

# **A G E N D A**

## **JAMES CITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **READING FILE**

**October 14, 2014**

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#### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

1. Floodplain Management Plan – Annual Report

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## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 14, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

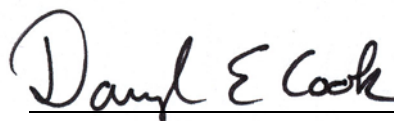
FROM: Darryl E. Cook, Stormwater Engineer

SUBJECT: Floodplain Management Plan – Annual Report

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No action is required for this item. Receipt by the Board of the Floodplain Management Plan's Annual Progress Report is a requirement of the County's participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Community Rating System (CRS). Participation in the CRS program allows County residents to receive flood insurance premium discounts. The current discount rate is 15 percent.

The Annual Report is available at [jamescitycountyva.gov/floodplainreport](http://jamescitycountyva.gov/floodplainreport)



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Darryl E. Cook

CONCUR:



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John T.P. Horne

DEC/gb  
FloodplainRpt-mem





## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN - 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

### Background

Activity 510 of the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) requires the development of a Floodplain Management Plan and an annual report on the progress made in implementing the Plan. James City County's Floodplain Management Plan is contained within the ***Peninsula Hazards Mitigation Plan 2011 Update***. This updated Plan, which is a revision of the 2006 plan, was adopted by the James City County Board of Supervisors on September 25, 2011 with a revision update on January 10, 2012 making it a governing document for the topic. The Plan identifies the potential hazards facing the region and the County including hazards such as hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, winter storms, earthquakes and flooding. The Plan includes an assessment of the risks involved with these hazards and potential mitigation efforts that can be undertaken to minimize the losses associated with these hazards. In the Plan, flooding was identified as the hazard with the highest hazard level affecting the region.

The updated plan incorporates some additional items specifically included to improve the floodplain management activities in the County. This report will present action items that have been accomplished under the new/revised objectives related to floodplain management. The pertinent portions of the plan are copied and are attached to this report.

### Mitigation Plan Goals and Objectives

Once the risks from and vulnerabilities to natural hazards were identified in the Plan for the County, Mitigation Goals and Objectives were formulated. The revised Goals and Objectives and recent accomplishments are presented below.

#### **Goal 1 – Reduce Impacts and losses from all hazards**

##### ***Objective 1.2 – Strengthen community Floodplain Management programs***

**Action Item JC2 (2011) – Complete.** This item called for the County to work with FEMA and revise the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to incorporate the recent flood studies completed for Powhatan Creek. This item began in February 2013 with the submission to FEMA of the Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) information and was finalized when the LOMR was issued by FEMA with an effective date of March 6, 2014. The LOMR information has been incorporated into the new preliminary FIRM maps developed by FEMA as part of the map update process for the revised coastal flooding information.

*Action Item JC3 (2006) – Complete.* This action item states that the County's applications for various development and building plan approvals be revised to include information regarding the flood hazard associated with the project. The County's site, subdivision, rezoning, master plan and building permit applications have been revised to require a determination of whether the project is located in a flood hazard area or not.

*Action Item JC4 (2006) – Complete.* This item involved the adoption of an ordinance provision that required two feet of freeboard for floodplain structure elevation. This was accomplished when the Board of Supervisors adopted the change on November 22, 2011.

*Action Item JC6 (2011) – In progress.* This item requires review of the County's compliance with the NFIP with an annual review of the floodplain ordinance. This work is in progress as the ordinance needs to be revised to be in conformance with the new maps developed by FEMA that incorporate updated coastal flooding information.

*Action Item JC7 (2011) – Ongoing.* This item involves the education of elected officials and the public on the importance of the NFIP. There has been significant outreach to the community and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) this year as a result of the new preliminary FIRM maps developed for the coastal flooding updates. There were two mailings to all floodplain property owners, two reading file items to the BOS, articles in the local newspapers, press releases, an open house meeting and information on social media. This process will continue into next year until at least the new preliminary maps become effective.

*Action Item JC11 – In progress.* This item calls for the development of a program to educate and assist property owners in techniques for dry and wet flood-proofing. The County has allocated \$50,000 for this purpose and the program will be structured to give priority to repetitive loss properties. The funds will be used to establish a revolving loan fund to help property owners protect their property from flood damage. The program should be operational by January 2015.

