



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014, 9:15 A.M.
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON, N.C.**



The Board adopted a resolution designating Primary and Secondary Agents for a Mitigation Grant from the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, Hazard Mitigation Section. Catawba County is eligible to obtain mitigation grant funding because of the July 27, 2013, flooding and resulting Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance known as DR-4153. The State of North Carolina has been awarded federal Department of Homeland Security Mitigation Grant monies to fund projects that reduce overall disaster risks for people and property and reliance on disaster recovery funds. Eligible activities include: acquiring property (i.e. structures and land) for open space conversion; relocating public or private structures; elevating existing public or private structures to avoid flooding; retrofitting structures (e.g., storm shutters, hurricane clips, bracing systems) to meet or exceed applicable building codes; and conducting hydrologic and hydraulic studies/analyses, engineering studies and drainage studies related to a mitigation project. Typically, these types of mitigation projects have a 25% non-Federal cost share. In this case the State of North Carolina will be paying the entire cost-share.

Hazard mitigation actions are taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from a variety of hazards. Mitigation can occur before, during and after a disaster. It has been shown that mitigation is most effective when based on a comprehensive, long-term plan developed before a disaster occurs. Catawba County's mitigation planning efforts began as early as 2001 and the County has had an approved Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan since 2004. This plan was updated in 2009 and a 2014 update is currently under review by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In order to be eligible to participate in the Department of Homeland Security Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program, Catawba County must maintain a current Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, mitigation projects must be consistent with one or more specific mitigation goals in the current plan. For example, in the 2009 plan update, Catawba County identified the goal to "Pursue acquisition and elevation of flood prone structures and properties to eliminate or reduce the impact from flood hazards." The proposed mitigation project involves the voluntary acquisition or elevation of five residential properties in Catawba County.

Designation of County Primary and Secondary agents assures prompt and efficient filing of applications and documents for federal or state assistance related to hazard mitigation projects. This is the first of two requests Emergency Services will be making before the mitigation projects can begin. Once FEMA approves the mitigation grant application, the Board will receive a second report requesting a supplemental appropriation for hazard mitigation grant projects to be funded by a Department of Homeland Security Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant. The Board's Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended the designation of Emergency Services Director Bryan Blanton and Emergency Management Coordinator Karyn Yaussy as Primary and Secondary Agent, respectively.

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