**Heidelberg Township, Lehigh County Annex**

**Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary:** | **Alternate:** |
| Dawn Didra  Administrator / EMC  6272 Route 309, Suite A, New Tripoli, PA 18066  484-217-4011  ddidra@heidelberglehigh.org | Kevin Huber  Road Superintendent  6272 RT. 309, New Tripoli, PA 18066  484-357-3528  hkhuber@ptd.net |

**Municipal Profile**

Heidelberg Township is a suburban rural township located in the northern part of Lehigh County, along the border of Carbon County. It encompasses a land area of approximately 24.7 square miles and has a population of 3,324 (2020 Census). The township is bordered by Lynn Township to the west; Weisenberg Township to the southwest; Lowhill Township to the southeast; North Whitehall Township to the east and southeast; Washington Township to the east; and Carbon County to the north.

Heidelberg Township is mostly drained by the Lehigh River by way of the Jordan Creek (which starts in Heidelberg Township) in the western half of the township and by Mill Creek in the eastern half. However, a small area in the southwest portion of the township is drained by the Maiden Creek into the Schuylkill River.

State Route 309 is the most significant roadway in the township. It travels east-west through the southern part of the township from North Whitehall Township in the east to Lynn Township in the west. Route 100 runs north south from Lowhill Township and meets at a “T” with Route 309 in lower Heidelberg. SR 4024 (Mountain Road) provides the primary east-west corridor in the northern part of the township. SR 4014 (Church Road) and SR 4018 (County Bridge Road, becoming SR 4022 / Best Station Road) are the main north-south connectors within the township.

**Municipal Participation**

1. Identify municipal stakeholders to be involved in the planning process such as, floodplain administrator, public works, emergency management, engineers, planners, etc., and include their specific role in the process.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dawn Didra, Administrator/EMC  Role: Primary POC, floodplain management, zoning | Kevin Huber, Road Superintendent  Role: Secondary Contact, |
| Geoff Dean, Township Engineer (Keystone Consulting Engineers)  Role: GIS |  |

1. Identify community stakeholders such as; neighborhood groups, religious groups, major employers / businesses, etc., that will be informed and / or involved in the planning process and describe how they will be involved.

There may be some farms that will be involved as our research progresses.

1. Describe how the public **will be engaged** in the current planning process (examples, newsletters, social media, etc.), **and how they were engaged** since the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Current: The Township prints and mails an annual newsletter to all residents since the 1990’s. We update our township website with current information. Our Environmental Advisory Council keeps abreast of issue also.

Past: Same

**Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

| **Topic** | **Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.** | **Additional Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Staff Resources** | | |
| Is the Community Floodplain Administrator (FPA) or NFIP Coordinator certified? | Community FPA | N/A |
| Is floodplain management an auxiliary function? | Community FPA | N/A |
| Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, GGIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability) | Community FPA | N/A |
| What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any? | Community FPA | N/A |
| **2. Compliance History** | | |
| Is the community in good standing with the NFIP? | State NFIP Coordinator, FEMA NFIP Specialist, or community records | Yes |
| Are there any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations)? |  | No |
| When was the most recent Community Assistance Visits (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)? |  | Unknown |
| Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed? |  | No |
| **3. Regulation** | | |
| When did the community enter the NFIP? | NFIP Community Status Book | 1987 |
| Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper?  How are residents assisted with mapping? | Community FPA | N/A |
| Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements?  If so, in what ways? | Community FPA | N/A |
| Describe the permitting process | Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP | N/A |
| **4. Insurance Summary** | | |
| How many NFIP policies are in the community?  What is the total premium and coverage? | State NFIP Coordinator or  FEMA NFIP Specialist | N/A |
| How many claims have been paid in the community? What is the total amount of paid claims? How many substantial damage claims have there been? | FEMA NFIP or  Insurance Specialist | N/A |
| How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community? | Community FPA or GIS Analyst | N/A |
| Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage | Community FPA or  FEMA Insurance Specialist | N/A |
| **5. Community Rating System (CRS)** | | |
| Does the community participate in CRS? | Community FPA, State, or FEMA NFIP | No |
| If so, what is the community’s CRS Class Ranking? | Flood Insurance Manual (http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov) | N/A |
| What categories and activities provide CRS points and how can the Class be improved? |  | N/A |
| Does the plan include CRS planning requirements? | Community FPA, FEMA CRS Coordinator, or ISO representative | N/A |

**Community Assets**

Community assets are defined to include anything that is important to the character as well as the function of a community, and can be described in four categories, they are; people, economy, natural environment and built environment. Please identify the community assets and location under each category.

