

**HAZARD PREVENTION SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**May 21, 2003**

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Ms. Merlitti called the meeting for the Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee to order at 1:35 p.m.

Ms. Merlitti explained the last meeting was used to finalize the filter criteria.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Hadley made a motion to accept the March 12, 2003 minutes, as mailed; Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**VOTE ON FILTER CRITERIA**

Ms. DeChant and Ms. Petranic enter the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Ms. Merlitti explained the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled due to findings from the Accreditation process. She reviewed the Sima Merrick letter, with attachments, as well as the Risk Matrix tool.

Mr. Tuttle enters the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Ms. Merlitti stated it was discovered after speaking with a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representative, some disasters, i.e. nuclear attack, couldn't be mitigated.

Ms. Merlitti explained the Risk Matrix is used for hazard identification while the severity matrix utilizes frequency of the disaster occurring vs. damage when it does occur. Utilities and landslides were determined to be secondary disasters.

Ms. DeChant requested further explanation of the grading system for the disasters.

Ms. Merlitti explained disaster grading was based upon the worst-case scenario, frequency of occurrence and number of deaths and/or injuries.

Ms. Robinson-Wyatt inquired when ranking disasters, as a whole, do you use results to determine the credibility of the threat from a specific disaster.

Ms. Merlitti replied affirmatively.

Mr. Hadley asked if it was possible to label the hazards as primary or secondary.

Ms. Petranic replied affirmatively.

Ms. DeChant argued that planning for a future flood is possible. Therefore, it should have a higher ranking.

Ms. Merlitti and Ms. Petranic both commented this could not be justified based on the historical data.

Ms. DeChant inquired how could you prevent a disaster from occurring in the future if planning is based upon an historical event. She expressed deep concern with planning based on history.

Ms. Petranic replied there is no historical evidence of services being shut down for 1 week or longer due to flooding. An individual must review and look for severity of disaster as well as occurrence.

Ms. DeChant stated she was under the impression that pre-mitigation was the primary goal of this plan; prevention of disaster should be the key.

Projects are reviewed according to mitigating death and/or injury and property loss.

Mr. White interjected there was a lot of discussion at prior meetings in relation to what disasters could be mitigated.

Ms. Petranic stated value of mitigation is based on lowering the risk of occurrence.

Mr. Hadley stated projects should be based according to the occurrence of the disaster. He asked if it matters that the disaster, which wasn't considered, occurred and now an application has been submitted.

Ms. Petranic replied negatively as the Hazard Reduction and Prevention Plan is a living document, which is ever changing.

Ms. Merlitti asked for any questions or comments on the filter criteria before a vote is taken.

Ms. DeChant asked if it is possible to inform individuals of the grading system.

Ms. Merlitti replied it would be included in the plan with a detailed explanation.

Mr. Hadley stated he would assume changes would be made to forms and instructions.

Ms. Merlitti replied affirmatively.

Ms. Robinson-Wyatt made a motion to accept the filter criteria; Mr. Hadley seconded the motion.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the motion.

Ms. DeChant commented she is still struggling with flooding being a low risk hazard.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the grading of flooding in Summit County.

Ms. Colopy stated flooding, fortunately, isn't a crippling disaster in this community.

Ms. Merlitti remarked the classification of a disaster shouldn't deter individuals from applying for funding.

Ms. DeChant stated this plan should take into account future disaster trends.

Mr. Ritter asked if the flood rankings could be adjusted based upon the 100-year flood trend.

Ms. Merlitti replied that is not supported by the historical data and it would still be of minor severity.

Ms. Robinson-Wyatt expressed concerns with changing one and not all of the rankings of the disasters.

Ms. Merlitt asked for research results from storm water surveys being conducted by the Summit County Department of Development and the Summit County Engineer's Office that would support an increased flood risk. None were available.

A voice vote was taken on the aforementioned motion. The motion passed by voice vote. It should be noted that Ms. DeChant opposed the acceptance of the filter criteria.

### **VOTE ON PLAN**

Ms. Merlitti stated additions to the plan are to reflect the cost benefits information for projects. The University of Akron is providing this information.

Ms. Merlitti asked for questions, concerns regarding the context of the plan. She explained 4 projects have been submitted; 2 from the Summit County Engineer's Office and 2 from the Department of Economic Development. During the next meeting, the sub-committee would break up into groups to discuss the project applications. The end results would be presented to the Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee.

Mr. Ritter made a motion to accept the Hazard Reduction and Prevention Plan; Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote with Ms. DeChant abstaining from the voting process.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee has been scheduled for **June 5, 2003, at 11:00 a.m., at the Emergency Operations Center, Akron Municipal Building, Basement Level, 166 South High Street, Akron, Ohio.**

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Ritter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Summit County Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee meeting on May 21, 2003 was attended by:

Tina Merlitti	Summit County Emergency Management Agency
Michelle Colopy	Housing Network
Dave White	Summit County Engineer's Office
Dave Ritter	Summit County Soil and Water Conservation District
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Susan DeChant	Summit County Department of Economic Development
Edrice Robinson-Wyatt	OSU Extension