

WestCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan

Public Meeting #1

Date: July 9, 2020

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Location: Zoom

Panelists:

David Murphy, MMI

Victoria Brudz, MMI

Attendees:

Nicole Sullivan, WestCOG

Diane Knight

Mary Esposito

Republican-American

David Murphy and Victoria Brudz from Milone and MacBroom (MMI) conducted the meeting specifically targeted for the towns of Bridgewater, New Fairfield, New Milford, and Sherman. While this meeting was targeted for these towns, residents from all WestCOG municipalities were invited to attend. There was a total of four attendees including two assumed residents, a WestCOG representative and a media representative. 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 9, 2020 polling results

Poll #1 Tell us about you											
		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?	2/2									
		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?	2/2									
Poll #2 Hazard Concerns											
		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?		1/3	1/3	2/3	2/3					2/3
		Very Concerned		Somewhat Concerned			A Little Concerned		Not At All Concerned		
#2	How Concerned are you about Climate Change impacts on Natural Hazards?			2/3			1/3				

		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?		1/3		1/3	1/3		2/3	
Poll #3 Mitigation Actions									
		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 implemented in your community?	2/3	3/3	2/3	1/3	1/3	1/3	2/3	
		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?					1/3	1/3	1/3	2/3

		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?		1/3	3/3	1/3	1/3	1/3	2/3

At the conclusion of the presentation, participants were asked if there were any questions. One question and two comments were made:

Comment #1: Nicole Sullivan commented on wind events and trees in the town of New Milford.

- Note was taken of this comment

Question #1: Are all the meetings the same as this one?

- Victoria explained that the foundation of the meeting will be the same to explain the purpose of the plan, the hazards addressed in the plan, and the mitigation successes, however each meeting will include specific hazard concerns for the specific communities being targeted during that meeting.

Comment #2: Participant stated that the wind is getting worse in New Milford.

- Note was taken of this point

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.