1. **People**

* Concentrations of vulnerable populations such as the elderly, physically or mentally disabled, non-English speaking, and the medically or chemically dependent.

Township keeps an updated list as part of the Lynn / Heidelberg Townships Emergent Management Plan. 2018 update currently being done.

* Types of visiting populations where large numbers of people are concentrated such as visitors for special events and students.

Northwestern Elementary School (part of)

Northwestern High School

Northwestern Middle School

Northwestern Recreation Commission athletic fields

1. **Economy**

* Major employers, primary economic sectors such as agriculture and commercial centers where losses would have a severe impact on the community.

Agriculture – many local farms

Northwestern Lehigh School District – district offices, part of Northwestern Elementary School, all of the middle school and high school.

1. **Natural Environment**

* Those areas / features that can provide protective functions that reduce the magnitude of hazard events such as, wetlands or riparian areas, and other environmental features important to protect.

Tributaries to the Jordan Creek

Kittatinny Ridge along the Blue Mountain and base of the Blue Mountain range

1. **Built Environment**

* Existing structures such as, concentrations of buildings that may be more vulnerable to hazards based on location, age, construction type and / or condition of use.

Heidelberg Township Building (municipal offices and garages) – vulnerable to flooding.

* Infrastructure systems such as water and wastewater facilities, power utilities, transportation systems, communication systems, energy pipelines and storage.

Utility poles along flood-prone road right-of-ways

Underground fiber optic cable along major thoroughfares, i.e. Route 309

* High potential loss facilities such as, dams, locations that house hazardous materials, military and / or civilian defense installations.

Bridges on state and local roadways / routes

* Critical facilities such as, hospitals, medical facilities, police and fires stations, emergency operations centers, shelters, schools and airports / heliports.

Northwestern Lehigh School District – administrative offices, part of the elementary school, all of the middle and high school building and the athletic stadium

Northwestern Recreation Commission athletic fields and storage buildings

Germansville Goodwill Fire Company No. 1

Heidelberg Township Municipal Building

* Cultural / historical resources such as, museums, parks, stadiums, etc.

