**Larimer County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update**

### Mitigation Strategy Meeting Summary

July 14, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

#### Introductions

Scott Field, Project Manager, Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions (Wood), kicked off the webinar and thanked everyone for their participation. Scott introduced the Wood team and led a roll call of attendees to introduce themselves. In total 45 individuals participated in the webinar representing Larimer County and participating jurisdictions including municipalities and special districts as well as stakeholders and partner organizations.

#### Review of the Planning Process

The FEMA planning process steps were recapped; Wood is currently wrapping up the Risk Assessment process and beginning the mitigation strategy portion. This webinar addressed mitigation strategizing and goal review/development aspects.

The roles of the participating jurisdictions in the HMPC vs. Stakeholders were reviewed, as differentiated under FEMA’s eyes. Only the participating jurisdictions, will be specifically addressed in the plan and will be required to meet certain criteria such as attending planning meetings, identifying mitigation actions, and tracking other aspects in order to qualify for funding in the future. While other entities (i.e. everyone else) were key stakeholders that would provide useful input and feedback as well as review the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) drafts.

The progress on the plan update process to date was reviewed. Highlights include:

* Kickoff meeting held April 10th
* Risk Assessment meeting held May 15th
* First public meeting held May 28th
* HIRA Updated
* Online Public Survey closed July 14th

#### Public Survey Results

Two versions of the Public Survey, an English and Spanish version were open to public from June 1 to July 14th. Links to both surveys were posted on the County website. In total 138 responses were received from the English version. The top five hazards of concern based on this public survey were:

* Wildfire,
* Spring/Summer Storm (includes thunderstorm, hail, lightning, sever wind, and heavy rain)
* Winter Storm
* Flood
* Biological Hazards/Contagion

Handouts showing the entire survey results were emailed to the meeting attendees. The HMPC and stakeholders were encouraged to review the survey results and take them into account when developing mitigation goals, objectives, and actions.

#### 2020 Hazard Summary

The Hazard Summary table was briefly reviewed. The group discussed whether the frequency rating for Biological Hazards/Contagion should be kept as Highly Likely, or reduced to Likely. Highly Likely would reflect the regular occurrence of annual health hazards, whereas Likely would only reflect more serious outbreaks like epidemics & pandemics. The consensus was to keep it as Highly Likely, since public health events have been common in the county in recent years and that while an event may not exceed response of the county it may exceed the resources at county Public Health.

The HMPC noted that Drought was not included in the hazard summary table. In the 2016 plan the hazard was discussed but not fully profiled as a hazard. Considering the impacts drought has on the county, its ability to influence other hazard, in addition to increased impacts due to climate change the HMPC determined that Drought should be fully profiled in the updated HIRA.

#### Mitigation Goals and Objectives

The goals from the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan were revisited and results from the Webinar #2 Post Meeting Summary was discussed. Key differences between “goals,” “objectives” and “actions” were defined: goals and objectives are usually more general and broad guidelines while actions are specific and project-driven. Projects submitted for grant funding will need to tie back to goals and objectives in the HMP. The revised 2020 Larimer County Hazard Mitigation Plan goals and objectives are as follows. Approved revisions are underlined.

**Goals:**

* Goal 1: Protect people, property, and natural resources
* Goal 2: Increase level of community resilience county-wide and improve capability to reduce disaster losses
* Goal 3: Strengthen communication and coordination among public agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and citizens
* Goal 4: Increase public awareness of natural and human-caused hazards and mitigation options
* Goal 5: Integrate hazard mitigation into other planning mechanisms.

**Objectives:**

* Continue to develop and expand public awareness and information programs
* Enhance training for hazard prevention and mitigation options
* Incorporate risk reduction principles into policy documents and initiatives, as well as other institutional plans
* Continue to collaborate with area partners through mutual aid agreements and long-term planning efforts
* Reduce the vulnerability of local assets and members of the community to the impacts of hazards.

#### Mitigation Actions

One way to think of mitigation actions is the four A’s:

* Altering a hazard,
* Averting a hazard,
* Avoiding a hazard,
* Adapting to a hazard

FEMA suggests these four categories for mitigation actions:

* Plans and Regulations,
* Structure and Infrastructure Projects,
* Education and Awareness, and
* Natural Systems Protection.

Resources for more details on mitigation action types, categories, and example projects were provided, including a short discussion on climate change and adaptation considerations. Example hazard-specific mitigation projects were discussed including FEMA funding-eligible projects for winter weather, flood, and other hazards.

The new FEMA High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) grant was discussed. A community needs to have existing dam related goals or objectives in order to qualify for grant funds. The existing goals and objectives meet this requirement. The State of Colorado was awarded two grant projects from this grant last year. This dam grant, however, cannot be applied towards federal dams or hydroelectric dams.

#### Review of Progress on Existing Mitigation Actions

Prior to the webinar, a Mitigation Action Tracker was sent to the HMPC listing each jurisdictions’ 2016 mitigation actions. Each HMPC representative was asked to provide status to provide comments on the status of each action. The Tracker was emailed again following the webinar to fill in some of the missing statuses. The mitigation action statuses are categorized as one of the following: Completed, Annual Implementation, In Progress, Not Started and Deleted.

Some examples of “Deleted” actions may be due to lack of project applicability over time, or even inability to complete a project in an area where the community does not have control/jurisdiction (e.g. state owned vs. federal land).

Annual Implementation are actions that a jurisdiction is conducting on an ongoing basis, but which the jurisdiction wants to continue forward into the updated plan to maintain visibility on the action.

#### Developing New Mitigation Actions

Each participating jurisdiction is required to develop at least one new action for the 2020 plan update. Ideally, jurisdictions should develop actions that address all the hazards addressed in the plan, or at least the High significance hazards, but FEMA Region VIII does not require this. All jurisdictions that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will need to have a mitigation action addressing continued NFIP compliance.

The following are resources with ideas and examples of mitigation actions and implementation:

* FEMA’s Mitigation Idea: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/30627>
* Colorado Planning for Hazards Guide: <https://planningforhazards.com/home>

A link to the New Mitigation Action Survey was shared during the meeting and emailed after. Each HMPC member was asked to fill out the survey with at least one mitigation action by July 31st.

New Mitigation Actions Survey: <https://bit.ly/Larimer_HMP_New_Mitigation_Actions>

#### Next Steps

The next steps in the HMP update process were briefly discussed and the project milestones and prospective timeline for task completions were presented. The Wood team mentioned that the next HMPC meeting will include prioritizing new mitigation actions and reviewing the draft plan. The specific day and time would be set soon.

**Project Milestone Anticipated Timeline**

* Updated HIRA July 2020
* HMPC Meeting #4 – Plan Review August 2020
* HMPC Review Draft September 2020
* Public Review Draft September – October 2020
* CO DHSEM Review October 2020
* FEMA Review (estimated) October – December 2020
* Final Approved HMP for local adoption January 2021

#### Questions and Answers/Adjourn

The webinar adjourned around 3pm.

Points of Contact for this HMP update effort:

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