

All Hazard Mitigation Plan, Public Open House
July 30th, 2009
Zumbrota City Hall, 7 – 8:30pm

Attending:

Brian Biwer – Zumbrota
Diane Richter-Biwer – Zumbrota (Director of Office of Emergency Management)
Bill Budensiek – Minneola Township
Lonnie Sather – City of Pine Island
Jenny Cullen – Red Wing
Marvin Ehlers – Zumbrota Township
Chris Heineman – City of Kenyon
Lisa Hanni – Goodhue County Land Survey Director
Greta Bernatz – Goodhue County GIS/OEM Intern

7:00pm

Time for viewing posters

7:10pm

Welcome and introductions

Presentation on what the Plan is and the steps of the planning process (Greta)

Discussion of hazard concerns and possible mitigation strategies:

Hazard/Risk

Shades of Sherwood campground experiences repeated flood events. In the past floods have resulted in property damage and deaths. There are also evacuation issues, because roads between the campground and town tend to flood.

Mitigation:

Installing dams upstream to slow the flow of water

Communication with campers about warning siren – what to do

Hazard/Risk

Pine Island has a new bio science center, which may increase hazardous material waste

Hazard/Risk

Pine Island has flooding problems

Mitigation:

Dams upstream in ravines to slow water

Vegetative buffer strips

Implementation:

Farmers have access to some funding for these types of projects

Hazard/Risk

Meth labs are still a concern, especially in townships

Hazard/Risk

Solar storms can disrupt work that relies on cell phones, satellites, and some radio communication.

Mitigation:

Have backup communication systems for emergency situations

Hazard/Risk

Goodhue County has a high number of livestock and agriculture land compared to other counties, and an infectious disease outbreak or crop disaster would have high damage potential

Hazard/Risk

Some farmers store large amounts of hazardous chemicals and other flammable materials

Mitigation:

Better communication with local fire departments so they know where the materials are stored and what to expect when responding to an emergency

Hazard

Water contamination

Mitigation:

Pine Island has wellhead protection

Zumbrota capped addition to water tower

Hazard/Risk

In event of the highway 58 bridge in Zumbrota being out of service, emergency vehicles would have to be rerouted across neighboring bridges, which would delay response time. Zumbrota only has 3 volunteer firefighters on other side of river. The bridge will be out of service when it is replaced in 2010.

Kenyon has a similar issue with its bridge on highway 56. This bridge provides access to a large housing development on the north side of town. Currently there is only one access road and the bridge between Kenyon and the access road is at risk for flooding in a large flood event.

There is a bridge on highway 10 that floods.

Mitigation:

Zumbrota has place to store some emergency vehicles on other side of river during the planned bridge repair.

A second access road is being planned for the housing development in Kenyon, but it could take years to complete

(Pine Island has a station on each side of the river)

Risk

Motocross facility and sales barn in Zumbrota Township host large numbers of people

Risk

Parts of Zumbrota Township near Wabasha County do not hear warning sirens. Dennison is having problems with their siren

Mitigation:

Install more sirens; Replace Dennison siren

The county is looking into an internet based automatic phone dialer system to alert residents

Other:

- Some township halls do not have basements, and residents would have to go to nearest city during an evacuation situation. There could be better communication of where emergency shelters are located. Emergency shelters could be better stocked with cots and supplies. Occasionally Zumbrota has had to shelter people when highway 52 has been closed for winter weather events.

- Roads in county have been built up to reduce blowing and drifting snow problems.
- Kenyon and Dennison often listen to Rice County for weather warnings. The weather usually comes from the west. There could be better coordination between Rice County and Goodhue County dispatch for weather warning systems
- Building plans with marked location of hazardous materials help emergency personnel develop emergency response plans
- Cities should consider backup computer systems in case their building is affected by a hazard

8:10pm

Time to locate hazards, risks, and past damage events on map:

Kenyon

- There are communication lines on a bridge abutment to highway 56 that could be at risk in a flood event
- County 12 bridge has scour problems on downstream side. It is being studied for a solution
- There is a field on a slope along County 12 Blvd on east side of town. Water flows toward road and backs up causing basement flooding in neighboring housing development and flooding across County 12 Blvd. Possible mitigation would be a retention pond with berms between pond and housing development or a culvert under County 12 Blvd. The existing tie line under County 12 could be replaced with a larger one.
- Bridge and road access to housing development on north side of town described above
- Waste water treatment facility is in a valley, and banking is not practical at location. Overflow treatment pond has existing banking/berm

Pine Island

- No campgrounds or ponds
- Treatment plant never floods because it is up high enough
- Trees, silt, and brush has been cleared from river which has had a noticeable mitigation affect on flooding

Sherwood Campground (described above)

Sewer plant near north fork of Zumbro River east of Covered Bridge Park where flooding often occurs – is it in the flood plain?

Motocross facility in Zumbrota Township

Snow drifting across highway 16 east of Bellechester (Wabasha County)

Covered Bridge Park (Zumbrota) floods almost yearly. Will the new 58 bridge be large enough to release backup in parks, or is it pushing a larger problem downstream?

8:30pm

Open house ends