Northwestern Lehigh School District stadium

Northwestern Recreation Commission athletic fields and park

**Capability Assessment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capability** | * **Regulatory** * **Tools** * **Programs** | **Status** | | | **Department /**  **Agency**  **Responsible** | **Effect on Hazard Loss Reduction:**  **-Supports**  **-Neutral**  **-Hinders** | **Change since 2018 Plan?**  **+ Positive**  **- Negative** | **Has the 2018 Plan been integrated into the Regulatory Tool/Program? If so, how?** | **How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?** | **Additional Comments** |
| **In Place** | **Date Adopted or Updated** | **Under Development** |
| **1. Planning & Regulatory** | Comprehensive Plan | X | 2022 |  |  | S |  |  |  |  |
| Capital Improvement Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Economic Development Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Continuity of Operations Plan |  |  | X | Heidelberg EMA |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance | X | 2023 |  |  | S |  |  |  |  |
| Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Natural Resource Protection Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transportation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Historic Preservation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floodplain Management Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Farmland Preservation | X | 5/12/11 |  | Township | S | + |  |  |  |
| Evacuation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disaster Recovery Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hazard Mitigation Plan | X | 2018 |  | Lehigh County | S | + | N/A |  | Currently updating |
| Emergency Operations Plan | X | 2022 |  | Heidelberg EMA | S | + |  |  | Currently updating |
| Zoning Regulations | X | 5/12/11 |  | Township |  |  |  |  | Currently updating |
| Floodplain Regulations | X | 5/12/11 |  | Township |  |  |  |  |  |
| NFIP Participation | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Building Code | X | 6/10/04 |  | Township | S | + |  |  |  |
| Fire Code |  |  | X |  |  |  |  |  | Considering Adoption |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capability** | * **Staff** * **Personnel** * **Resources** | **Yes** | **No** | **Department / Agency** | **Change since 2018 Plan?**  **+ Positive**  **- Negative** | **How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?** | **Additional Comments** |
| **2. Administrative & Technology** | Planners (with land use / land development knowledge) | X |  | LVPC | + | Plan uses to mitigate risk |  |
| Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human-caused hazards knowledge) | X |  | Keystone Consulting Engineers | + |  |  |
| Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors) | X |  | Keystone Consulting Engineers | + | Construct facilities to mitigate risk |  |
| Emergency Manager | X |  | Heidelberg EMA | + |  |  |
| Floodplain administrator / manager | X |  | Heidelberg Floodplain Administrator | + |  |  |
| Land surveyors | X |  | Keystone Consulting Engineers | + |  |  |
| Staff familiar with the hazards of the community | X |  | Road Superintendent | + |  |  |
| Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA’s HAZUS program | X |  | Heidelberg EMA | + |  |  |
| Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants | X |  | Keystone Consulting Engineers | + |  | Increased office staff has improved in house capabilities |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capability** | * **Staff** * **Personnel** * **Resources** | **Yes** | **No** | **Department / Agency** | **Change since 2018 Plan?**  **+ Positive**  **- Negative** | **How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?** | **Additional Comments** |
| **3. Financial Resources** | Capital improvement programming |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Special purposes taxes | X |  | Township | + | Raise milage of fire tax as needed |  |
| Gas / Electricity utility fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water / Sewer fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stormwater utility fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development impact fees | X |  | Township | No |  |  |
| General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds | X |  | Township | No |  |  |
| Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements | X |  | Township; Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, Weisenberg Townships COG | No |  |  |
| Other | X |  | Northwestern Recreation Commission | No |  |  |
| **4. Education & Outreach** | Firewise Communities Certification |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| StormReady Certification |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Natural disaster or safety-related school programs |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ongoing public education or information programs such as, responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, and environmental education. | X |  | Township’s Environmental Advisory Council | Yes | Use of Township’s website and public seminars |  |
| Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other | X |  | Heidelberg EMA | Yes | Created Facebook page for public outreach, education & notifications |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capability** |  | **Degree of Capability** | | | **Change since the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan?**  **If so, how?** | **Additional Comments** |
| **Limited** | **Moderate** | **High** |
| **5. Self – Assessment** | Planning and Regulatory |  | X |  | No | Small staff and limited finances hinder township's ability |
| Administrative and Technical |  | X |  | No | Small staff and limited finances hinder township's ability |
| Financial |  | X |  | No | Small staff and limited finances hinder township's ability |
| Education and Outreach |  |  | X | Yes | Township EAC is active and is holding seminars/workshops |

**Known or Anticipated Future Development / Redevelopment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Development /**  **Property Name** | **Type of Development** | **Number of Structures** | **Location** | **Known Hazard Zone** | **Description / Status** |
| Heidelberg Heights Subdivision | Single family housing | 10 | Heidelberg Heights Road | No | Preliminary plan review |

**Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to Heidelberg Township**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Event and Date(s)** | **FEMA Disaster #**  **(if applicable)** | **Local Damage(s) or Loss(es)** |
| Winter Storm Jonas – 1/2016 | DR-4267-PA | N/A Snow Removal Costs |
| Pennsylvania COVID-19 Pandemic – 1/2020 | DR-4506-PA | Emergency Protective measures to combat COVID-19 Pandemic. |

**2018 Municipal Action Plan Status**

| **Existing Mitigation Action**  **(from 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan)** | | **Status** | | | | | **Additional Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No Progress /**  **Unknown** | **In Progress** | **Continuous** | **Completed** | **Discontinued** |
| **1** | Pipe replacement for Jones Road Bridge to remedy flooding and drainage issues. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **2** | Maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment for emergency response. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **3** | Work with electric utilities to improve primary and secondary line clearing. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **4** | Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **5** | Complete the ongoing updates of the  Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **6** | Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **7** | Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to help develop damage assessment capabilities at the local level through such things as training programs, certification of qualified individuals (e.g. code officials, floodplain managers, engineers). |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **8** | Replace existing emergency school generator with a properly sized unit capable of sustaining sheltering-type actions when needed. |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**Notes:**

1. Actions not carried through to the 2023 Action Plan are so noted.
2. To maintain National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance, actions related to the NFIP were carried through to the 2023 Action Plan even if identified by the municipality as completed.

