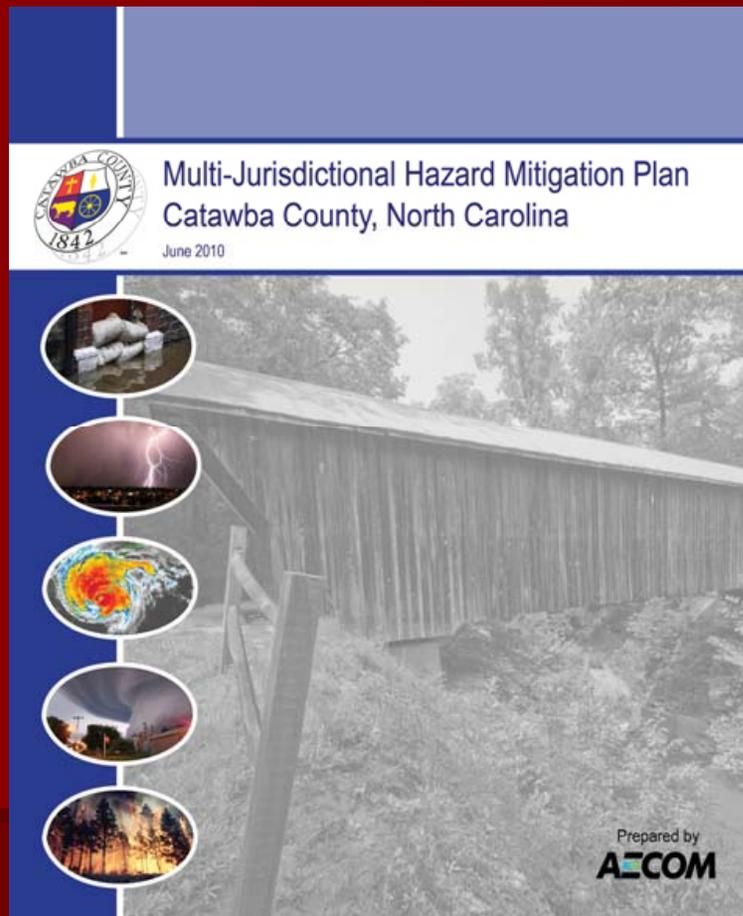


Catawba County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - 2010



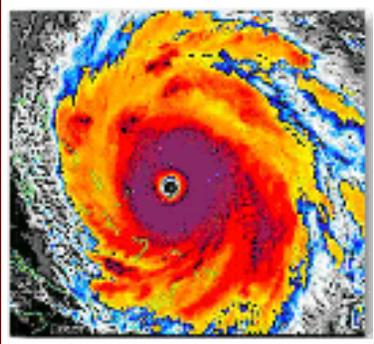
Catawba County
Board of
Commissioners

May 17, 2010



Natural Hazards in NC

Hurricanes



Landslides



Wildfires



Natural Hazards in NC

Severe Winter Weather

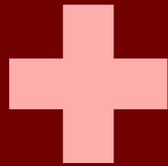


Tornadoes

Flooding



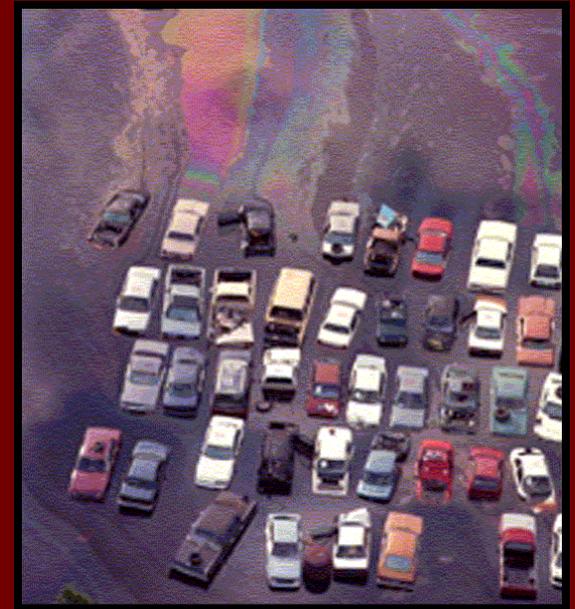
Disasters at the Intersection



Costs of Disasters



Social



Environmental



Economic

Costs of Disasters



Emergency Services

Infrastructure Repair



What Can Be Done? “Hazard Mitigation”



“mit-i-gate”

1: to cause to become less harsh or hostile.

2: to make less severe or painful.



Hazard Mitigation

Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.

