

HMPU 2020
Steering Committee
November 5, 2019
Meeting 2 Notes

The meeting began with introductions from Jennifer Gerbasi, Recovery Planner and presenter.

As the first order of business, discussion of the Meeting Notes was invited, and Mart Black moved that they be adopted as is, and Officer Peter Guidry seconded.

By way of review for those that weren't at the first meeting, the presenter discussed the process and the step in the process that was the subject of the meeting. Mart Black asked for a distinction between "vulnerability" and "risk" and suggested that the vulnerability assessment be first prior to a risk assessment. Jennifer offered a distinction that one showed exposure, and the other quantified the potential losses, and also offered to provide more feedback on that distinction at the next meeting.

As an update on the deliverables anticipated from the process, Jennifer reported that the Parish, through Tara Lambeth, the Assistant Director of the Planning Department, was undertaking a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis for the Bayou Black area. There have been reports of flooding in yards that may be rectified by the pump stations and flood gate projects underway or in engineering. There are also \$433,000 in flood claims and several repetitive loss structures in the area.

Ronnie Shaw requested that as part of the discussion with the homeowners we ascertain when the structures in the study were built, and what standard was in place at the time. The study area is not finalized, and will be reported back later.

The group turned their attention to the next deliverable; the risk assessment and strategy. Regarding the risk assessment, the committee voiced the desire to protect against smaller and larger threats. The Shell property was identified as a potential sink for water during smaller events as well as pumping down bayous when there are high volumes in the bayou prior to the storms. The Parish needs to have a plan for what to do when the bayous and land are already saturated and heavy or persistent rains add to that. The group recognized that the new LAMP process maps would help in the risk assessment. Jennifer added that those may be available during this process, but it was in the consultant for FEMA's control.

There was a brief discussion of the HAZUS modeling, and how that may feed into the risk assessment, but it is a more generalized threat of multiple storms at one time, at whichever risk level is chosen. There was a brief discussion of the approach, benefits and limits on the

HZUS modeling software. It can projection some damages and probabilities. The group reiterated that we should choose some manageable level of modeling (less than 1,000 year) to inform rational and obtainable protection levels.

Regarding the levee failure map, it was asked if the program could run the failure of levees that were most likely to fail to make a more useful map of “levee failure” to ascertain the risk of our protection system failing. It was determined that Jennifer would research what “levee failure” means in this scenario as it could be total collapse, breaches or overtopping.

Hazard Update

Due to some limited discussion on hazards, updates on several lower consequence hazards was presented, and a discussion was suggested on saltwater intrusion an coastal erosion that were not discussed in the first meeting.

Chief Shirell Dardar requested consideration of a bulkhead along Shrimpers Row because, while the Morganza system would help limit some land loss, it was insufficient. There is 11 miles of coast eroding and threatening land in the immediate area, and poses a threat further north. There was a discussion of the expense of this type of initiative, some examples of where it has been done and the potential for the HNC system to keep water level at a more manageable level. Chief Dardar suggested that the watershed initiative might be a source of funds. Katie Tabor suggested that the Parish study project types that are best methods for erosion control. These might turn out to be environmental approaches that may be significantly less expensive.

Regarding new hazards, Herdis Neil, a member of the public, provided a new hazard, and requested information on coastal land loss. He first requested that someone find a study about where the Gulf rim is at this time, which would change the assumptions of the depth of the water closer to shore used in the models. The loss of the barrier islands and the distance between them created an issue. It was suggested by the committee that the State be invited to discuss their plan for the barrier islands and other projects that benefit Terrebonne, and that the Parish would look for a study on the Gulf.

The new hazard stated was that our energy resilience depends in large part on our power companies being required to properly maintain the poles, and the DOTD or Public Services Commission properly controlling trees that are near power lines. The Parish will invite the energy companies for a discussion if they will come. Entergy and LECA have both been invited to participate.

Data Review of Events

The presenter showed slides of the past events, losses from those events, and responses to avoid those losses in the future. The group requested a buyout map at the next meeting.

Oneil offered that Hurricane Barry would have had a lot more impact but for the protection system in place at this time. The low damages were, he said, a direct result of the levee system, and show that we can handle a 9 foot surge, and maybe 10-12 foot, with little to no damage. The Parish should also focus on wind events and rain events that are 1) becoming more common, and 2) a different hazard within the forced drainage area.

Mart Black provided perspective that the Coastal Master Plan is, over 50 years, attempting to slow down the rate of land loss, but it is inevitable.

We wrapped up confirming that some feedback from the State and regarding the coordination of the current protection system, and identification of remaining vulnerabilities would be beneficial.

The meeting was adjourned.