**2023 Mitigation Action Plan**

| **Mitigation Action** | | **Regional Action Category** | **Mitigation Technique Category** | **Hazard(s) Addressed** | **Priority**  **(H / M / L)** | **Estimated Cost** | **Potential Funding** | **Lead Agency / Department** | **Implementation Schedule** | **Applies to New and / or Existing Structures** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Pipe replacement for Jones Road Bridge to remedy flooding and drainage issues. | 15 | Structure & Infrastructure | Flooding | Medium | Medium | Township Budget | Township | N/A | Existing |
| **2** | Maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment for emergency response. | 19 | Structure & Infrastructure | All | High | Medium | Township  Budget; available public  protection &  emergency  services grant programs | Township | Ongoing | N/A |
| **3** | Work with electric utilities to improve primary and secondary line clearing. | 21 | Structure & Infrastructure | Windstorm/  Tornado,  Winter  Storm,  Utility  Interruption | High | Medium | Township Budget | Township working with electric utilities | Short-term | Existing |
| **4** | Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0. | 9 | All Categories | All Hazards | High | Low-High (for 5 year update) | Municipal Budget, possibly  FEMA  Mitigation  Grant  Funding for 5-year update | Municipality (via mitigation planning point of contacts)  w/ support  from Planning Partners  (through their  Points of  Contact),  PEMA | Ongoing | New & Existing |
| **5** | Complete the ongoing updates of the  Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans. | 10 | Local plans & Regulations | All Hazards | Medium | Low | Municipal Budget | Municipality w/ support from PEMA | Ongoing | New & Existing |
| **6** | Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations. | 11 | All Categories | All Hazards | Medium | Low | Municipal Budget | Municipality w/ support from  surrounding  municipalities and County | Ongoing | New & Existing |
| **7** | Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to help develop damage assessment capabilities at the local level through such things as training programs, certification of qualified individuals (e.g. code officials, floodplain managers, engineers). | 13 | Education & Awareness | All Hazards | Medium | Medium | Municipal budget,  FEMA  HMA grant programs | Municipality with support  from County,  PEMA | Short-term (depending upon funding) | N/A |
| **8** | Replace existing emergency school generator with a properly sized unit capable of sustaining sheltering-type actions when needed. | 17 | Structure & Infrastructure | Winter Storm, Utility Interruption | High | $170,000 | Grant with local match | School district, municipality, emergency  management coordinator | As funding becomes available | Existing |
| **9** | Replace Buckery Road Bridge which collapsed in 2020 | N/A | Structure & Infrastructure | All Hazards | Medium | High | Municipal Budget | TBD | TBD | Existing |
| **10** | Rehab Rex Road Bridge by replacing aging/deteriorating main beams | N/A | Structure & Infrastructure | All Hazards | Medium | High | Municipal Budget | TBD | TBD | Existing |
| **11** | Create plan to replace all aging bridges in order of current level of deterioration | N/A | Local plans & Regulations | All Hazards | Medium | High | Municipal Budget | TBD | TBD | Existing |

**Notes:**

***Estimated Costs:***

* Where actual project costs have been reasonable estimated: Low = < $10,000; Medium = $10,000 to $100,000; High = > $100,000;
* Where actual project costs cannot reasonably be established at this time:

**Low** = Possible to fund under existing budget. Project is part of, or can be part of an existing on-going program.

**Medium** = Could budget for under existing work plan, but would require a reapportionment of the budget or a budget amendment,

or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.

**High** = Would require an increase in revenue via an alternative source (i.e., bonds, grants, fee increases) to implement. Existing

funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project.

***Potential Funding (FEMA HMA):***

* **BRIC =** Building Resilient Infrastructure andCommunities
* **FMA** = Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
* **HMGP** = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
* **HSGP** = Homeland Security Grant Program
* **EMPG** = Emergency Management Performance Grant

***Implementation Schedule:***

* **Short Term** = 1 to 5 years
* **Long Term** = 5 years or greater
* **DOF** = Depending on Funding

***Applies to New and/or Existing Structures:***

* **N/A** = Not Applicable