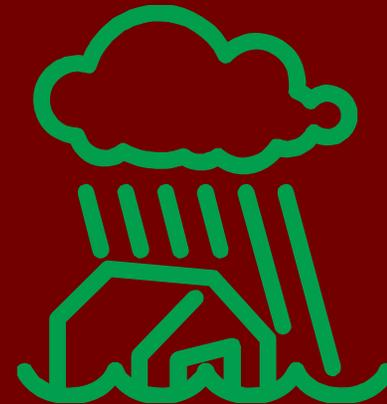
Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and NC Senate Bill 300



- Revitalized federal planning requirements
 - Requires local communities to develop hazard mitigation plans to remain eligible for pre-disaster and post-disaster funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
 - Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)
 - Local mitigation plans were to be approved by FEMA by November 1, 2004 for communities to remain eligible for post-disaster assistance
 - Catawba County adopted initial mitigation plan in 2004 with FEMA approval in April 2005
 - Legislation requires plan to be updated every 5 years

Why Update the Plan??

- Changes in vulnerability
 - Additional development
 - Implementation of mitigation efforts
 - Disaster event
- Changes in capability
 - Legal
 - Fiscal
 - Political
- New information
 - Updated flood maps
- Correct flaws



Other Reasons to Prepare a Plan

- Reduce risk to property and person
- Resiliency and sustainability of community
- Reduce burden on local government



Property Protection



Prevention



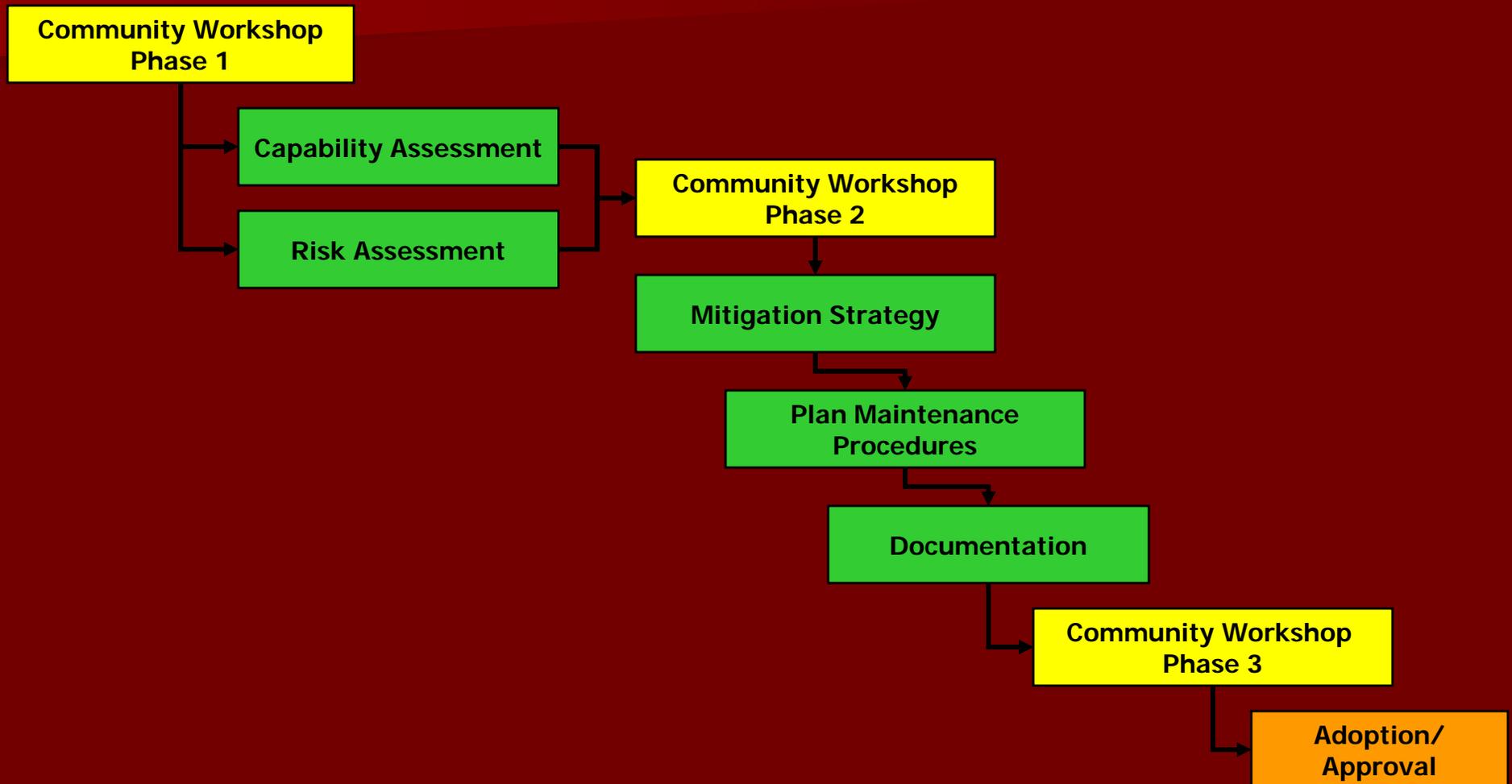
**Natural Resource
Protection**

Mitigation Advisory Committee

- In mid-2008, Catawba County was awarded HMGP grant funds to be used in updating the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan
- In early 2009, Catawba County contracted with AECOM to help facilitate preparation of the Plan
- Mitigation Advisory Committee assembled in March 2009
- Included local government officials from the County and each municipality, along with representatives from the American Red Cross