**Goal 2 – Promote awareness of hazards and vulnerabilities among citizens, businesses, visitors, industry and government**

***Objective 2.1 - Develop a seasonal multi-hazard public education campaign to be implemented annually***

***Objective 2.3 – Develop targeted campaigns to address flood and hurricanes***

*Action Item JC5 – Ongoing.* A public education program has been developed and implemented through the CRS program. Each year, notification is sent to property owners in the floodplain to remind them that they are in a floodplain at the beginning of hurricane season and to suggest actions they can take to protect themselves from the risk. This notice alerts the owners to the availability of flood insurance from private vendors and that property protection advice is available from County staff and the public library. This year the notice also included information about the upcoming changes to the FIRM due to the Powhatan Creek LOMR and the coastal flooding map changes. Finally, a notice is sent to lenders, insurance companies and realtors informing them that County staff can assist them in determining whether a particular property is located in a flood area. These notifications have contributed to an increase in the number of flood insurance policies from 476 in December 2003 to 989 policies in July 2012.

### **Goal 3 – Maximize use of available funding**

#### ***Objective 3.1 - Maintain FEMA Eligibility and***

#### ***Objective 3.2 - Identify, analyze and establish Mitigation project cost share options***

The County continues to pursue available funding for mitigation projects. In 2010, one house was elevated in Chickahominy Haven utilizing funds awarded to the County in 2008 from FEMA/VDEM (Virginia Department of Emergency Management).

Additional funding was pursued by the County as a result of the November 2009 Nor'Ida storm event. In 2010, a grant application was submitted to the State for funding the elevation of up to 20 homes. However, the County was not successful in obtaining this grant. The County also submitted a pre-application in January 2013 for a DR-4092-VA grant through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management but the County was not asked to submit a full grant application for that offering.

### **Other Recent County Actions in Support of Floodplain Management**

1. A flood study of the Route 5 (John Tyler Highway) culvert located near Jamestown High School and the Fieldcrest subdivision was completed to identify improvements that could lessen flooding in this area.
2. A flood study in the Chisel Run area of the Powhatan Creek watershed was completed to better identify flood risks and drainage improvements that may be necessary in that area.
3. A study has been completed that identifies and evaluates flood mitigation alternatives in the lower Powhatan Creek watershed.
4. Watershed management plans have been completed for the Powhatan, Yarmouth, Mill and Gordon Creek watersheds. Additional studies are in progress for the Ware Creek and York River watersheds.
5. The Stormwater Division has spent approximately \$6,568,500 on construction projects to mitigate flood, drainage and erosion problems throughout the County since 2007.



## James City County - 2011 Mitigation Actions

Number	Agency/Department: Mitigation Action	Lead Agency Department Organization	Flood	Winter Weather	Thunderstorm	Tornado	Hurricane	Drought	Wildfire	Earthquake	Extreme Temps	Dam Failure	Erosion	Landslides	Karst	Human-Caused	Funding Source	Target Completion Date	Interim Measure of Success	Priority (High, Med, Low)	Action Status
JC1 (2011)	Evaluate critical facilities, including shelter facilities for safety and sustainability during emergencies and take appropriate corrective actions to protect the public and maintain continuity of operations.	Emergency Management	X	X	X	X										X	Federal, State, Local	On-going	Conduct preliminary surveys	H	New
JC2 (2011)	Working in cooperation with FEMA, revise Flood Insurance Rate Maps to incorporate results of recent flood studies performed on the Powhatan Creek watershed.	General Services Stormwater	X	X		X											Local, Federal	June 30, 2012	Submitting application	H	New
JC3 (2011)	Construct improvements to mitigate flooding problems identified in the flood studies performed for Powhatan Creek watershed. These improvements involve road crossings by increasing flow capacity or installing over-topping protection.	General Services Stormwater	X	X		X											Seeking federal grant	June 30, 2012	Submit application	H	New



