

**WestCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**Public Meeting #2**

**Date: July 14, 2020**

**Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm**

**Location: Zoom**

**Panelists:**

Victoria Brudz, MMI

Noah Slovin, MMI

**Attendees:**

Thomas Galliford (Bethel)

Nicole Sullivan (WestCOG)

Charles Zukowski

Victoria Brudz and Noah Slovin from Milone and MacBroom (MMI) conducted the meeting specifically targeted for the towns of Bethel, Brookfield, Newtown. While this meeting was targeted for these towns, residents from all WestCOG municipalities were invited to attend. There was a total of 3 attendees. Various topics were presented to the public by MMI including:

- The need for hazard mitigation
- How the plan can be used
- Hazards that will be addressed in the plan
- Specific hazards for the targeted communities
- The next steps of the plan

Throughout the presentation attendees were asked a total of eight polling questions to gain additional insight for plan development. The questions corresponded with the topic being discussed and were asked after information on the subject was presented to the public. Questions and responses can be found in table 1.

Table 1: July 14, 2020 polling results (2 voters)

<b>Poll #1 Tell us about you</b>											
		Bridgewater, New Fairfield, New Milford, or Sherman	Bethel, Brookfield, or Newtown	Danbury	Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, or Wilton	Greenwich	Stamford	Darien, New Canaan, or Westport	Norwalk	None of the Above	
#1	What community do you live in?	1	1								
		I want to learn more about Natural Hazards and Mitigation		I have Natural Hazards concerns and I want to share		I have ideas for Hazard Mitigation I want to share		I thought this was a link to watch Hamilton on Disney+			
#2	What brought you here tonight?	2									
<b>Poll #2 Hazard Concerns</b>											
		Coastal Flooding	Riverine Flooding	Flash Flooding	High Wind Events	Snow/Ice Events	Dam Failure	Earthquakes	Landslides	Wildfire	Extreme Temperatures (hot or cold)
#1	Which Natural Hazard are you most concerned with?		1		2						
		Very Concerned		Somewhat Concerned			A Little Concerned		Not At All Concerned		
#2	How Concerned are you about Climate Change impacts on Natural Hazards?	1		1							
		Injury		Property Damage		Displacement (had to move or stay in a shelter)		Lost Work or Income		Minor Delays or Inconvenience	

#3	Have you been impacted by Natural Hazard in the Past?			1			1		1
<b>Poll #3 Mitigation Actions</b>									
		Public Education & Awareness	Emergency Alerts & Notification	Electric Grid Resilience (tree trimming, burying wires, backup generators, etc.)	Prevention of Damages (zoning regulation, building codes, etc.)	Structural Protection (floodwalls, increased bridge sizes, etc.)	Property Protection (elevation, storm shutters or windows, etc.)	Emergency Services (improvements to shelters, emergency facilities, etc.)	Natural Resource Protection (open space, wetlands, etc.)
#1	What types of mitigation actions have you seen implements in your community?		2	1	1	1		1	
		Public Education & Awareness	Emergency Alerts and Notifications	Electric Grid Resilience	Prevention of Damages	Structural Projects	Property Protection	Emergency Services	Natural Resource Protection
#2	What type of mitigation actions would you most like to see implemented in your community?			1			1		1
<b>Poll #4 Sustainable CT</b>									

		Sea Level Rise	More Frequent and Intense RAIN storms	More frequent and intense WIND storms	More Extreme heat events	More severe droughts	Increased wildfire risk	Increased risk of insect-borne illnesses
#1	Which of the following climate change impacts are you most concerned about within your community?		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>1</b>

At the conclusion of the presentation, participants were asked if there were any questions.

- Participant stated:
  - o Concern about storms and grid. Grid is controlled by Eversource. What goes into their decisions about cost and resilience?
  - o What is our connection to Eversource?
  - o Answer: We encourage liaising. Improved communication with utility companies is often an action identified by municipalities.
- Participant stated:
  - o Road blockage – solution is to build multiple entrances or have emergency access routes that are blocked off except in emergencies. How come people don't do this? How can we get them to?
  - o Newtown has an area where the town owns a strip of land but won't build the access route, and they do not maintain it.
  - o Answer: It's often a recommendation but it's difficult to implement.

To conclude the meeting, participants were informed of the remaining meetings, and were encouraged to join again if any questions or comments arose after the conclusion of the meeting.