

FEMA REGION V

short notes on planning #16

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

When preparing a plan it is important for the community to have a vision of the future. Either the community can accept things as they are (continuing damage from disasters, loss of value to structures, damage to utilities and down time for business and industries, loss of tax base, and loss of lives) or it can have a vision of what can be. The community puts this vision into words in the goal statement, and makes the vision happen with the objectives, and the actions. The goals, objectives and actions are what drive the plan.

Goals

The goal is what the community wants to achieve. When discussing mitigation this may include:

- To protect the life, health and safety of the residents of the community;
- To reduce damages from flooding to structures in the community; or,
- To ensure a sustainable future to the community.

Objectives

The objectives are how the community will achieve the goals. Using the goals discussed above the objectives might be:

- Improve warning to the residents of the community by developing a system to monitor extremes in weather and communicating the information obtained to the residents of the community;
- Remove high-risk structures from the floodplain; or
- Revise the comprehensive plan to include a mitigation section.

Actions

The actions are the locations where the goals will be achieved and the procedures that will take place. Using the goals and objectives outlined above, possible actions could include:

- ▶ The County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be linked to the Regional National Weather Service Office by a dedicated phone line to receive real time weather information and to the State Department of Natural Resources office via email to receive real time stream gage data.

- ▶ Based on a determination of interest that the County received from the residents of Creekside Subdivision, the County will begin purchasing and demolishing structures in the Subdivision. Once all buy-outs are completed, the Subdivision will be converted into a regional park.
- ▶ As part of the mitigation plan, the County has determined that the residents are at extreme risk from the damaging effects of an earthquake. The County will adopt a new building code that sets seismic standards for new and modified buildings and has started a low-interest loan program to help citizens retrofit their buildings.

Goals, objectives and actions - Your mitigation roadmaps.

EXAMPLE

Dane County, Wisconsin is in the process of preparing their mitigation plan. They have done an excellent job of identifying their goals and objectives. Below is a portion of their work.

Ideals:

Water as a critical resource. Water should be considered as a valuable resource rather than as a hazard. The County should promote good stewardship of our water resources in planning for the future. Good stewardship can make the most of this resource, for ourselves and for our children. Poor stewardship will lead to ever increasing hazards.

No adverse impact. The action of one property owner or community should not increase the flood risk of other property owners or communities unless the impact is mitigated through community or watershed based planning.

Strategy:

1. Mitigate the existing flood hazard and prevent future hazards.
2. Facilitate and coordinate solutions to multi-jurisdictional issues. Support planning and implementation of projects that address problems on a watershed level. Promote communication and coordination between units of government to address regional or systematic problems. Emphasize a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels.
3. Coordinate funding opportunities. Identify and coordinate various federal, state, and local funding programs to implement projects and accomplish the goals and objectives of the Flood Mitigation Plan.
4. Guide development. Make flooding and flood mitigation considerations a priority in the land development and land use decision-making process. Incorporate flooding and flood mitigation considerations into the County's comprehensive planning effort.
5. Identify project hotspots. Identify areas of the County where flooding is a significant concern. Provide planning and project assistance to local officials.
6. Develop and publicize pilot projects. Work with local officials to develop test projects of innovative ideas and solutions to flooding and stormwater management problems. Publicize and expand successful projects.

7. Continue to enforce and enhance as needed the County's erosion control and stormwater management ordinance, floodplain zoning ordinance, and shoreland and wetland ordinance.

Goals and Objectives:

- A. Mitigation – Reduce the existing potential for flood damage to public health, safety, life, and property.
 1. Remove high-risk structures from the floodplain. Survey floodplain property owners regarding voluntary buyout or relocation of flood-prone buildings and structures. Ensure all acquired property is set aside as permanent open space.
 2. Elevate structures above the base-flood elevation. Survey floodplain property owners regarding interest in flood-proofing and/or elevating structures on their property.
 3. Flood-proof structures where buyout or elevation is not feasible. Survey flood prone property owners regarding interest in flood proofing structures on their property.
 4. Prevent sewer backups into basements. Support a program of backflow prevention devices in homes and buildings susceptible to sewer back-ups.
 5. Reduce damage to roads. Address drainage and flow issues through channel improvements and culvert placement and sizing. Address washouts through shoulder and ditch stabilization.