**Weisenberg Township, Lehigh County Annex**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary:** | **Alternate:** |
| Brian Carl  Township Manager  2175 Seipstown Road, Fogelsville, PA 18051  610-704-2311  brian@weisenbergtownship.org | Frank Bartholomew  Emergency Management Coordinator  2175 Seipstown Road, Fogelsville, PA 18051  610-285-6660  fbartholomew@weisenbergtownship.org |

**Municipal Profile**

Weisenberg Township is a rural township located in the western part of Lehigh County, along the border of Berks County. The township encompasses a land area of 26.8 square miles and has a population of 4,976 (2020 Census). Weisenberg Township is bordered by Berks County to the west and southwest; Lynn Township to the northwest; Heidelberg Township to the north; Lowhill Township to the east; and Upper Macungie Township to the southeast.

Weisenberg Township is in the Delaware River watershed and is drained by the Jordan Creek and Little Lehigh Creek into the Lehigh River and by the Maiden Creek into the Schuylkill River. Jordan Creek has two main tributaries whose headwaters are located in Weisenberg Township. Switzer Creek originates in Lynn and Weisenberg Townships and flows northeast to the confluence with the main stem in Lowhill Township. Lyon Creek forms in Weisenberg Township just south of Hynemansville, proceeding north to its confluence with the Jordan Creek in Lowhill Township. The source of Haasen Creek is also located in Weisenberg Township; however, it first flows east to Upper Macungie Township and then northeast to the confluence with Jordan Creek in the west end of South Whitehall Township. Maiden Creek drains a small portion of the western corner of Weisenberg Township, before flowing west into Berks County and into the Schuylkill River.

The southern portion of Weisenberg Township is crossed east-west by Interstate 78, which has an interchange with Route 863 in the south-central part of the township. Route 863 runs northwest southeast from Route 143 in the center of Lynn Township in the north to the western edge of Upper Macungie Township and an intersection with Route 222 in the south. Primary local east-west routes include Holbens Valley Road, running across the northern corner of the township from Lynn Township in the northwest to Route 100 and Lowhill Township in the east; Lyon Valley Road, originating in the center of the township at Route 863 and continuing east to Route 100 in Lowhill Township; and Claussville Road, originating in the southern part of the township and continuing east through Lowhill Township, North and South Whitehall Townships, and terminating at Whitehall Township where it intersects with Route 329. Werleys Corner Road and Sweitzer Road is the main route from Weisenberg Township to points northeast, as it originates near Route 863 in the center of the township, and runs northeast through Lowhill Township to Heidelberg Township, and other points east.

**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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brian Carl, Manager  Role: Coordinating, emergency response, pre-planning, hazard identification | Frank Batholomew, Emergency Management Coordinator  Role: Coordinating, emergency response, pre-planning, hazard identification |
| Tony Werley, Road master/Supervisor  Role: Public Works | Stan Wojciechowski, Engineer  Role: Floodplain data |
| Justin Oswald, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator  Role: Coordinating, emergency response, pre-planning, hazard identification | |

*\*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.

Evacuation Points and Public Education

Cornerstone Living

Northwestern School District

Churches – Weisenberg, Cornerstone, Lighthouse, Ziegels, Seiberlingsville

Industrial Parks – West Hills Business Center & Commerce Circle

Circle of Season Charter School

Emergency Response

Weisenberg Volunteer Fire Department

Cetronia EMS

Pennsylvania State Police

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: Newsletters, Website, Information posted at public places

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 | No |
| Is floodplain management an auxiliary function? | Community FPA | Yes |
| Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, GGIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability) | Community FPA | Application and plot plans are reviewed against FEMA maps. |
| 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)? |  | I just called FEMA to discuss required info. |
| Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed? |  | No |
| **3. Regulation** | | |
| When did the community enter the NFIP? | NFIP Community Status Book | 10/15/1985 |
| Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper?  How are residents assisted with mapping? | Community FPA | Paper / Online |
| Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements?  If so, in what ways? | Community FPA | Meet, based on ordinance requirements and amendments |
| Describe the permitting process | Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP | Permit applied for – maps checked |
| **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 | Info unavailable |
| Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage | Community FPA or  FEMA Insurance Specialist | We typically do not have flooding in the township. |
| **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.

Weisenberg Elementary School

Circle of Seasons School

Cornerstone Living Assisted Living

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

Students at two elementary schools

1. **Economy**

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

Schools

Warehouse along I-78

Farms and vineyards throughout township

Township property and fire station

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.

Hassen Creek

Iron Run

Lyon Creek

Mill Creek

Schafer Run

Switzer Creek

Misc. unnamed waters and wetlands

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.

I-78

Met-Ed Substation

Arcadia Treatment Plant (Lehigh County Authority)

Verizon substation

3 cell towers

Arcadia water tower (Lehigh County Authority)

Natural Gas Pipeline (UGI)

* 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.

