**North Whitehall, Lehigh County Annex**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary:** | **Alternate:** |
| Richard DeemerPublic Works Director3256 Levans Road, Coplay, PA 18037610-799-4311rdeemer@northwhitehall.org | Christopher GargesTownship Manager3256 Levans Road, Coplay, PA 18037610-799-4311cgarges@northwhitehall.org |

**Municipal Profile**

North Whitehall Township is a suburban township in northeastern Lehigh County on the border of Northampton County. It encompasses an area of 28.9 square miles and has a population of 15,655 (2020 Census). The township is bordered by Whitehall Township (Lehigh County) to the east and southeast; South Whitehall and Upper Macungie townships (both in Lehigh County) to the south; Lowhill and Heidelberg townships (both in Lehigh County) to the west; Washington Township (Lehigh County) and Lehigh Township (Northampton County) to the north; and Allen Township (Northampton County) to the northeast.

The Lehigh River runs along the northeast boundary of the North Whitehall Township, creating the border between the township and Northampton County. The township is drained by the Coplay Creek, running south parallel to Route 476 through the western part of the township; and by Spring Creek, flowing east along the northeastern border with Whitehall Township. These and other smaller tributary creeks are all drained by the Lehigh River, which separates the northern part of the township from Northampton County.

Several major roadways serve North Whitehall Township. State Route 329 runs east-west from Whitehall Township and the Borough of Northampton, through North Whitehall, and turns north as Route 873 into Washington Township. SR 4014 runs east-west through the northern part of the township as Neffs Laurys Road, providing access to SR 873 in the west, and terminating at SR 145 to the east. Main Street / Levans Road, running locally east-west between SR 309 and SR 329, connects the southern part of the township. Interstate 476 runs north-south, parallel to Coplay Creek, in the western part of the township. PA Route 309 runs parallel to the west of 476, but veers west when it splits with SR 873 (connecting to SR 329) in the northwestern part of the township. State Route 145 cuts through the northeast corner of the township, running along and crossing the Lehigh River, and continuing north of Northampton County. SR 145 is the main arterial from points north into the City of Allentown to the southeast. Another main north-south route in the township is Mauch Chunk Road, which runs to the east of I-476 from 329 in Ballietsville, south into Allentown.

**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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Richard Demmer, Public WorksRole: Facilities operations | Christopher Garges, Township ManagerRole: Township Manager |
| Nelson Fogel, Emergency Management CoordinatorRole: Emergency Incident Command | Steve Glitch, Keystone Consulting Engineers, Township EngineerRole: Township Engineer |

*\*please update table as needed*

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.

Jaindl Farms – Info provided to them regarding process and concerns they may have.

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: We will notify residents through newsletter and discussion at public meetings.

 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 | N/A |
| 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)? |  | December 1st, 2017 |
| Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed? |  | No |
| **3. Regulation** |
| When did the community enter the NFIP? | NFIP Community Status Book | N/A |
| Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper? How are residents assisted with mapping? | Community FPA | Paper and Digital |
| 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 orFEMA NFIP Specialist | Approximately 30 |
| 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 | Unknown |
| How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community? | Community FPA or GIS Analyst | 54 structures |
| 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 | N/A |
| 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.

KidsPeace Hosital and Treatment Facility

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

 Lehigh Valley Zoo

 Trexler Nature Preserve

 Lehigh Carbon Community College

 Schnecks Fire Company Annual Fair

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

Independence Drive Business Park including North Valley Trade Center Warehouse (under construction)

 Jaindl Farms Corporate Headquarters

 Turkey Farms and processing facility

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.

 Trexler Nature Preserve

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.

None

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

NBMA Water Treatment Facility

NBMA Water Tower

Numerous cell towers

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

None

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

4 fire stations

1 ambulance

2 elementary schools

1 community college

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

 Trexler Nature Preserve

 Lehigh Valley Zoo

 4 community parks

**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 | 2009 |  | Administration | S |  |  |  |  |
| Capital Improvement Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Economic Development Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Continuity of Operations Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance | X | 2001 |  | Administration | S |  |  |  |  |
| Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan) | X | 2009 |  | Administration | S |  |  |  |  |
| Natural Resource Protection Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transportation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Historic Preservation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floodplain Management Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Farmland Preservation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evacuation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disaster Recovery Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hazard Mitigation Plan | X | 2018 |  |  |  |  | N/A |  |  |
| Emergency Operations Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zoning Regulations | X | 2002 |  |  | S |  |  |  |  |
| Floodplain Regulations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NFIP Participation | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Building Code | X | State UCC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fire Code | X | State UCC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |  | Planning & Zoning  | No |  |  |
| Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human-caused hazards knowledge) | X |  | Planning & Zoning | No |  |  |
| Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors) | X |  | Zoning & Code Enforcement | No |  |  |
| Emergency Manager | X |  | Fire Department | No | On-going training |  |
| Floodplain administrator / manager | X |  | Township Manager | No |  |  |
| Land surveyors |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Staff familiar with the hazards of the community | X |  | Public Works | No |  |  |
| Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA’s HAZUS program | X |  | Zoning | No | Additional GIS training |  |
| Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants | X |  | Township Manager | No |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3. Financial Resources** | Capital improvement programming | X |  | Manager | No |  |  |
| Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Special purposes taxes | X |  | Township | Yes |  | Farmland Preservation Tax |
| Gas / Electricity utility fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water / Sewer fees | X |  | Manager | No |  |  |
| Stormwater utility fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development impact fees | X |  | Manager | No |  |  |
| General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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** |
| **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 |  | Manager | No | Additional public presentation/education programs |  |
| 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.  | X |  | Local Volunteer Fire Company |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 |  |  |  |
| Administrative and Technical |  | X |  |  |  |
| Financial |  | X |  |  |  |
| Education and Outreach | X |  |  |  |  |

