



Hall County Regional Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 07, 2007

Regular Meeting

Item F2

Public Hearing To Receive Public Comment On Development of All-Hazards Mitigation Plan

Public Hearing to receive public comment on development of All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. this plan will be a community-guided document that will identify the County's vulnerability to natural disasters (flood, drought, winter storm, tornado, hail, etc.) and what can be done to reduce or eliminate vulnerability to them. Public comments are encouraged. (C-14-2007HC)

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

To: Regional Planning Commission
From: Chad Nabity
Date: March 1, 2007
Re: All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for Hall County

Attached is the information on the Hazard Mitigation Plan that was sent to the member communities of the Hall County Regional Planning Commission and to the School Districts in Hall County.

The Hall County Regional Planning Commission was the recipient of a grant from FEMA through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to develop hazard mitigation plans for the member communities that would comply with the requirements of the Disaster Management Act of 2000. This meeting is the beginning of that process.

The Hall County Regional Planning Commission, in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will be conducting planning activities and writing the plans over the next 12 to 18 months.

February 19, 2007

Dave Harders, Chairman
Alda Board of Trustees
P. O. Box 17
Alda NE 68810

RE: All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for Hall County

Dear Dave:

In partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Hall County Regional Planning Commission is starting an all-hazards plan for the entire County.

What is an all-hazards mitigation plan?

This type of plan is designed to identify potential projects that would reduce a community's vulnerability to natural disasters. Examples might include: floodplain buyouts, tornado shelters or safe rooms, urban tree consultation, public education and warnings, and many other solutions which could be general or community-specific.

Why is the County developing this mitigation plan?

There are several reasons:

- 1) Legislation called the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 makes an all-hazards mitigation plan a pre-requisite for receiving federal mitigation assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Completing a mitigation plan for the County will qualify the County and all communities which participate in the planning process. There has also been discussion that FEMA may eventually require a mitigation plan for federal public assistance funds following a disaster. Also, identifying sound mitigation projects through this planning process may open up funding possibilities with agencies other than FEMA.
- 2) Funds for mitigation projects are available through a variety of federal programs, but they require an approved mitigation plan as a condition prior to approval.
- 3) The County is interested in developing good mitigation projects and has cost-shared in mitigation projects in the past, such as the Wood River Diversion.
- 4) Federal grant funds from FEMA have been made available to the County to complete this plan.

What does this mean for you?

If your community is interested in being “covered” under this mitigation plan, you or a representative from your community must attend the initial public meeting. Federal law requires your community to participate in the planning process in order to be considered eligible for federal mitigation assistance.

What if your community does not participate?

Participation in the planning process is voluntary. However, if your community does not participate, you will not be eligible for future mitigation funds. Instead, other communities which have participated in the process will be eligible for the funds. Now is the chance to be involved in the Countywide plan, which will mean much less work than working on a separate plan for your community in the future.

If your community is interested in participating in the mitigation planning process but is unable to send a representative to the public meeting, Nebraska DNR staff may be able to offer special assistance. Call Steve McMaster of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at (402) 471-3957 for more information.

What will be done at the public meeting?

At the public meeting we will explain the planning process and benefits in more detail, prioritize types of natural hazards (floods, tornadoes, etc.), gather input of known hazard events for represented communities, and gather input for potential mitigation projects.

When and where is the public meeting?

The public meeting will be taking place in conjunction with the normal Regional Planning Commission meeting already scheduled for March 7th. The meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Please make every effort to have your community represented at this public meeting. I believe this is an excellent opportunity to become eligible for federal mitigation funding with a minimal amount of work for your community.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call me at (308) 385-5444, Ext. 210.

Sincerely,

Chad Nabity
Director