ocean and estuarine shorelines. Dare County also actively pursues available FEMA grants to elevate flood damaged structures and is currently administering a grant to elevate 44 homes.
- The Town of Duck Town Council and Town Management have championed policies and ordinances that reduce community vulnerability. The Town has adopted many higher regulatory standards in local ordinances to protect development and reduce property damage. Some examples include additional setback restrictions for oceanfront structures, freeboard requirements for structures in the floodplain, fill limitations and stormwater management, and a restriction on the size of dwellings. The Town has also been very proactive in addressing stormwater issues on NC 12 which have historically created problems with storm evacuations.

- The Town of Kill Devil Hills is an active participant in the Community Rating System which provides insurance premium discounts to all property owners located in the floodplain. The Town also participates in the CAMA program which regulates development along the ocean and estuarine shorelines. A Certified Floodplain Manager and Licensed Architect are on staff with the Town. The town also implemented a freeboard requirement in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to further protect citizens from flooding.
- In response to repetitive flooding in certain locations, Kitty Hawk Town Council has funded several stormwater management studies, the most recent of which identified potential solutions to the flooding issues. As the potential stormwater management improvements cost a significant amount of money, but only benefit certain areas of the town, many property owners in the community do not support funding the recommended improvements. During the last two fiscal years, the Kitty Hawk Town Council members have budgeted funds to implement the first two phases of the stormwater management improvements and sought supplemental funds to install the remaining improvements in a quicker timeframe. The Town of Kitty Hawk has also adopted a flood damage protection ordinance with a one-foot freeboard requirement that exceeds the Minimum base flood elevation standards in AE and VE flood zones. Although this requirement places a greater expense on the property Owner and/or contractor at the time of construction, the Town recognizes the greater long-term good of preventing flood damage. The Town of Kitty Hawk has partnered with the State of North Carolina and Nature Conservancy on the acquisition and conservation of the Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve, which consists of 1,877 acres of unique maritime forest land. Although the Town has a very limited amount of remaining, developable land, Town leaders recognized the importance of preserving the coastal reserve properties as a natural amenity and mechanism to prevent over-development and provide a large area of natural stormwater management.
- The Town of Manteo's Board of Commissioners has a standing history of implement policies and funding projects that address hazards that may be experienced within their jurisdiction. The adoption of the "Stormwater Tax" has allowed for more than \$300,000.00 of stormwater improvements with additional projects in the works. The adoption and enforcement of the Stormwater Ordinance also help mitigate flood threats to new and existing structures. The Town's continued participation in the CRS program allows residents to collect a 10% break on flood policies as well.
- The Town of Nags head implemented a Stormwater Ordinance that requires both commercial and residential development to retain runoff onsite. The town also implemented a freeboard requirement in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to further protect citizens from flooding. Nags head has also adopted a regulation in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that limits the amount of storage space below Base Flood Elevation to 300 square feet.
- The Town of Southern Shores has a 2-foot freeboard requirement included in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to further protect citizens from flooding.

- The Hertford County Board of Commissioners, with technical assistance from staff, have approved and are enforcing land use policies and procedures aligned with CAMA regulations. The County has an active Planning and Zoning Department that enforces countywide zoning, subdivision regulations and a floodplain management program.
- Pasquotank County/Elizabeth city provided a link to their current land use plan which is located at <http://www.co.pasquotank.nc.us/landuse.htm>
- The Edenton Town Council has the political capabilities to enact policies and programs that reduce hazard vulnerabilities in our community. For example, the Town’s Land Use Plan and UDO continue policy statements and regulations that require certain percentage of open space be set aside as part of new residential subdivisions. The Town’s requirements for landscaping, planting of trees in new parking lots and shading requirements go beyond minimum requirements.

6.4 Community Self-Assessment

In addition to the inventory and analysis of specific local capabilities, the Local Capability Assessment Survey asked counties and local jurisdictions within the Albemarle Region to conduct a self-assessment of their perceived capability to implement hazard mitigation activities. As part of this process, local officials were encouraged to consider the barriers to implementing proposed mitigation strategies in addition to the mechanisms that could enhance or further such strategies. In response to the survey questionnaire, county officials classified each of the aforementioned capabilities as either “limited,” “moderate,” or “high.”

Table 6.6 summarizes the results of the self-assessment for the Albemarle Region.

**Table 6.6
Community Self-Assessment**

Jurisdiction	Planning/Regulatory	Administrative/Technical	Fiscal	Political	Overall
Camden County	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Chowan County	Moderate	High	High	High	High
Edenton	High	High	Moderate	High	High
Currituck County	High	High	High	Moderate	High
Dare County	High	High	High	High	High
Duck	High	High	Moderate	High	High
Kill Devil Hills	High	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Kitty Hawk	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Manteo	High	High	High	High	High
Nags Head	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Souther Shores	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Gates County	Moderate	Moderate	Limited	Moderate	Moderate
Gatesville	Moderate	Moderate	Limited	Moderate	Moderate
Hertford County	High	High	Moderate	High	High
Ahoskie	Moderate	Moderate	Limited	High	Moderate
Colfield	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Como	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited
Harrellsville	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited
Murfreesboro	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Winton	High	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
Pasquotank County	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Elizabeth City	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Perquimans County	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Hertford	Moderate	High	Moderate	High	High
Winfall	Moderate	High	Moderate	High	High

As previously discussed, one of the reasons for conducting a *Capability Assessment* is to examine local capabilities to detect any existing gaps or weaknesses within ongoing government activities that could hinder proposed mitigation activities and possibly exacerbate community hazard vulnerability. These gaps or weaknesses have been identified, for each jurisdiction, in the tables found throughout this section. The participating jurisdictions used the *Capability Assessment* as part of the basis for the mitigation actions that are identified in Section 7; therefore, each jurisdiction addresses their ability to expand on and improve their existing capabilities through the identification of their mitigation actions.