Weisenberg Fire Station

Circles of Seasons School

Weisenberg Elementary School

Cornerstone Living

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

Weisenberg/Lowhill Historical Society

**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** | Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan | X | 10/10/22 |  | Administration |  | + |  |  |  |
| Capital Improvement Plan | X |  |  | Administration |  | + |  |  |  |
| Economic Development Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Continuity of Operations Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance | X | 9/11/23 |  | Administration |  | + |  |  |  |
| Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan) | X | 6/8/2009 |  | Administration |  | + |  |  |  |
| Natural Resource Protection Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transportation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Historic Preservation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floodplain Management Plan | X | 3/11/02 |  | Administration |  |  |  |  |  |
| Farmland Preservation | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Lehigh County |
| Evacuation Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disaster Recovery Plan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hazard Mitigation Plan | X | 8/12/15 |  |  |  |  | N/A |  |  |
| Emergency Operations Plan | X | 2021 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zoning Regulations | X | 2/8/16 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floodplain Regulations | X | 3/11/02 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NFIP Participation | X | 10/15/85 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Building Code | X | 5/10/04 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2022 UCC/2018 IRC/2015 IBC |
| Fire Code | X | 10/10/22 |  | Upper Macungie Twp | Supports | + |  |  | 2018 IFC |
| 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 |  | Administration | Same |  |  |
| Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human-caused hazards knowledge) | X |  | Administration | Same |  |  |
| Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors) | X |  | Administration | Same |  |  |
| Emergency Manager | X |  | Administration | Same |  |  |
| Floodplain administrator / manager | X |  | Administration | Same |  |  |
| Land surveyors | X |  | Administration | Same |  |  |
| Staff familiar with the hazards of the community | X |  | Administration/Public Works | Same |  |  |
| Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA’s HAZUS program | X |  | Administration | Same |  |  |
| Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants | X |  | Administration | Same |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3. Financial Resources** | Capital improvement programming | X |  | Administration |  |  |  |
| Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) |  |  |  |  |  | Not eligible |
| Special purposes taxes |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gas / Electricity utility fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water / Sewer fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stormwater utility fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development impact fees |  |  |  |  |  | Project specific |
| General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | X |  | Fire Department/ Emergency  Management  Coordinator | same | More $ |  |
| Ongoing public education or information programs such as, responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, and environmental education. | X |  | Fire Department/ Administration/  Emergency  Management  Coordinator | same | More $ |  |
| Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues. | X |  | Fire Department/ Administration/  Emergency  Management  Coordinator | same | More $ |  |
| Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc. | X |  | Fire Department  /Admin | same | More $ |  |
| 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 | No |  |
| Administrative and Technical |  |  | X | No |  |
| Financial |  |  | X | No |  |
| Education and Outreach |  | X |  | No |  |

**Known or Anticipated Future Development / Redevelopment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Development /**  **Property Name** | **Type of Development** | **Number of Structures** | **Location** | **Known Hazard Zone** | **Description / Status** |
| Morgan Hills | Residential | 16 | Seipstown | None | In development |
| CAT | Industrial | 1 | I-78 Corridor | I-78 Corridor | Finishing development |

**Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to Weisenberg 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 | Heavy snow and drifting |
| 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** | 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 Township 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) Training. |  |  | 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 (Heidelberg, Lynn and  Weisenberg) 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 |  |  |  |
| **9** | Devise an employee vaccination and immunization plan to prevent an outbreak within the municipal employee ranks. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **10** | Devise a municipal continuity of operations plan to keep essential services running in the event that a significant portion of the workforce is affected. |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| **11** | Provide education and outreach to residents regarding how to prevent the spread of invasive species, including quarantine procedures. |  |  | 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 Municipal  Engineer/NFIP Floodplain  Administrator) 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 Township 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) Training. | 4 | Education & Awareness | All Hazards | High | Low-  Medium | Municipal Budget | Municipality with support  from 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. | 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)  with 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 with support from PEMA | Ongoing | New &  Existing |
| **6** | Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities (Heidelberg, Lynn and  Weisenberg) 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** | 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 | Municipal budget, FEMA  HMA grant programs | Municipality with support  from County,  PEMA | Short-term  (depending on funding) | N/A |
| **9** | Devise an employee vaccination and immunization plan to prevent an outbreak within the municipal employee ranks. | 10 | Local plans & Regulations | Pandemic and  Infectious  Disease | Medium | Unknown | Municipal Budget | County EMA | Unknown at this time | N/A |
| **10** | Devise a municipal continuity of operations plan to keep essential services running in the event that a significant portion of the workforce is affected. | 11 | Local plans  & Regulations | Pandemic and  Infectious  Disease | Medium | Unknown | Municipal Budget | County EMA | Unknown at this time | N/A |
| **11** | Provide education and outreach to residents regarding how to prevent the spread of invasive species, including quarantine procedures. | 4 | Education  & Awareness | Invasive Species | High | Unknown at this time | Municipal Budget | Agriculture  Department | Ongoing | 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