

Chapter 1: Region VII Hazard Mitigation Plan Work Plan

Counties:

Barbour, Commission President Tim McDaniel
Braxton, Commission President David Jack
Gilmer, Commission President David Hess
Lewis, Commission President Agnes Queen

Randolph, Commission President Mike Taylor
Tucker, Commission President Tom Carr
Upshur, Commission President Donnie Tenney

Municipalities:

Barbour

City of Belington, Mayor Jodie Haller
City of Philippi, Mayor David Mulneix
Town of Junior, Mayor Rickey Vest

Braxton

Town of Burnsville, Mayor Paul Bragg
Town of Flatwoods, Carolyn Sue Marple
Town of Gassaway, Mayor Richard Roach
Town of Sutton, Mayor J.L. Campbell

Gilmer

City of Glenville, Mayor Tashua Allman
Town of Sand Fork, Mayor Franklin Tomblin

Lewis

City of Weston, Mayor Julia Spielberg
Town of Jane Lew, Mayor Sam West

Randolph

City of Elkins, Mayor Duke Talbot
Town of Beverly, Mayor David Harper
Town of Coalton, Mayor Jim Rossi
Town of Harman, Mayor Jerry Teter
Town of Huttonsville, Mayor Rodney McAtee
Town of Mill Creek, Mayor Bill Brock
Town of Montrose, Mayor John Bartlett

Tucker

City of Parsons, Mayor Dorothy L. Judy
City of Thomas, Mayor Matt Quattro
Town of Davis, Mayor Joe Drenning
Town of Hambleton, Mayor Linda Bates
Town of Hendricks, Mayor James J. Carr

Upshur

Buckhannon, Mayor Kenneth Davidson

Assisting Agency:

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Regional Mitigation Plan Development:

West Virginia hazard mitigation planning is being reorganized from individual county plans into regional plans. The State Hazard Mitigation Planners approached Regional Planning & Development Councils to facilitate and update hazard mitigation plans that corresponded to their service geography. A Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (RHMP) that meets FEMA specifications and guidelines and those of West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM) has been created by compiling recently updated county plans and incorporating any emerging information from scheduled meetings or written comments.

Region VII Planning & Development Council (RVII) members, Region VII PDC staff, County Flood Managers and interested citizens will

Plan of Action and Timeline:

All Counties in RVII have had their updated individual hazard mitigation plans approved by WVDHSEM and FEMA in the past three years. These plans will be compiled and incorporated into the RHMP. A draft will be prepared from the approved county plans then distributed to team members for comments. Additional Comments will be solicited from the planning team and from the

Points of Contact:

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Bob Jacobus, Community Development Specialist
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compile the general planning team. County Commissioners and Municipality Mayors are included in the RVII membership; these members may appoint proxies to the Hazard Mitigation planning team. A special facilitation team from the group previously listed may form on an “as needed basis” if warranted during the planning process.

The US EDA has funded a Hazard Planning project from an economic development perspective for disaster declared counties of June 2008 in Region VII. Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis and Tucker are being studied under the EDA program; final results will be available at www.regionvii.com. 15 public meetings were conducted during the winter of 2010-2011 (See Chapter 1 page 4).

general public by means such as planning meetings, letters, web presence and public meetings.

Region VII will prepare a draft by April 30, 2011 and revise if necessary, at WVDHSEM direction, to the Final Report.

Budget:

Project costs to Region VII have exceeded the minimum reimbursements offered by West Virginia for Region VII's Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Region VII will provide an acceptable RHMP plan according to specifications and based on recent county updates

furnished by the planning team and public comments for the amount specified and offered by the WVDHSEM.

\$14,000

Funding:

According to Roger Jefferson, West Virginia State Mitigation Planner, there are no other available funds to assist with the regionalization of the Region VII Hazard Mitigation Plan at this time.

Special Considerations:

The Counties of Region VII Planning & Development Council are diverse in their geography and hazard mitigation needs. The elevation ranges from 700 feet above sea level to 4,000 feet above sea level. The highest annual precipitation of the State occurs in the eastern counties of this Region and the most severe flooding occurs in the most western county. There is abundant snow at 3,000 feet and even more rain at 1,000 feet elevation.

Only a generalized Hazard Mitigation Plan will work on the Regional level because RVII hazards and their frequency are atypical for each county. The Region VII Hazard Mitigation Plan will address common issues, exhibit common trends, serve as a guide to mitigation programs and provide record of important hazard mitigation projects in development. It is not the intent for the regional plan to supplant the important planning and benefits derived thereof from the planning at the county and municipal level. The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is symbiotic to those local efforts and provides an

umbrella of regional planning that better serves the needs of State and Federal Hazard Mitigation Planners.

All counties in Region VII updated their respective HMPs since 2008. Their public meetings and involvement elements are recognized in this creation of a Regional HMP as having great value and providing a firm planning foundation. With the additional hazard mitigation public meetings conducted as part of the EDA Economic Adjustment project (the regional HMP was discussed at these meetings), Region VII PDC Quarterly meetings and various county & municipality meetings the public and elected officials have had ample opportunity to provide planning input. Further input is accepted and considered for implementation or future updates on a continuing basis.

Exert from EDA Economic Adjustment Hazard Mitigation Strategies

Major flooding in June, 2008 damaged property and caused severe economic disruption in the Region VII area. Barbour, Braxton, Lewis, Gilmer, and Tucker counties suffered particularly severe damages which resulted in a Presidential Emergency Declaration; making them eligible for federal disaster recovery assistance.

In addition to the federal assistance provided to these counties, the Economic Development Agency (EDA), a branch of the US Department of Commerce, provided a grant to the Region VII Planning and Development Council (P&DC) to conduct a study of the impacts that disasters have on the economic infrastructure of the region.

The scope of this study focused on a wide range of disasters, including those resulting from acts of nature as well as those caused by humans. Study objectives included:

Figure II.1:
Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis & Tucker Counties (Project Area)