Number	Agency/Department: Mitigation Action	Lead Agency Department Organization	Flood	Winter	Weather	Thunderstorm	Tornado	Hurricane	Drought	Wildfire	Earthquake	Extreme Temps	Dam Failure	Erosion	Landslides	Karst	Human-Caused	Funding Source	Target Completion Date	Interim Measure of Success	Priority (High, Med, Low)	Action Status
JC4 (2011)	Conduct annual meeting with VDOT and utilities to identify hazard areas and potential projects to mitigate those areas.	Emergency Management	X	X				X										Local	On-going	Conduct Annual Meeting	H	New
JC4 (2006)	Adopt an ordinance requirement for floodplain structure elevation to Base Flood Elevation plus freeboard (possibly two feet) above 100 year flood elevation (7.5).	Development Management	X	X				X										local	December 31, 2011	Draft Ordinance October 2011	H	Ongoing
JC1 (2006)	Continue flood-prone structure elevation project, focusing on Chickahominy Haven and Powhatan Shores, and the county's repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties/areas.	Community Housing	X	X				X										HMA Grants and HMPG 5% Initiative Funds	On-going	Applications submitted	H	Ongoing
JC3 (2006)	Revise site plan application, building permit application and accompanying checklists to include/require detailed information on the flood hazard, to include flood zone, map number and date, and Base Flood Elevation.	Development Management	X	X				X										Local			H	Ongoing

Number	Agency/Department: Mitigation Action	Lead Agency Department Organization	Flood	Winter	Weather	Thunderstorm	Tornado	Hurricane	Drought	Wildfire	Earthquake	Extreme Temps	Dam Failure	Erosion	Landslides	Karst	Human-Caused	Funding Source	Target Completion Date	Interim Measure of Success	Priority (High, Med, Low)	Action Status
JC5 (2011)	Conduct annual review of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss property list requested of VDEM to ensure accuracy. Review will include verification of the geographic location of each repetitive loss property and determination if that property has been mitigated and by what means. Provide corrections if needed by filing form FEMA AW-501.	Emergency Management & Development Management	X		X			X										FEMA Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding, Locality funding	December 31, 2015	Secure funding	H	New
JC6 (2011)	Review locality's compliance with the National Flood Insurance program with an annual review of the Floodplain Ordinances and any newly permitted activities in the 100-year floodplain.	Development Management	X		X			X										FEMA Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding, Locality funding	December 31, 2015	Secure funding	H	New
JC7 (2011)	Educate elected officials and residents on the importance of the NFIP.	Development Management	X		X			X										FEMA Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding, Locality funding	December 31, 2015	Secure funding	H	New

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JC8 (2011)	Support mitigation of priority flood-prone structures through promotion of acquisition/demolition, elevation and flood proofing of non- residential projects where feasible using FEMA HMA programs where appropriate.	Emergency Management & Community Housing	X		X		X										FEMA Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding, Locality funding	December 31, 2015	Secure funding	H	New
JC7 (2006)	Convene a task force to study/assess the wildland fire hazard and the urban interface. The task force could make recommendations regarding additional building code requirements in a mapped "interface zone", outreach and complementary inspections for homeowners.	Fire Department, Emergency Management						X	X								Local	March 2013	Task Force Convened March 2012	MH	Ongoing
JC9 (2011)	Complete Storm Ready certification.	Emergency Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					EMPG Grants, local funds, media participation, HMGP 5% Initiative funds	December 31, 2011	Complete application process prior to expiration of current status.	M	New



Number	Agency/Department: Mitigation Action	Lead Agency Department Organization	Flood	Winter Weather	Thunderstorm	Tornado	Hurricane	Drought	Wildfire	Earthquake	Extreme Temps	Dam Failure	Erosion	Landslides	Karst	Human-Caused	Funding Source	Target Completion Date	Interim Measure of Success	Priority (High, Med, Low)	Action Status
JC10 (2011)	Evaluate the applicability and ability to integrate web-based hazard data analysis tools with current county capabilities.	Emergency Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X					Local	On-going	March 2013	M	New
JC11 (2011)	Develop a program to educate and assist property owners in flood prone areas in techniques for dry and wet flood proofing.	General Services Stormwater	X	X	X		X										Local	June 30, 2012	Website and materials produced	M	New
JC2 (2006)	Conduct certified lowest floor elevation surveys of existing homes, manufactured homes, and commercial structures in identified floodplains. Include County-wide housing needs assessment.	Development Management	X	X	X		X										Local	June 30, 2012		M	Ongoing
JC6 (2006)	Continue and expand Drought-Resistant Landscaping Program elements, to include private property owners, commercial projects, and County lands.	James City County Service Authority						X		X							Local	Ongoing	Website and materials produced	M	Ongoing
JC5 (2006)	Provide disaster mitigation planning guidance to businesses.	General Services Stormwater	X	X			X	X								X	Local	On-going	Website and materials produced	M	Ongoing