

MINUTES
Morris County - Flood Mitigation Committee (FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
April 21, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by FMC Chair Louise Davis.

Members present:

Julie Baron	Gary Large
Paula Danchuk	Thomas Pepe
Louise Davis	Laura Szwak
Ted Eppel	

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Morris County Department of Planning & Public Works
Christine Marion, Director, Planning & Preservation Division
Jennifer McCulloch, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Planning & Preservation Division
John Napolitano, Esq., Special Counsel to Flood Mitigation Program

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Chair Davis announced that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Ted Eppel, which was seconded by Tom Pepe, the Committee approved said Minutes.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:11 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Tom Pepe, the FMC closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, and per the Committee's standard resolution language voted to conduct a closed session wherein the subject of real property acquisition shall be discussed.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 6:26 p.m., on a motion by Paula Danchuk, seconded by Ted Eppel, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

The following actions were taken, as a result of Closed Session deliberations:

- **Resolution 2014-01 - Flood Mitigation Committee re-organization** - the results of the January re-organization meeting was memorialized and unanimously approved via roll call

vote at 6:46 p.m. on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Ted Eppel.

- **Resolution 2014-02: Riverdale-Harrison Road Project Area – 3 Harrison Road** – CORE acquisition funding in the amount of \$131,250.01 to cover Morris County’s 75% cost-share and a recommendation that the corresponding Grant Agreement with Riverdale be executed. At 6:47 p.m., on a motion by Ted Eppel, seconded by Tom Pepe, the committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.
- **Resolution 2014-03 – Lincoln Park – additions to Central Project Area Target List** – at the request of Lincoln Park, 8 properties on Forest Avenue were reviewed and found to be eligible for inclusion on Lincoln Park’s Flood Acquisition Plan target list in the Central Project Area.
- **Resolution 2014-04 – Long Hill – addition to Stirling Project Area Target List** – at the request of Long Hill, 1297 Valley Road was reviewed and found to be eligible for inclusion on Long Hill’s Flood Acquisition Plan target list in the Stirling Project Area.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- **BCR Analysis provided for PTSR** [doc. A] – Ms. McCulloch provided the FMC with the BCR Analysis for all closed and pending projects in the program that was developed for the economic analysis portion of the Preservation Trust Strategic Report (PTSR). The program’s BCR average overall is 4.67. This means for the \$27.4 million invested by Morris County, FEMA and NJDEP, the benefit is estimated to be \$128 million. If a BCR Analysis was calculated which only considered Morris County’s investment (\$16.4 million) would yield a higher overall BCR.
- **Biggert-Waters to Grimm-Waters** [doc. B] – Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA), also known as the Grimm-Waters Act of 2014. This law makes some changes to 2012’s Biggert-Waters Act. The main revisions: caps insurance rate increases for subsidized policies to 18% (formerly 25%), reinstates the new homeowner insurance rate subsidy when purchasing a flood-prone home (rates will rise as they do for current homeowners), creates an annual surcharge of \$25 for primary homes, and \$250 for all others, caps annual rate increase due to new BFEs to 15% (formerly 20%). All else remains the same.
- **Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) – Uniform Minimum Credits** – Ms. McCulloch passed the CFM exam and is now a certified floodplain manager. She will be looking into “uniform minimum credits” within the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program, which determines flood insurance rates for municipalities, in the hopes of finding discounts as a result of her certification and any mitigation actions taken as a result.
- **NJ-DEP Sandy HUD-DR funding update** – NJ-DEP is looking to spend Hurricane Sandy HUD-Disaster Relief (DR) funds which are currently un-expended. They are sending ‘advance teams’ into some of our municipalities, i.e. Lincoln Park, to identify potential acquisitions wherein they would be the lead funder. Our municipalities may be approaching us in the future to provide match funding on these projects. Ms. McCulloch is working with both the municipalities and NJ-DEP on these target lists.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Passaic-River Main Stem Flood Risk Management Briefing** [doc. C] – Ms. McCulloch attended the March 6th Army Corps of Engineers/NJ-DEP Briefing regarding mitigation measures being considered for the Passaic River Basin (PRB).

Morris County's Flood Mitigation Program was given credit during the introduction for our partnership with federal and state agencies; other counties were encouraged to follow suit. Statistic provided: reservoirs are currently at 92-93% capacity; "100 year floods" (1% chance/year) are now considered "60-year floods" (17% chance/year); since Jan 2011, there have been 6 nationally-declared flood disasters and several "100-yr floods" in the PRB.

The six (6) mitigation measures originally considered have been narrowed down to three measures: 1) Levee, Floodwalls, Dams and Non-Structural measures; 2) Duel Inlet/Newark Outlet Tunnel; 3) Non-Structural measures only: Flood Acquisition, Elevation, Flood-proofing, etc. From a timeline perspective, the best case scenario would have construction/acquisition taking place in December 2021.

- **Bill S-1649** – Ms. McCulloch informed the FMC that dam restoration funding is being considered statewide, including the Boonton and Split Rock dams. A copy of this legislation was made available for review.
- **Passaic and Somerset County – potential flood mitigation programs** – both counties have contacted Ms. McCulloch for Morris County's feasibility study, as well as current program information, so they may thoroughly consider the launch of their own county-level flood mitigation program.
- **NY state incentives offered to flood buyout homeowners** – Ms. McCulloch discussed incentives being provided in New York to flood buyout homeowners; they are offered a bonus of 5-15% if they agree to relocate within the same county. The FMC advised that an incentive of this type would most appropriately be offered by the Municipalities.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Laura Szwak, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19th at 6:15 pm in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Offices of Planning & Public Works, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer N. McCulloch