

HAZARD PREVENTION SUB-COMMITTEE

February 20, 2003

Ms. Merlitti called the meeting for the Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee to order at 1:38 p.m.

Ms. Merlitti stated a vote would be taken on the filter criteria at the end of today's meeting. She requested the sub-committee review the action plan, which was distributed prior to the start of the meeting, in order to consider what filter criteria is most important for this particular region.

MINUTES

It should be noted that the January 16, 2003 minutes were not voted on.

INTRODUCE ACTION PLAN

Ms. Merlitti explained there are several questions, which should be answered and incorporated into the action plan. (For example, who is responsible for each project, why is this project pertinent, how would this plan and/or project be implemented?) These answers would illustrate what is being done in the area of hazard prevention.

Ms. Merlitti stated the main focus of the sub-committee should be on events that are currently happening as well as current proposals for various projects.

Ms. Merlitti requested the sub-committee to concentrate on the end result when reviewing and voting on the filter criteria. Please keep in mind that individuals who did not serve on this sub-committee would be using the filter criteria to evaluate potential future projects.

REVIEW COMMUNITY RESPONSES

Ms. Merlitti briefly reviewed a letter, which was sent to the communities within Summit County explaining the project evaluation form as well as providing them with the six categories of mitigation.

Ms. Merlitti reviewed and gave examples of the six categories of mitigation.

Ms. Merlitti asked for questions regarding the six categories of mitigation. None were voiced.

REVIEW FILTER CRITERIA

Ms. Merlitti reviewed the filter criteria and asked the sub-committee, which questions their discussion groups had a hard time answering.

Mr. Bollas suggested having group(s) name listed on the application as multi-agencies might be involved in the project.

Mr. Miller interjected when money becomes available, groups will materialize. Therefore, the term, “responsible group” should be listed on the application instead of group(s) name. He believes there should be guidelines in order to limit duplication of participating agencies.

Mr. White commented the filter criteria is supposed to “weed out” multiple and/or duplicate applications for proposed projects.

Mr. Hadley gave an example of several groups coming together, when it was discovered that HUD money was available, in order to applying for funding to build senior housing. If they received the money, they would progress with their project. However, if the money were not awarded to them, they would disband the group or organization completely.

Mr. Hadley inquired if there is a conservation group that wishes to apply for money, do they have to be 501C3 or could it be “Friends of Dave White”?

Ms. Merlitti replied she isn’t sure of how to answer that question. She isn’t sure that there is anything like that in the Summit County Grant process. In her opinion, she believes this would be filtered through a Federal or State Grant. If a group that no one has heard of submits a grant application, the group must provide their organizational chart, standard operating procedures and certification of organization. She asked the sub-committee if the statement, “Additional information may be required if requested by the Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee”.

Mr. White replied affirmatively.

Mr. Hadley agrees with Ms. Merlitti’s comment that funding might be available through a Federal or State Grant. This would make them ineligible to receive funding on the local level.

Mr. White explained once funding is turned over to a local government, it is no longer considered federal funds by the federal government. It is turned over to the control of a local agency.

Ms. Merlitti continued to review and ask for additions and/or changes to the Project Proposal Form.

Ms. DeChant inquired if Ms. Merlitti wanted to see the project cost per year or the total cost of the project regardless of the amount of time necessary to complete it.

Ms. Merlitti replied it would be up to the applicant how they wish the application to be broken down.

Mr. White commented some projects might require a study to determine the cause of the hazardous condition before a project application is completed. He used the Sand Run Road project (landslide) as an example. He commented the phrase; “ Project Cost” is a little confusing to the applicant and suggested changing it.

Ms. DeChant inquired if the phrase, “Project Cost Per Year”.

Mr. White stated this would be fine if the individual knew the actual or estimate cost of an ongoing project.

A discussion ensued regarding alternate wording of the phrase, “Project Cost”.

The large portion of the meeting was devoted to reviewing and altering the rest of the application.

Ms. Merlitti engaged the sub-committee in a discussion as to how many words should be used (50, 100 or 150) to describe how the proposed project could assist in hazard prevention.

Mr. Palagyi inquired what the purpose of ranking the disaster served, when it appears the decision to award money for projects is based on the whim of the Executive Committee to vote for the “hot” disaster of the year.

Ms. Merlitti replied the ranking is just another factor to judge the proposed project.

Ms. Merlitti requested the sub-committee break into three groups to review their proposed project and determine if the filter criteria could be answered with your group. This is the best way to gage if the filter criteria are going to be a good evaluation tool.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee has been scheduled for **March 12, 2003, at 1:30 p.m., at the Emergency Operations Center, Akron Municipal Building, Basement Level, 166 South High Street, Akron, Ohio.**

The Summit County Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee meeting on February 20, 2003 was attended by:

Tina Merlitti	Summit County Emergency Management Agency
Al Bollas	Summit County Townships’ Association
David White	Summit County Engineer’s Office
Bruce Miller	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Susan DeChant	Department of Economic and Community Development
Ardith Keck	League of Women Voters-Akron Area

John Palagyi	AMATS
David Ritter	Summit Co. Soil/Water Conservation District
Carmen Torio	Home Builders Association
Terry Tuttle	Summit County Health Department
Caroline Terakedis	Summit County Health Department
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Edrice Robinson-Wyatt	OSU Extension