**Known or Anticipated Future Development / Redevelopment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Development /** **Property Name** | **Type of Development** | **Number of Structures** | **Location** | **Known Hazard Zone** | **Description / Status** |
| Ridings at Parkland | Residential | 50 | Schneck Road, Schnecksville |  | In planning |
| Scenic Vistas | Residential | 13 | Egypt Road, Laurys Station |  | In planning |
| Maryann Plaza | Commercial | 2 | Rt. 873, Schnecksville |  | Pre-construction |
| Fairland Farms III | Residential | 25 |  |  | Approved |
| Timber Ridge Luxury Apartments | Residential | 80 units | Levans Road |  | Approved |
| North Valley Trade Center Warehouse | Commercial | 2 | Independence Drive |  | Under Construction 2-buildings = 1,300,000sf |
| Strawberry Acres | Residential | 90 units | Overlook Road |  | Planning |
| Kings Business Park | Commercial | +/-6 | Schneck Road & Rt. 873 |  | Planning |

**Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to North Whitehall 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 | Extraordinary snow removal required |
| Pennsylvania COVID-19 Pandemic – 1/2020 | DR-4506-PA | Emergency Protective measures to combat COVID-19 Pandemic. |
| Tropical Storm Isaias – 8/2020 | N/A | August 4th, 2020 – Tropical Storm Isaias, damage to multiple township assets |

**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** | Maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **2** | Maintain compliance with and good standing in the NFIP including adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements (e.g. regulating all new and substantially improved construction in Special Hazard Flood Areas), floodplain identification and mapping, and flood insurance outreach to the community. Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP-related continued compliance actions identified below. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **3** | Conduct and facilitate community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses to include, but not be limited to, the following to promote and effect natural hazard risk reduction:* Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP webpages.
* Work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding.

Provide community members with training opportunities on Basic Emergency Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). |  |  | 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 theComprehensive Emergency Management Plans. |  | X |  |  |  |  |
| **6** | Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **7** | Develop and maintain capabilities to process FEMA/PEMA paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post-disaster capabilities – damage assessment; FEMA/PEMA paperwork compilation, submissions, record keeping. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **8** | 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 |  |  |  |

**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** | Maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response. | 19 | Structure & Infrastructure | All | High | N/A | Township Budget | Township | Ongoing | N/A |
| **2** | Maintain compliance with and good standing in the NFIP including adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements (e.g. regulating all new and substantially improved construction in Special Hazard Flood Areas), floodplain identification and mapping, and flood insurance outreach to the community. Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP-related continued compliance actions identified below. | 3 | Local plans & Regulations | Flood | High | Low -Medium | Municipal Budget | Municipality(via MunicipalEngineer/NFIP FloodplainAdministrator) with support from PEMA,ISO FEMA | Ongoing | New &Existing |
| **3** | Conduct and facilitate community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses to include, but not be limited to, the following to promote and effect natural hazard risk reduction:* Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP webpages.
* Work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding.

Provide community members with training opportunities on Basic Emergency Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). | 4 | Education & Awareness | All Hazards | High | Low-Medium | Municipal Budget | Municipality with supportfrom Planning Partners,PEMA, FEMA | Short-term | N/A |
| **4** | Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0. | 8 | AllCategories | All Hazards | High | Low – High (for5-year update) | Municipal Budget, possiblyFEMAMitigationGrantFunding for 5-year update | Municipality (via mitigation planning point of contacts) with support from Planning Partners(through theirPoints of Contact), PEMA | Ongoing | New &Existing |
| **5** | Complete the ongoing updates of theComprehensive Emergency Management Plans. | 9 | Local plans& Regulations | All Hazards | Medium | Low | Municipal Budget | Municipality with support from PEMA | Ongoing | New &Existing |
| **6** | Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations. | 10 | AllCategories | All Hazards | Medium | Low | Municipal Budget | Municipality with support fromSurrounding municipalities and County | Ongoing | New &Existing |
| **7** | Develop and maintain capabilities to process FEMA/PEMA paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post-disaster capabilities – damage assessment; FEMA/PEMA paperwork compilation, submissions, record keeping. | 12 | Education& Awareness | All Hazards | Low | Medium | Municipal Budget | Municipality with support from County, PEMA, FEMA | Short-term | N/A |
| **8** | 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 | Local budget,FEMA HMA grant programs | Municipality with supportfrom County,PEMA | Short-, long-term (depending on funding) | N/A |

**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