Catawba County's Mitigation Planning Process



Public Participation

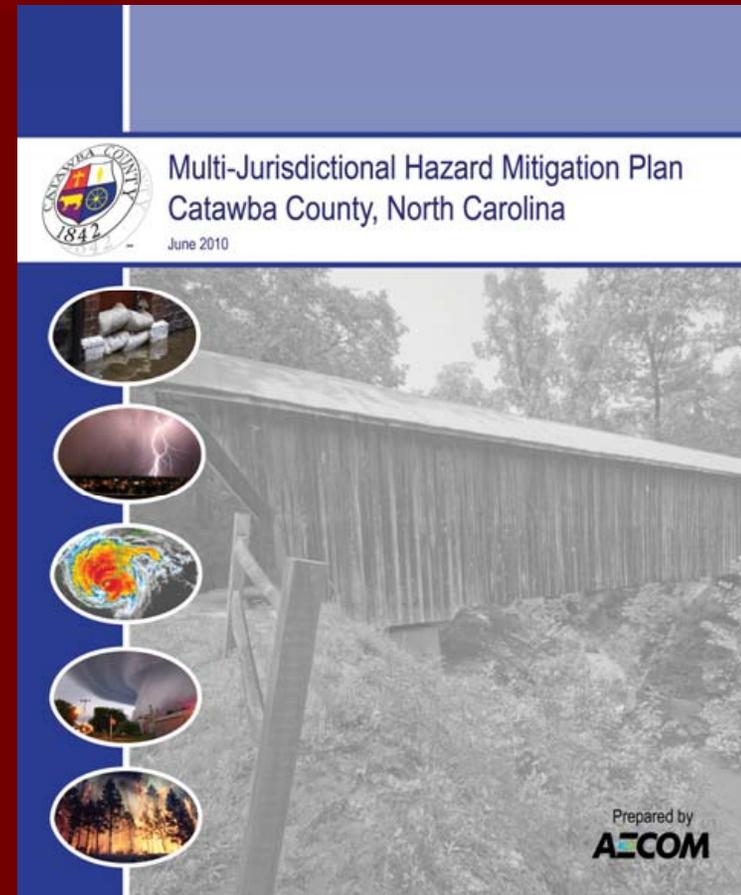
- An open public meeting was held in Newton on May 28, 2009
 - Advertised in local newspapers and through local government websites
 - Approximately 12 citizens participated



- A Public Participation Survey was designed to solicit input to the planning process
 - 75 respondents
 - Results were shared with the advisory committee and were included in the Plan (Appendix B)
 - Main concerns were related to severe winter storms, wind storms tree failure and power outages.
 - 24% of respondents have taken their own mitigation actions; 92% expressed an interest in learning or doing more.

Plan Outline

- Introduction
- Planning Process
- Community Profile
- Hazard Identification
- Hazard Analysis
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Capability Assessment
- Mitigation Strategy
- Mitigation Action Plans
- Plan Maintenance Procedures

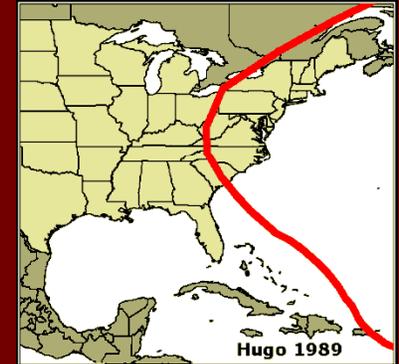


Natural Hazards Assessed

- Flood
- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
- Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes
- Wildfire
- Drought/ Extreme Heat
- Winter Storms
- Erosion
- Dam/ Levee Failure
- Earthquakes, Sinkholes and Landslides
- Effects of climate change on natural hazards



Hazard Risk Levels



HIGH RISK HAZARDS	Hurricanes and Tropical Storms Winter Storms Flood
MODERATE RISK HAZARDS	Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes Earthquakes Wildfire
LOW RISK HAZARDS	Drought/Extreme Heat Erosion Dam/Levee Failure Sinkholes and Landslides

Mitigation Goals

Goal #1

Design and implement regulatory policies that will prevent natural hazards from threatening life, safety and property in Catawba County.

Goal #2

Increase public awareness of the natural hazard risks in Catawba County while also educating residents and businesses on the mitigation measures available to minimize those risks.

