

WestCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan

Public Meeting #6

Date: August 11, 2020

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Location: Zoom

Panelists:

David Murphy, MMI

Victoria Brudz, MMI

Attendees:

Deb Denfeld

David Murphy and Victoria Brudz from Milone and MacBroom (MMI) conducted the meeting specifically targeted for the City of Stamford. There was a total of one attendee. 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: August 11, 2020 polling results

1 respondent

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?										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?	1									
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	1				1	1
		Very Concerned		Somewhat Concerned		A Little Concerned		Not At All Concerned			
#2	How Concerned are you about Climate Change impacts on Natural Hazards?			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
Poll #3 Mitigation Actions											
		Public Education & Awareness	Emergency Alerts & Notification	Electric Grid Resilience (tree trimming, burying)	Prevention of Damages (zoning regulation,	Structural Protection (floodwalls, increased	Property Protection (elevation, storm shutters	Emergency Services (improvements to shelters,	Natural Resource Protection (open space, wetlands, etc.)		

			wires, backup generators, etc.)	building codes, etc.)	bridge sizes, etc.)	or windows, etc.)	emergency facilities, etc.)		
#1	What types of mitigation actions have you seen implements in your community?	1	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	
Poll #4 Sustainable CT									
		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	1	1		1	

During the presentation the attendee made a comment, and posed a question in the chat box; both were acknowledged at the conclusion of the presentation. In addition to these comments, the attendee was then allowed to unmute for further discussion.

Chat Comment #1: The attendee stated that recent events, Tropical Storm Isaias may have played a role in the mitigation poll response.

- It was then discussed that this is understandable given this was a very fresh event and the storms damage was very extensive.

Chat Question #1: Is the term resilience equivalent to Hazard Mitigation?

- David explained that hazard mitigation is a fraction of resilience, and that resilience also includes the ability to recover and adapt to a situation, as well as mitigate.

Verbal comment #1: The attendee was interested in hearing additional information regarding the FEMA grant programs available.

- David discussed a little more background information on recent projects that were mentioned in the presentation. In addition, Flood Mitigation Assistance is a program geared more toward structural resilience; and HMGP is for other infrastructure such as roadways or drainage. BRIC, the newest program, will hopefully allow for a wider range of projects including possibly green infrastructure and more sustainable mitigation actions.

Verbal comment #2: The attendee stated her recent work in regard to MS4, and trying to disconnect stormwater from drainage systems. She felt this type of work aligns closely with hazard mitigation.

- David agreed in that this is a mitigation effort, and that MS4 work often coincides with hazard mitigation.