Goal #3

Enhance emergency warning and outreach strategies for the timely dissemination of information to the public regarding imminent hazards, including the immediate preparedness steps or mitigation measures that can be taken to reduce their impact.

Goal #4

Protect the natural and beneficial functions of Catawba County's known floodplain areas through accurate mapping and land use management practices.

Mitigation Goals (cont'd)

Goal #5

Eliminate the potential for flood-related damages throughout Catawba County by ensuring development standards meet or go beyond the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Goal #6

Improve local stormwater management programs and drainage maintenance practices to reduce the damage and disruptions caused by regular heavy rain events.

Goal #7

Minimize the potential for widespread power outages through the protection of power lines and enhance the ability of Catawba County to provide emergency power to critical facilities and shelters during widespread power outages.

Goal #8

Establish and sustain public-private partnerships between local governments, business and industry to advance hazard mitigation practices throughout Catawba County.

Mitigation Actions

High Priority:

- Preserve large, intact forest land in order to reduce greenhouse gases
- Conduct a carbon footprint analysis for the County's facilities and identify ways to reduce greenhouse gases
- Develop a farmland preservation plan to preserve sensitive farmland and flood-prone areas
- Maintain continued compliance with the Flood Insurance program and evaluate the Community Rating system to allow for reduced flood insurance rates for citizens
- Develop a countywide greenway master plan which preserves sensitive land along river systems



Mitigation Actions

High Priority:

- Provide education to citizens about tree-trimming techniques to reduce the potential for power outages due to downed trees
- Coordinate with Red Cross to install pre-wired connections to portable generators at critical public facilities
- Provide outreach education to property owners along flood-prone areas. Educate children through the “Masters of Disaster” program



Mitigation Actions

Moderate Priority:

- Promote standard hook ups for portable generators at priority locations, such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes, etc.
- Identify areas for emergency access to and from public properties, such as the County parks.
- Evaluate the FIREWISE community program for areas vulnerable to wildfires
- Ensure that manufactured home parks have vegetative buffers to protect them from high wind events
- Continue work of multi-jurisdictional Stormwater Committee to prioritize stormwater issues/projects



Mitigation Actions

Moderate Priority:

- Coordinate with Social Services to provide back-up power at family care, nursing and adult care homes
- Evaluate ordinances and policies to address ways to mitigate for drought events
- Continue and expand public-private partnership to engage the business community in hazard mitigation activities



Mitigation Actions

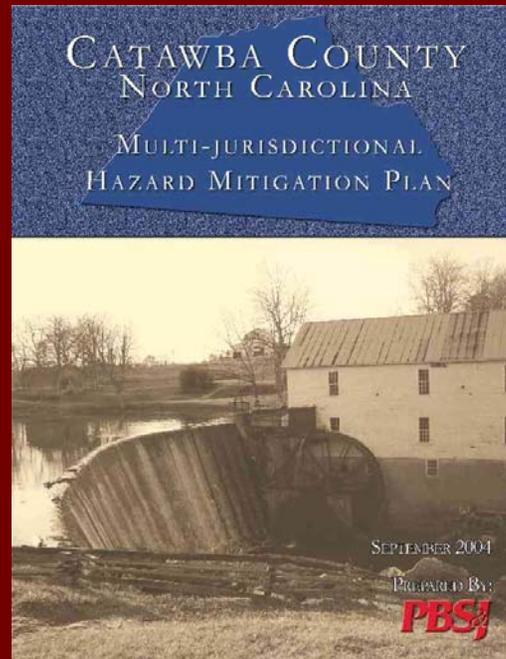
Low Priority:

- Develop a landscape manual which encourages the use of native trees and vegetation which are storm and drought resistant
- Provide outreach to manufactured home park owners to develop an evacuation plan during imminent hazard threats



Status of 2004 Plan Actions

- 2004 adopted plan had 16 strategies for Catawba County
- 14 have been completed, partially completed or are on-going
- 2 not completed due to lack of General Statute authority and funding



Plan Implementation & Maintenance

- Plan implementation involves the completion of proposed mitigation actions, including policies and projects.
- Completion is contingent upon funding
 - Potential funding sources are included for each mitigation action, if applicable.
 - List of applicable funding sources in plan
- At a minimum, the Plan must be evaluated, updated and resubmitted to the State Hazard Mitigation Office and FEMA every five years.

Plan Adoption / Approval

- The final draft plan was submitted to the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management for review in October 2009
- Plan forwarded from State to FEMA for review in January 2010
- FEMA issued conditional letter of approval pending adoption in mid-April 2010



Request of Board

- Conduct a public hearing on the plan
- Recommendation from Policy & Public Works Subcommittee to adopt plan
- Adopt plan through execution of resolution
- Execute resolution naming Bryan Blanton as primary agent for Hazard Mitigation Plan grant (previous agent was David Weldon)